

Burnet



BURNET IS A PICTURESQUE CITY LOCATED IN THE HEART

OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY NEAR THE HIGHLAND LAKES



Community of Burnet

Nestled at the edge of the spectacular Texas Hill Country about 50 miles northwest of Austin, amidst the beautiful Highland Lakes, is the historic community of Burnet. Established first as a fort on the Texas frontier in the mid-1800s, Burnet has maintained its pioneer roots and rural charm while adapting to the modern age. We welcome you to one of the friendliest towns in central Texas.

Burnet's Historic town square offers visitors a unique shopping and dining experience. Gift, antique, and collectible shops surround the square. There are several cafes and full-service restaurants on or within easy walking distance of the square. Hotels/motels, resorts, bed and breakfasts, cabins & cottages, and Burnet's proximity to so many sights make it the ideal hub for travels into our region. So no matter what your interests you will find something to please you in Burnet!

The City of Burnet, the county seat of Burnet County, is a hub of industry, commerce, and trade in the Highland Lakes area. Its modern schools, hospital, airport, and retail centers provide all the essentials for today's society, while the scenic countryside and inviting parklands present a myriad of opportunities for those who want to get away from it all.

Throughout the year, the City of Burnet offers a vast array of events and activities for all ages. From Bluebonnet Festival to the winter wonderland of Bethlehem Village and Christmas on the Square to the summer frontier shoot-outs and vintage steam train tours, Burnet is alive with sights and sounds that make it one of the Hill Country's most popular destination spots in the state of Texas.

In 1981, the Texas State Legislature office designated Burnet the "Bluebonnet Capital of Texas." A couple of years later, community leaders created the Bluebonnet Festival. Taking place the second weekend in April at the peak of bluebonnet season, this three-day festival draws crowds topping 30,000 each year.

Best Places to See Bluebonnets in Burnet, TX

Haley Nelson Park (US Hwy 29 West)
Burnet Municipal Airport (US Hwy 281 South)
Wallace Riddell Park (US Hwy 29 East)

Attractions and Recreation

Burnet offers a variety of outdoor activities and sightseeing opportunities. Climb aboard the historic Austin Steam Train for a leisurely trip through the Hill Country, embark upon the Vanishing Texas River Cruise to capture scenic views of Lake Buchanan and the Colorado River, or visit one of the area's outdoor parks such as Reveille Peak Ranch, Spider Mountain Bike Park, or Inks Lake State Park. Golfing enthusiasts will enjoy Delaware Springs Golf Course, some of the Hill Country's best golf.

Get a taste of Burnet's Historic Downtown Square has to offer. Immerse yourself in our town's vibrant heritage on a walking tour through historic downtown, and savor a meal at one of the area's many cafés or restaurants. Fine spirits, boutiques, unique antique finds and a warm cup of coffee abound. Feed your creative side at one of Burnet's art galleries, or take a trip back in time at one of our museums.

15 Fun Things to Do in Burnet

1. Longhorn Cavern State Park

Longhorn Cavern State Park features Longhorn Cavern, a Texas Hill Country wonder created over thousands of years by the dissolving and cutting action of water on the limestone bedrock of the area. The 85-minute tour covers 1.25 miles of underground caverns. There are also picnic areas, short hiking trails, a gift shop, and a deli lunch counter.

2. Vanishing Texas River Cruise

Enjoy the premier ecological cruise of Texas. Departing from Lake Buchanan in the Central Texas Hill Country, the cruise provides spectacular views of Lake Buchanan, the Colorado River, native Texas wildlife, waterfalls, world-class bird watching, and wintering bald eagles.

3. Spider Mountain Bike Park

Spider Mountain Bike Park offers a variety of trails for all abilities. Bike and equipment rentals are available on a first come, first serve basis. Those who prefer hiking will soon have the option to ride to the top of the mountain and hike down a path reserved for pedestrians.

4. Austin Steam Trail Association – The Hill Country Flyer

The popular Hill Country Flyer runs on Saturdays from January – May and again in September and October. The train departs from the Cedar Park depot and travels to Burnet.

5. The Burnet Gunfighters

The Burnet Gunfighters present their popular gunfight before the train leaves Burnet for the return trip to Cedar Park.

6. Delaware Spring Golf Course

Delaware Springs Golf Course is one of 12 golf courses in the Burnet area. The course is an 18-hole championship public golf course and offers a pro shop, driving range, putting green, snack bar, and dining room. Its 17th hole is named one of the “1001 Golf Holes you Must Play Before You Die” by golf writer Jeff Barr. The course was also named one of Golf Digest’s “Best Places to Play.”

7. Inks Lake State Park

Inks Lake State Park features 1201 acres of recreational facilities adjacent to the Colorado River. Located in the High Lakes chain (7 lakes) surrounded by granite hills, it makes a great day trip or weekend getaway. The water level of Inks Lake is usually maintained at a constant level allowing for year-round swimming, boating, scuba diving, and fishing. Paddle boats, canoes, and kayaks can be rented at the park store. On land, you can camp, backpack, geocache, play volleyball, picnic, or enjoy 9 miles of hiking trails.

8. Canyon of the Eagles Nature Park

The 940-acre nature park features a stargazing observatory, beaches, camping, 14-mile hiking trail, a labyrinth, and a marina with canoes, kayaks, and sailboats. RV sites and cabins are available.

9. Fort Croghan Museum & Grounds

See pioneer log cabins built in the 1800’s furnished authentically with items used during that era. Visit the working blacksmith shop, a one room schoolhouse, an original stagecoach stop, syrup mill, and a rock house built in the 1850’s by a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. Also visit the two original buildings constructed by the U.S. Army when this site, Fort Croghan, was an active frontier fort (1849-1853). The museum is loaded with artifacts dating from Native American Indian era to the 1900’s recording the history of Burnet County and Texas.

10. Hill Country Motorheads Museum

With over 200 motorcycles in the collection, the museum regularly showcases more than 70 bikes of many brands from around the world. Interesting facts/ background information is shared for each motorcycle displayed. The museum additionally showcases an assortment of vintage posters and photos making it a nostalgic display of history. Those wanting to stay a bit longer can enjoy the man cave which includes a pool table, sofa, and TV.

11. Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force Museum

The museum houses historical artifacts as well as a “working” aircraft hanger where WWII era aircraft are brought back to life. Specific exhibits include the front turret from a B-24 bomber, a cutaway radial engine of the type used in the AT-6/SNJ, a WWII machine for making dog tags, a WWII instrument flying trainer, and an air-to-missile. The B-24 turret is accessible, especially for younger visitors.

12. Reveille Peak Ranch

The ranch is a 1,300-acre outdoor event, education, and adventure center in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Whether you’re looking for some of the best mountain bike/ running trails in Texas, camping, or water sports, Reveille Peak Ranch provides an experience like no other.

13. Downtown Shopping & Eating

Visit Burnet’s Historic Business District with broad sidewalks that invite visitors to stroll the District. Immerse yourself in the town’s vibrant heritage on a walking tour including numerous historical buildings housing modern businesses. The District, bound by Polk, Pierce, Jackson, and Water Streets, is home to four buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, and numerous places designated by the City of Burnet as historical properties.

14. Burnet Farmers Market & Crafts Market

Saturday mornings from 9am – 1pm from May 1-Nov 20 on the Courthouse Square. Organized by the Highland Lakes Master Gardeners, the market shares information on gardening as well as an opportunity to purchase farm fresh foods and handcrafted items.

15. Local Wineries

There are multiple award winning wineries within a short drive. Wedding Oak Winery, located on the Burnet Square, is housed in a beautifully restored historic building. Torr Na Lochs Vineyard & Winery sits high above the Colorado River Valley, overlooking Inks and Buchanan Lakes. Down in Hoover’s Valley, enjoy a view of the surrounding hills while visiting Perissos Vineyards.