

What to do, and See around Brenham TX

101 WEST ALAMO | BRENHAM | TX

Go back in time to the 1800's Brenham Opera House. Downtown's largest Antique Furniture and Stained Glass Store, full of wonderful items from around the world.

Speaking of an old haunt ... Step into Today and Yesterday, a shop whose name intimates more than just wall-to-wall antiques. With a real-life Andrew Lloyd Webber-esque twist, this former Grand Opera House of Brenham is reportedly haunted by past performers. According to Today and Yesterday's website, customers have seen spirits, even a "red-headed lady" who walks through a wall.



107 West Commerce ST. Brenham TX 77833

Elegant and comfortable 15-room inn in downtown Brenham, one block from restaurants, bars, and shopping. Rock on the porch, enjoy the full breakfast and all the amenities you expect in this restored building with modern comforts. The Ant Street Inn is a beautiful location for a wedding or group event – rear garden features a lovely arbor to get married under and indoors is a large banquet room with seating for 200. Ant Street Inn also has a small meeting room upstairs



Glissman's Gift Gallery is a unique, one-of-a-kind gift and collectible shop. Located in historic downtown Brenham, in an 1860's two-story masonry building built by J.T. Parnell. 106 WEST MAIN | BRENHAM | TX

Betsy Newman channels this nostalgia at Barnhill House Toys & Books, a floor-to-ceiling time machine of a toy shop in Brenham. Remember that well-muscled Stretch Armstrong who broke your heart when his gel interior spilled out in the 70s? She's got him. The Radio Flyer that held your belongings when you ran away in kindergarten? It's out front. The pedal cars and cap guns, the tea sets and Tinker Toys? They're all there. The store, a reincarnation of her grandma and grandpa Barnhill's home, is more than an anti-big box boutique. It's a place where you sit and read the pages of Ferdinand the Bull with the theme song from I Dream of Jeannie bouncing in the background. The path from den to dining room is a maze of tin reproduction toys, dress-up clothes and shelves of books.

If your Christmas shopping season could use a little less rat race and a little more reminiscence, point your car to Barnhill House Toys & Books in Brenham. You'll find more than Lincoln Logs. You'll find your childhood.

Where is this? 606 S. Austin St., Brenham

What's new: Barnhill has an updated selection of new board game releases styled in their retro fonts and colors (think Candy Land and Sorry).



The Barnhill Center at the Simon Theatre

Originally opened in 1925, the historic Theatre has been completely restored and is now being enjoyed by many for music, movies, weddings and more. Visitors can see the movie, *The Dawn of Washington County*, in the beautiful theatre most Saturdays at 11am, 1pm and 2pm. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children.

Glissmann Drug Store Museum

A fascinating pharmacy that looks exactly like it did in 1924, complete with medicines and equipment used in that era. A short movie will introduce visitors to Carl Glissmann and his processes for mixing medicines by hand. Admission is free of charge.

Brenham Fire Museum

Visitors can see up-close three antique fire trucks from Brenham's past, two of which are rare – the only ones in Texas of their kind. Tourists will also learn the exciting history of the Brenham Fire Department and the annual Maifest celebration. Admission is free of charge.

Brenham Heritage Museum

New exhibits and three short movies have been added to the gallery for *Step into the Past*. The five-minute movies introduce guests to important Brenham forefathers and the German heritage of our county – including Maifest. New interactive activities for children are popular. Admission to the Museum gallery is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. (NOTE: The museum is currently closed for renovations.)

Independence Visitor Center

Inside the historic Adobe House (c 1835), visitors are welcome to come here to learn about the history of this small community where Baylor University began, where Mrs. Sam Houston resided and where she is buried, where the oldest Baptist church in Texas sits and more. Open 10-4 (closed in July & during Spring Tours – March 18, March 25-April 1 and April 8).

Independence Baptist Church

Organized in 1839, the Independence Baptist Church was the leading Baptist church and supporter of missionary work during the Republic of Texas, and is the congregation in which Sam Houston was baptized. In addition to the historic church, you can also see the burial ground of Margaret Lea Houston, Sam Houston's widow, and the Texas Baptist Museum where such artifacts as the original 1856 church bell are exhibited. Open Tues-Sat 9-4. Free admission.

Coles Settlement

In 1822, John and Mary Eleanor Coles migrated from Georgia to Texas with their two children and three slaves. Coles was given extensive holdings when the Mexican government issued land grants, making him one of the "Old Three Hundred" to settle in Texas. Around 1825, the family came to what is now the Independence area and established Coles Settlement.

Old Baylor Columns and Baylor on Windmill Hill

Discover the beginnings of Baylor University. The park-like setting at the columns is a great place to take a breath of fresh air – swings and picnic tables are available. (Open daily, self guided.)

Burton Cotton Gin

The Cotton Gin in Burton is home to a 1925 Bessemer Type IV diesel oil engine. The restored 16 ton "Lady B" is the largest internal combustion engine of its vintage still operating in America! Tours of the Gin are given Tues-Sat at 10am and 2pm for a small fee. Admission to the museum is free, open Tues-Sat 10-4.

Chappell Hill Museum

The Museum and Gift Shop are housed in the last public school building of the Chappell Hill I.S.D. The red brick structure is located on the site of the Chappell Hill Female College. Built in 1927, it served as only one of the schools in the area until 1965. The completely redesigned museum tells the intriguing story of a town once seemingly destined for greatness, but diminished by the ill fortunes of fate and history. Open Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 1-4pm.

Old Rock Store

Constructed in 1869 using native sandstone and cedar, was originally built for use as a general store. Over the years it has served as a feed store, a butcher shop and, at one time, housed the Chappell Hill Post Office. Built approximately two and a half miles northwest of Chappell Hill, this building was destroyed by a violent storm in 1866. Part of the congregation continued to meet in the Presbyterian Church in Chappell Hill until the present building was completed in 1873.

It all started on a hot summer day in 1907.

A group of local businessmen in Brenham, Texas, decided to establish the Brenham Creamery Company and make butter from excess cream brought in by area farmers. A few years later, the creamery began making ice cream and delivering it to neighbors by horse and wagon. It was in 1930 that the company changed its name to Blue Bell Creameries after the native Texas bluebell wildflower. Butter was produced until 1958 when Blue Bell began to focus full time on making ice cream.



Today, our product lineup includes Blue Bell Ice Cream, Light Ice Cream, No Sugar Added Ice Cream, Sherbet and frozen snacks. Each one is distributed to supermarkets and food stores through our direct store delivery program. Direct store delivery means that no one other than a Blue Bell employee handles the product from the time it is made until it reaches the grocery store. This is one of the ways that Blue Bell ensures consumers get the freshest possible ice cream.

Our growth has been slow – it wasn't until the 1980s that Blue Bell became available outside of Texas – but it has been steady. Although Blue Bell is only available in a portion of the nation's supermarkets, it ranks as one of the best-selling ice creams in the country. Our products are sold in 19 states. No matter how much the market grows, quality standards never change and are never compromised. That's why some folks say, "Blue Bell is the best ice cream in the country."

We proudly make Blue Bell Ice Cream the old-fashioned way, with the freshest and finest ingredients. We top it off with the special skills and knowledge we've developed over the years. In fact, we at Blue Bell care so much about delivering on our commitment, we go the extra mile for our customers. Only Blue Bell employees handle our ice cream from the moment the ingredients arrive at our creamery until it's hand-delivered to your store.

WHERE TEXAS BECAME TEXAS

WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS

Texas Independence day – March 2 – the day that a group of 59 gritty, gutsy delegates declared independence from Mexico. Their meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos was brave and bold at a time when lives of their brothers were hanging in the balance 166 miles to the southwest at The Alamo.

For those who want to brush up: in 1821, Mexico frees itself – finally – from 300 years of Spanish rule. By 1828, Anglos are flowing fast into the northern Mexican state of Texas, outnumbering Mexicans 10-to-1 in some places. The Mexican government counters in 1830 by closing the border between the U.S. and Texas, taxing imports from the U.S. and deploying Mexican troops. Steven F. Austin tries to go down and sing Kum ba yah with Santa Anna in 1834, and for his efforts, is thrown in prison.

On March 2, 1836, in less than an hour, delegates unanimously adopt the Texas Declaration of Independence. The Republic of Texas is born, and four days later, Mexican troops storm the Alamo.

It's a big deal. It's a big day. It's "where Texas became Texas." And every year, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site throws a party to revel in and relive the republic's beginnings with a Texas Independence Day Celebration. It's a two-day living history experience not to be missed by Texans and visitors alike. Featuring frontier demonstrations, entertainment on two stages (including the Texas A&M University Singing Cadets), food and games, the 293-acre site is where you want to be on March 3-4. On-site attractions, including the Star of Republic Museum, Barrington Living History Farm and Independence Hall are free.

Oh, in some circles, revelers may still be rumbling about whether Texas voters should ever have approved annexation into the U.S. in 1845. They'll kick the tires on whether numerous Texas secession movements from the American Civil War to the present day would be favorable, or even valid.

Where is this: 23400 Park Road 12, Washington (about halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off state Hwy 105). If using smartphone navigation, use Google Maps. (Apple "Maps" does not lead to the correct location.)

What to know: Parking and shuttle services are free.

Lodging: For lodging information, check options in and around Brenham.

When to go: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; TX Independence Day Celebration is March 3 and 4.

