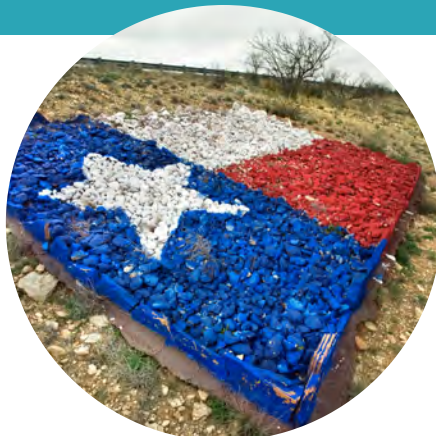




THINGS TO DO IN BASTROP COUNTY



DOWNTOWN BASTROP



<https://www.visitbastrop.com/>

Even today the lovely Texas town of Bastrop retains its historic charm: charming brick storefronts line the streets, artisans and artists display their handcrafted wares, and local chefs crisp chicken-fried-steak and catfish to perfection. Visit Downtown Bastrop for a taste of down home Texas—past and present.

The city is named for Philip Hendrik Nering Bögel, aka the infamous Baron de Bastrop, who helped Stephen F. Austin establish the first American colonies in Texas. In fact, Austin wrote the Baron was like a father to him. Stories of the Runaway Scrape and the Battle of the Alamo include Bastrop. Sam Houston knew Bastrop well. With history dating to 1832, Bastrop offers beautiful vintage homes along tree-canopied streets in Bastrop's historic district where there are more than 130 sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Together these homes reflect a wide variety of architectural styles and represent life in Bastrop during the 1800s to the mid-1900s. Begin your tour at the Museum & Visitor Center of the Bastrop County Historical Society at 904 Main Street.

Perfectly positioned along the banks of the Colorado River, cozy downtown Bastrop offers something for everyone. You can window-shop in any number of Bastrop's boutiques and shops before pausing for some much-needed comfort food. Marvel at stunning art in one of the city's many art galleries before admiring the city's 19th century architecture. Whatever your fancy, you'll be met with Bastrop's famous Texas hospitality wherever you go.

Make your first stop in downtown Bastrop the Bastrop County Museum and Visitor Center. Located in an old fire and police station from the 1930s, the museum offers opportunities to learn about one of the most historic towns in Texas. Here you can observe all kinds of artifacts and exhibits that tell the story of Bastrop's beginnings, participate in a scavenger hunt designed for youngsters of all ages, and get detailed information about all that Bastrop has to offer.

Besides having one of the most historic and quaint downtowns in the state, Bastrop also boasts a culinary scene sure to please even the most devout foodies. In and around Bastrop you can golf, hike, fish, kayak, zip line or ride a horse! You'll find miles of walking and birding trails both at the lake and adjacent to the river. For the younger ones along for the trip, we have a corn maze, a zoo and a dinosaur park. You'll find lots of lodging choices too!



CITY OF BASTROP TEXAS

RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING AND HOTELS



<https://www.visitbastrop.com/>

HOME COOKING WITH SMALL-TOWN FLAVOR

Hungry? Downtown Bastrop boasts a superior culinary district with plenty of local restaurants, bakeries and a farmer's market. Start your day with a delicious breakfast at Maxine's on Main, recognized by Texas Monthly as one of the "40 Best Places for Breakfast in Texas" as well as one of the "40 Best Small Town Cafes in Texas." It's also home to Jack, a mischievous ghost. For lunch, try Gracie's famous Chicken Fried Steak, voted often as "Best of Bastrop," or the Main Street Burger at The Old Town Restaurant & Bar. The Main Street Café offers delightful sandwiches and salads, and Paw-Paws Catfish House is a local favorite known for its delicious seafood. For dinner, there's pizza at Neighbor's Kitchen and Yard, where cool breezes drift across their decks overlooking the beautiful Colorado River. In the mood for steak? From its brick walls to the piano bar, Piney Creek Chop House offers the elegance of a big city steakhouse, but with the casualness of home. And yes, we have Mexican food too! Top off your meal with a slice of freshly baked pie, crème brulee or a cupcake!

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU! YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Where do we begin? Here are just a few ideas for your next trip to Bastrop: Take a walking tour through our historic district. You'll find the stately Bastrop County Courthouse, built in 1883. Next door is the old county jail where visitors can see the infamous "hanging hook" on the landing between the first and second floor. Enjoy a live performance at the Bastrop Opera House, the site for entertainment in Bastrop since 1889, or Lost Rabbit Collective, a professional female-led experimental theater. Take a tour of Deep in the Heart Art Foundry and see how bronzes are made or catch the newest Hollywood blockbuster at Schulman Theatres. The Old Iron Bridge — renamed the Chief Petty Officer Stephen "Matt" Mills bridge for a local Navy SEAL who gave his life in Afghanistan in 2011 — crosses the Colorado River and transports you into "historically hip" downtown Bastrop. People come from far and near to "Spit Off the Bridge" and join the International Society of Bridge Spitters. (In truth, the Old Iron Bridge isn't made of iron. It's made of steel and replaced the actual old iron bridge which no longer exists, but can be seen in old photographs.) Stroll along the riverside via the June Hill Pape Riverwalk at Fisherman's Park. Or, for something a little out of the ordinary, check out Bastrop's Historic Farm Street Chicken Sanctuary, where chickens roam the street, protected from fast drivers or anyone wishing to harm them. Or venture out a bit to try your hand at zip lining at Zip Lost Pines. Children, as well as the young at heart, love to explore Barton Hill Farms and the Dinosaur Park.

PLACES TO STAY IN BASTROP, TX

When you're making your escape from busy highways to Bastrop's byways, find the perfect place to lay your head here. Camp amongst the stars at one of our Lake/RV parks, soak up luxurious seclusion at a 4-diamond resort property, or find an inn between. No matter where you make your temporary home, you'll be delighted by the small-town hospitality, impeccable service and welcoming faces you'll find at every place to stay in Bastrop.



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Information sourced from <https://www.visitbastrop.com/events/live-music/>

Bastrop's Live Music Scene

The musical history of Texas is as wide and deep as the majestic Colorado River itself. And just like the town of Bastrop, the banjo-pickin' bluegrass, and heart-wrenching country and folk will leave you feeling restored and transported. No matter what time of year you visit you will easily find live music in Bastrop. Songwriters serenaded by firelight at cozy restaurants and bars along the Colorado River and big bands and country singers make for festive foot-stomping events around town.

Even in a quaint Texas town, you can find inspiring live music and theater performances. By staging musicals and plays featuring talented singers and actors from the community, the renowned (and restored!) Bastrop Opera House offers family entertainment at modest prices. Built in 1889, this theater, now on the National Register of Historic Places, is a mainstay of art and culture in Bastrop. Performances take place year-round, so no matter when you visit, taking in a show at the Bastrop Opera House is a wonderful way to meet the artists that make Bastrop a creative community. Tuck into a delicious dinner at Maxine's or Paw Paw's before walking over in time for the opening act.

For those seeking to listen while they enjoy great food, Bastrop has several restaurants and bars that boast live music several nights a week.

Attending an event or staying at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa? Get a table at Shellers Barrelhouse Bar, with its elevated take on pub food. Sip on moonshine margaritas made with locally distilled Fitch's Goat Moonshine. For beer lovers, choose a pint or two of the many Austin craft beers to pair with your meal, appetizers, or fun with friends.

Another great venue is Gracie's, with "casual family dining" and an expansive porch for completely unpretentious al fresco dining. Enjoy the cozy atmosphere of this down-home restaurant with country fare and downtown Bastrop flair. Fill your senses with great music every Friday and Saturday night and lunchtime performances on the weekends.

Want live music within earshot of the rushing waters of the Colorado? Find a spot on the riverfront deck at Neighbor's Kitchen & Yard. There you can take in some live music while feasting on quality, scratch-made food, and craft cocktails. The historic building and the eclectic style make you feel right at home. Live music on the patio makes this a fun and festive place to spend an evening under the Texas stars.

For avid golfers and music lovers, you can work on your golf swing and listen to great music with a special stop at Back 9 Bar, Bastrop's lively driving range meets venue. Food trucks and drink specials keep the atmosphere light and fun where you can catch great local acts playing a variety of music styles.

And no matter when you find yourself in town, something's always cooking at the monthly music series at The Farm Street Opry. Get ready for the "Best Burgers in Bastrop County", great Texas music, and all the dancing you can handle at this monthly music series.

BASTROP, TEXAS

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Bastrop offers an abundance of outdoor adventures thanks to its perfect location on the banks of the Colorado River. Whether you're into hiking, bird-watching, kayaking or camping—when you visit Bastrop, you'll feel welcomed.

Welcome To It All!
Here's your Bastrop bucket list for an epic outdoor adventure:

Information sourced from <https://www.visitbastrop.com/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/>



Find the "Lost Pines" Bastrop is home to the famous loblolly pine trees, or "Lost Pines." These trees are unique to the Texas Lost Pines Forest and are thought to have originated during the Ice Age! Explore this piece of natural history at Bastrop State Park. The park covers nearly 6,000 total acres, so you can make a whole camping trip come to life. Go canoeing, swimming, golfing, wildlife viewing, or hiking, and camp at one of the park's various campsites or historic cabins (built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s).



Hike and Learn Explore the rolling box canyons, wildflower meadows, lazy river bends and diverse wildlife at McKinney Roughs. Check it out by foot, horseback or take a guided raft or kayak trip. The park also hosts interpretive hikes guided by naturalists, native animal presentations and other community programs.



R&R on the River Let your worries drift away as you glide with the flow of the slow-moving El Camino Real Paddling Trail! Go fishing for Guadalupe bass and flathead catfish, or simply enjoy the wildlife along the river. Keep your eyes open to spot Great Blue Herons, Red-shouldered Hawks, or kingfishers perched between the pecan and elm trees. As the river moves downstream, the banks steepen and become very scenic with high sandstone bluffs and cliffs.



Golf Bastrop's stunning natural environment creates a perfect backdrop for a round of golf. With a range of unique golf courses like Hyatt's award-winning Wolfdancer golf course (designed by Arthur Hills), ColoVista Golf Club and Pine Forest Golf Club, you're in for a one-of-a-kind golfing experience in Bastrop.



Spirited Adventure For a more daring adventure, let Rising Phoenix Adventure Tours and Events or Bastrop River Company set you up with a complete and memorable water-sports or biking experience. Or embrace your inner child at Hero Water Sports, an inflatable water park on Lake Bastrop. If you prefer to explore the outdoors from above, try zip lining at Zip Lost Pines or rock climbing at McKinney Roughs. Bastrop is also home to unique events like outdoor survival skills classes and challenge courses, so keep an eye on our events calendar.



Quick Break When in Bastrop, you don't have to go far to catch a break in a beautiful outdoor setting. As you're exploring the adorable shops and galleries of downtown Bastrop, make a quick jaunt over to Fisherman's Park to stroll along the river, rent a canoe or kayak, or take the family to the kiddie splash pad and playground. When you're done, you can quickly pop back to town without missing a beat.



Evolution Park Evolution Park has become a must-see destination for people all over Bastrop area. Whether you're planning a day trip with your family, a party or coming with friends, we give visitors of all ages the chance to enjoy themselves in a fun-filled environment.



Hero Water Park Hero Water Sports is Texas' very first inflatable water park, a place fit for people of all ages where anyone can be a hero. In our water park, taking your family, your coworkers, and your friends out for a water-fueled, unforgettable adventure is a heroic act, and all you have to do is drive out to Lake Bastrop to make it a reality. You'll have fun in clear, clean lake water free of chlorine, in a park with a low carbon footprint and minimal environmental impact on the lake, making your day of adventure an eco-friendly one.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES IN BASTROP, TEXAS

Information sourced from <https://visitbastrop.com>

Thanks to our warmer Texas weather, most days you can find plenty to do both indoors and out. But, if you happen to find yourself in our neck of the woods on a really cold day, here are a few family-friendly activities and ideas.

1. Experience Downtown Bastrop, TX

Even today, our small Texas town retains its historic charm: brick storefronts line the streets, local artistry can be found around every corner and downtown diners prepare the coziest of comfort foods. Visit downtown Bastrop and experience engaging history, charming shops, eateries and more. From the things you'll find to the many people you will meet and the many stories you will learn, we promise an authentic experience like no other. One that will leave you feeling welcome – welcomed to it all.

2. Explore the Visitor's Center Museum or Lost Pines Art Center

Make your first stop in town the Bastrop County Museum and Visitors Center. Located in an old fire and police station from the 1930s this museum offers opportunities to learn about one of the most historic towns in Texas. Here you can observe all kinds of exhibits and displays that tell the story of Bastrop's beginnings. Lost Pines Art Center may well be one of Bastrop's best-kept secrets. Enter this two-story, 12,000 square foot beautiful glass and metal building (FREE of charge, open 7 days a week) and peruse beautifully handcrafted artwork. The art center features member galleries, working studios, a gift gallery, wine and coffee shop and more. Check out our calendar of events for their intro to glass blowing class!

3. Tour at Deep in the Heart Art Foundry

Schedule a tour at one of the leading fine art foundries in the country. Deep in the Heart Art Foundry offers clients a full spectrum of art services from concept to installation and perpetual maintenance. Visitors to the foundry can take a tour and gain a unique insight into the inner workings of bronze casting. (Tours are by appointment only, get in touch) Be on the lookout for their night-pour events, a one-of-a-kind experience.

4. Vacay at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines

Survive the leisurely lifestyle with a staycation at this resort. You could stay here for weeks and never run out of things to do. Nothing brings families like getting away from it all. Spend the day doing as much or as little as you'd like. This resort specializes in providing families with the opportunity to create endless memories and experiences. Of course, with the luxurious Spa Django, challenging Wolfdancer Golf Club and seven different eateries, you'll be far from roughing it.

5. Catch a Local Show at the Opera House

The Bastrop Opera House proudly presents live theater rivaling many large town operations. Their vast schedule of performances includes dinner theater, musicals, plays, tributes and are the perfect experience for families. Check out their calendar of events to peruse award-winning shows.

6. **Take a Hike at Bastrop State Park**

Take a hike, literally. Bastrop State Park boasts seven miles of trails. Explore the growing forest on foot, look for new generations of loblolly pines and witness the resilience of our beautiful nature. Take a virtual tour with their interactive map. You can also stay overnight and enjoy a mini vacay at one of their campsites or cabins. We may not have snow and sleds, but we do have cardboard and pine needles. Try your hand at pine needle sledding, - it does not disappoint!

7. **Go Zip Lining at Zip Lost Pines**

Feel the wind in your hair as you soar through the treetops at Zip Lost Pines. Zip Lost Pines is a zip line tour that is open to the public year-round! Featuring Texas's only 6 side-by-side ziplines and 3 suspension bridges, soar above the lost pines, across steep canyons and over the mighty "Texas" Colorado River.

8. **Community Gardens**

This cool community co-op has partnered with local businesses to provide quality local products and services to the people of Bastrop. Come out and experience this indoor/outdoor market place. They've got a pretty cool aquaponics system, plant nursery, lots of events that are fun for the whole family. They're hosting the Lost Pines Knife Show in February.

9. **Explore Bastrop Sugar Shack**

Take a trip down memory lane with a visit to the Sugar Shack. These vintage candy shops allow patrons a chance to shop for the candies they enjoyed as a child. Satisfy any sweet tooth with old-fashioned candies, pops, desserts, fudge, floats, Blue Bell Ice Cream, and so much more. Enjoy tons of colorful gifts and candies at this one-of-a-kind store.

10. **Catch a Family Friendly Movie**

See a show at the local movie theater in town. Film Alley is an 8-screen movie theater that features first runs, 16 lanes of bowling, indoor mini golf, and arcade, great food, and a full-service bar.

11. **Dinosaur Park**

The Dinosaur Park features a unique outdoor museum setting. While most museums have dinosaur skeletons, our realistic life-size dinosaur exhibits show skin and color variations to give a better understanding as to how they looked when they were alive. These static statues range in size from the 2-foot long Compsognathus to the 123-foot Diplodocus, the longest dinosaur that ever lived. As you walk through a tree-lined nature trail the dinosaurs sit back from the trail, situated among plants, trees and rocks, making it easy to imagine real dinosaurs in a natural environment. The Dinosaur Park is an educational and fun place, where everyone can learn about the majestic animals that ruled our earth for over 150 million years. Other activities include a fossil-dig, playground, picnic area and a wonderful Dinosaur Store stocked with a variety of gifts sure to please any dinosaur fan!

12. **The Capital of Texas Zoo**

The Capital of Texas Zoo is one of Greater Austin's and Bastrop's most exciting adventures! Just 20 minutes east of downtown Austin, the Zoo is home to over 500 rare and beautiful wild animals. We have over 400 family members who buy a yearly family membership, so they can visit numerous times throughout the year! Our Zoo is small compared to places like San Antonio or Houston, but we are a pretty, intimate little place with happy and healthy animals. We have breeding programs for fourteen endangered species here, and this is our main reason for existing. Most people love us.

13. **Evolution Park**











Evolution Park has become a must-see destination for people all over Bastrop area. Whether you're planning a day trip with your family, a party or coming with friends, we give visitors of all ages the chance to enjoy themselves in a fun-filled environment.

ELGIN, TEXAS











FAMILY ACTIVITIES



The Sausage Capital of Texas! The City of Elgin was created by the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872 and named after Robert Morris Elgin, the railroad's land commissioner, as was the practice back then to name a new railroad town after an officer of the company. The city owes its existence to a major flood on the Colorado River in 1869. Originally, the railroad was to have run from McDade, ten miles east of Elgin, southwest to the Colorado River at a point somewhere between Bastrop and Webberville, then to Austin, following the river. Besides the history, and obviously the world-class BBQ, Elgin offers a big taste of small town Texas!

-  **Meyer's Elgin Smokehouse** - Known as 'Cuetopia, Texas, Meyer's has been rolling out world-class BBQ since 1949. A four-generation family-owned business, the Meyer family has been perfecting their family's secret sausage recipe, as well as mouthwatering brisket, ribs, and chicken for hungry Texans for almost seven decades. Stopping here first or last, this Elgin hot spot is too good to pass!
-  **The Elgin Depot Museum** - Upon arriving at the historic Union Depot, discover an extensive archive collection, providing a detailed look at the communication equipment since the town's founding. The museum features permanent and rotating exhibits as well as an extensive collection of historic photographs from the area. The museum gift shop sells books and souvenirs, like local postcards, depot logo patches and hats, as well as Elgin made afghans. (All proceeds go to the upkeep of the museum.)
-  **Elgin Antique Mall** - The Elgin Antique Mall provides over 8,000 square feet of year-round treasure shopping-collectibles, glassware, oak furniture, toys, advertising, and knives - plus more! Open daily from 10AM to 5PM. (Closed on major holidays.)
-  **Liberty Tree Tavern** - If you're looking for a refreshing beverage and some live music in a building that was once a funeral home, then the Liberty Tree Tavern is for you. Rumor has it there's a ghost or two keeping the taps cold! Give them a call at (512) 285-5555 to find out which talented singer-songwriter is performing. No kitchen, but full bar and free peanuts.
-  **Down Home Ranch** - Down Home Ranch is a 410-acre working farm, empowering people's lives through residential, educational, social, and vocational programs such as residency, ranch camp, or respite opportunities.
-  **Hogeye Festival (October 24 - 26)** - If you're fortunate enough to visit Elgin toward the end of October, you're in for a "Sooooie" treat! The streets are closed down for an annual cook-off, arts and crafts, a Road Hog Car Show, live music, a carnival, talent show, a kids parade, and SO much more!
-  **Thomas Memorial Park** - Are you in the mood to get outside and burn off some of those easy-earned BBQ calories? The Thomas Memorial Park would treat you right. It's a 12-acre park, featuring several ball fields, picnic tables, a nine-hole disc golf course, volleyball court, a playground, and trail systems.
-  **White Fences Equestrian Center** - Located just outside the Elgin city limits, and just 15 minutes from Austin, you'll find the White Fences Equestrian Center. They offer lessons, boarding, training, and shows, as well as guided trail rides. The trail rides take you through miles of rolling hill country and forest trails. Suitable for all experience levels.
-  **Sip, Shop & Stroll** - Every second Thursday of the month from 5pm to 8pm, local retailers invite folks to sip, shop and stroll their way through downtown Elgin. You'll find live music, beer and wine tastings, store specials and more with extended store hours and specials throughout town. Hope to see you there!
-  **Elgin Recreation Center** - This facility is an outstanding accomplishment for the community of Elgin. Our Recreation Center is not only a great place to come and play basketball or take a fitness class, but it is also an Emergency Shelter and Rental Facility.



-  **The Old Coupland Inn and Dancehall** - Eat. Drink. Dance. If you're staying in Elgin, you don't want to miss The Old Coupland Inn & Dancehall located just 10 minutes from downtown Elgin. Built in 1904, the building began as the Coupland Drug Company in 1911. It's changed hands from doctors, to newspapers, and now, to a tavern. The building now has a restaurant, dancehall with live music, and rooms to book in their unique 1800s wild west brothel-style Bed and Breakfast. Order up some delicious chicken fried steak and experience the dancehall with live music Fridays and Saturdays (and, sometimes Sundays!)
-  **Elgin Recreation Center** - This facility is an outstanding accomplishment for the community of Elgin. Our Recreation Center is not only a great place to come and play basketball or take a fitness class, but it is also an Emergency Shelter and Rental Facility.
-  **Sip Shop & Stroll** - The second Thursday of each month. Sip a little wine and shop as you stroll through the stores in Historic Downtown Elgin. You will find diverse merchandise, eclectic decor, artwork by local artists and live music in many of the venues.
-  **Sidewalk Sale Saturday** - Elgin charming downtown is lined with many locally owned stores offering everything from one of a kind antiques, home decor, jewelry, apparel, health and wellness supplement and more. Support local businesses by shopping during this annual community sidewalk sale.
-  **Art Studio Tour** - The Elgin Art Studio Tour invites you to meet local artists in their studios and learn more about their art, techniques, and inspiration. Studios and downtown businesses featuring local artists are open for two days in downtown Elgin and the surrounding area. Find unique and diverse gifts for both yourself, family and friends. The studio tour is free and fun for the whole family! Sunday includes an ice cream stroll to sweeten up the tour!
-  **Hogeye Festival** - The festival is held the fourth Saturday of October in Historic Downtown Elgin and features food, kids activities, handmade arts and crafts, live music on 3 stages and plenty of pig puns to go around. Events include Lindsay Kay Wing Children's Pet Parade, Road Hog Car Show, Gordon Swenson Memorial BBQ Pork-Off, Carnival, Cow Patty Bingo, and last but not least, the Hogalicious Dessert Contest!
-  **Western Days** - Held the fourth week in June in Elgin Memorial Park, the festival week begins with the Tiny Tot and Miss Western Days Pageants on Tuesday, Carnival on Thursday and Tennis Court Dance on Friday night. Saturday includes a Grand Parade down Main Street and the Festival in the Park.
-  **Juneteenth Festival** - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation into law on January 1, 1863. Texans did not receive word of this proclamation until June 19, 1865. Elgin celebrates the occasion the 2nd weekend in June with a parade, dance and festival. The events take place in Historic Downtown Elgin in Veterans' Memorial Park.
-  **Music in the Park** - Join us for our annual, free, live-music series, Music in the Park! Every Friday in April, The Friends of Elgin Parks will host a different band in Historic Downtown Elgin's Veterans Memorial Park. Be sure to bring your friends and family, beverages, snacks, blanket or lawn chair to enjoy this event to its fullest.
-  **Movies in the Park** - The Parks and Recreation Department presents this series of movies on select Thursdays from May to June in Elgin Memorial Park. Movies in the Park features family friendly movies and crafts for an evening in the park where guests are encouraged to bring their blanket or lawn chair to fully enjoy the evening. Concessions will be available.

SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



The City of Smithville is located in a still-rural section of eastern Bastrop County. Smithville is situated between Houston and Austin along the Highway 71 corridor and within two hours of San Antonio, San Marcos and College Station, making Smithville a very convenient location and an ideal place to live, work, and play.

Smithville offers a wide variety of local attractions and amenities with convenient access to the Colorado River and Buescher State Park. Our downtown historic district contains many eclectic shops and eateries for residents and visitors alike. Smithville was the first Film Friendly Community designated by the Texas Film Commission. Nearly 70 film productions have been made in our community since 2008. Movie locations from Hope Floats, The Tree of Life, and Bernie can be seen on self-guided tours. Smithville boasts an airport, a recreation center, multiple city parks, and some of the friendliest people on the planet. Smithville was designated a Texas Commission on the Arts Cultural District in 2013 due to its focus on history, culture, arts, entertainment (music and theater), and artisan crafts.



Richard D. Latham Cultural District - Sitting on the banks of the beautiful Colorado River, Smithville received this prestigious designation because, within the one mile radius that encompasses its city limits, Smithville boasts a great number of important works of art and culture as well as many significant historical sites. The town has 10 stages and venues for theatrical productions and live music. Art is an initiative of "the possibility of public art, both indoor and outdoor, such as murals, sculptures and other art mediums, grace the town. There are three art galleries in town, plus a bronze foundry, and an artist's haven at the Mary Nichols Art Center. There are two museums in town, one with the history of the town and one to celebrate the town's rail history.



Mary Nichols Arts Center - This wonderful historic building at 301 Burleson has come back to life and is open once again for art classes and workshops. The Art Gallery is open to the public Friday/Sunday 1-4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special exhibits and receptions are held. The Art Center features local artists and encourages creativity in children. The center is home to the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance and hosts a variety of shows throughout the year.



Theater - Playhouse Smithville - This community black-box theater performs 10 plays/musicals a year of all genres with community actors and singers. Known for its audience participation and original scripts by John Daniels Jr. though well-known productions are also performed, the theater regularly brings in audiences around the state.



Smithville Heritage House & Museum - Containing artifacts and photos from Smithville's early days, the Smithville Heritage Museum is itself a piece of history. Built in 1908, the Victorian structure was donated to the Smithville Heritage Society. The second story contains exhibits that are furnished with memorabilia that reflect early life in the community.



Museum - Railroad Museum & Depot - Smithville was once a major passenger hub on the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (M-K-T) railroad until the mid 1950s and was the location of a major turnaround for the rail lines where trains could be rotated to a different rail line and train cars were repaired. Filled with items from the grand railroad past of Smithville, the museum also has replicas of the first railroad depot in Smithville. There are items from the MKT days and Union Pacific.



Veterans Memorial Park Splash Pad - Enjoy the Memorial to veterans as a "place to pay tribute; a place to pray for peace." The beautiful fenced park includes historical plaques of Bastrop County veterans from all wars, a splash pad, bathrooms, a detailed statue of an angel and a cherub, created by sculptor Bill McGlaun which watches over the fallen.



Railroad Park - Located along NW 1st Street, the James H. Long Railroad Park includes the gazebo at the end of Main, and further west it enjoys playscapes, swings, tree-shaded picnic tables, and a couple of train cars from the past. Public restrooms are available on the west side of the park.



Vernon Richards Riverbend Park - The park has a walking trail, fishing pier, barbecue pits and picnic tables near the river. In the fenced in "Chuckwagon Square", there is a covered stage and dance floor, and acres of old oaks for shade with picnic tables underneath; an ideal place for parties, reunions and special events.



Doggy Bark Park - While the city of Smithville has a leash law even in their public parks, our new Doggie Bark Park officially opened on May 1st with a ceremony and some waggin' tail fun. This is a place where man's best friend can roam at will and socialize with other dogs their size from sunup to sundown.



On the River - Visible from the north end of Main Street, the Colorado River cuts across Smithville proper and can be used for river fun. Boating, rafting and canoeing are popular pastimes, and swimming and fishing are allowed.



Skating & Boarding - The **Power Plaza Skate Park** is a concrete dream come true for those who skate board, skate or bike, and the Friends of the Skate Park, who spent several years to raise funds to build the outdoor park. With those funds and a community development grant from LCRA, the park was built at First Street behind the Smithville Recreation Center.



Bicycling - A popular destination for bikers is the park roads of Buescher and Bastrop State Parks. Connected by the winding, hilly 12-mile Park Road 1C, both parks offer loops, lots of pine trees for shade and a peaceful ride. Cost is the entrance fee of \$4 per person. The Buescher State Park entrance is one mile north of Hwy 71 on FM 153. Those who prefer more of a challenge look to Rocky Hill Ranch, three miles north of Smithville on FM 153. There are more than 30 miles of world class mountain biking trails on more than 1,000 acres. They also have internationally acclaimed races in biking, motorcycling, extreme and more.



Smithville Indoor Recreation Center - The pride of Smithville, the Smithville Recreation Center, Hwy 95 and First St., was built with funds from grants, donations and the city, and is managed through the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). The building has a large gym with basketball courts for Little Dribblers basketball games and Little Bumpers volleyball, a weight room, and a racquetball court round out the activities. Activities change throughout the year.



Stroll the Streets of Downtown Smithville - No list of what to do in Smithville could leave off spending time in its charming downtown! Featuring all the Texas small town essentials-antique shops, coffee shops, cafes, boutiques, restaurants, and historic buildings-Smithville's downtown is downright idyllic.



Hunt Down Filming Locations - Smithville's picturesque and quintessential small town vibe is why it's been the setting for tons of motion pictures. However, none made Smithville more famous than 1998's Hope Floats starring Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr. Sights from Hope Floats, Tree of Life (the 2011 film starring Brad Pitt) and many others lie all around town.



Smitty the Gingerbread Man - Smithville is also home to Smitty, who was once the largest Gingerbread Man in the World at over 20 ft. tall and requiring over 72 dozen eggs! While the actual cookie is no longer around, Smitty stands proud and tall in his honor at the end of Main Street. He's often dressed for the seasonal holiday and weather.



Golfing - Smithville is in the middle of six golf courses within 25 miles - four 18 hole courses and 3 nine hole courses. The famous **ColoVista Golf Course** winds through the surrounding residential community amid majestic vistas, providing golfers with challenging terrain, subtle turns and treacherous optical illusions. The first nine holes are situated in the valley and gradually ascend to higher ground. The signature par-3, No. 15, features a 100-foot elevation change from tee to green, requiring golfers to be mindful of club selection. The view of the Colorado River from the raised tee box is jaw-dropping and starts a string of stunning finishing holes rivaling all others in Texas.

Pine Forest Golf Club is an 18-hole course lying along the Colorado River in Tahitian Village. Several tees are overlooked by the cliffs of the Colorado. Approximately 12 miles west of Smithville, take Tahitian down to Riverside Drive. For more information, call (512) 303-6777 or visit www.pineforestgolfclub.com.

Wolfdancer Golf Club, an 18 hole course about 25 miles west of Smithville, is owned and operated by the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort. There is also a 13-acre driving range. For more information, call (512) 308-4770.

The nine hole golf courses are at **Frish Auf Country Club** in LaGrange to the east, **Giddings Country Club** in Giddings to the north and the **Flatonia Golf Course in Flatonia** to the south.

MANOR, TEXAS

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Manor Texas is a pastoral city that was mostly farmland but it has become increasingly popular over the years. Located on Highway 290 about 12 miles northeast of Austin in northeastern Travis County, Manor is up and coming with young families and professionals. With so much to offer, Manor still retains plenty of open space and a friendly atmosphere.



J. Lorraine Ghost Town

Just a short drive from Austin, J. Lorraine Ghost Town is a re-created version of a destroyed 1800's western town that once stood just a few miles away from this site in Manor. Rebuilt with scrap wood from the original town, it now serves as an occasional movie set, a wedding rental venue, a bar and restaurant, and a place to simply explore during open public hours.

Relax and enjoy a cold drink and watch your young 'ins as they play on 4.5 acres of wide open space. Explore and discover the many unusual buildings including locking each other up in the jail, playing out-of-tune songs and watching a movie on the two story outdoor movie screen etc. They also have a very casual and affordable restaurant with "the best hamburgers in town", and a variety of sandwiches, chips, and ice cream. They also serve beer and wine.



Crowe's Nest Farm

A Special Place for Children. Crowe's Nest Farm is a working farm and rescue wildlife sanctuary and is open to the public. They host over 40,000 Central Texas school children a year. Located in Manor, Texas, just 8 miles east of Austin, you can see over 250 domestic farm animals and native non-releasable Texas wildlife. The Farm includes educational exhibits geared for youth and their families. There will be the usual farm fun, including the hayride, cow milking demo, Faeriewood, gardens and tons of critters!



Manor ISD Sporting Events are scattered around town at the different schools.



ShadowGlen Golf Club

Located just 15 minutes northeast of downtown Austin, ShadowGlen Golf Course is considered by locals to be one of the area's hidden gems. At 7,174 yards from the back tees, it is a long, tough course that will test even the most seasoned players. Some consider it to be the most difficult public golf course in Texas. The layout has a links design that is mostly flat but there are a few hilly spots that can cause some trouble, especially the holes that were designed with steep drops. The narrow fairways require accuracy and the well manicured greens play fast and are often bordered by strategically placed bunkers or contoured mounding. There are also water hazards coming into play throughout, including the wandering creek that cuts across the golf course.



East Metropolitan Park - 18701 Blake Manor Rd., Manor, TX 78653.

Activities and Amenities:

- 18-hole disc golf course
- Climbing boulder
- Covered basketball court
- Extra large shelter*
- 2 Fishing ponds
- 2 Multi-use fields*
- Paved multi-use trail
- Pavilion*
- Picnic areas
- 4 Playgrounds
- 2 Practice fields
- 2 Sand volleyball courts
- 4 Soccer fields*
- 3 Senior baseball fields*
- Swimming pool and wading pool area
- 4 Youth baseball fields*