



CITY OF BURNET TOURISM INFORMATION

General Information

The City of Burnet is nestled in the heart of the Texas Hill Country surrounded by rolling hills, lakes, beautiful geological formations and historical sites.

Burnet, the county seat of Burnet County, is one mile west of the divide between the Brazos and Colorado river watersheds near the center of the county, forty-eight miles northwest of Austin. The town of Burnet grew up around Fort Croghan in the mid 1800's. The County of Burnet was formed in December of 1851 and the City of Burnet (then called Hamilton) was named as the county seat. The name was changed to Burnet in 1858.

Among the many attractions in the Burnet area are the Highland Lakes, Longhorn Cavern and State Park, the Historic Burnet Square, the Highland Lakes Air Museum, Fort Croghan Museum and Grounds, the Canyon of the Eagles Park, the Vanishing Texas River Cruise, Hamilton Creek Park, Falkenstein Castle[®], Fall Creek Vineyards on the Texas Wine Trail, Galloway Hammond Recreation Center and Delaware Springs Golf Course.

The Historic Square features buildings from as early as the 1870's and offers a variety of unique shops and eateries. Drive in or take the Hill Country Flyer from Cedar Park. Watch the Burnet Gunfighter's fight it out at Old West Town on the weekends (on the same schedule as the train) or enjoy a leisurely stroll along Hamilton Creek. Either way, come to Burnet and enjoy what we have to offer. Contact the City of Burnet at (512) 756-6093 or on the web at www.cityofburnet.com

Highlights

Delaware Springs Golf Course is cradled by the trees and gentle rolling hills near the Highland Lakes. Picturesque and challenging, this 6,829 yard back tees, Par 72 course has earned its place as a Hill Country favorite. The Golf Course staff's tremendous attitude creates an environment where strangers have never walked. Try the cordial atmosphere at the Pro Shop and the well-stocked snack bar. Need coffee and a huge Hill Country smile? You've come to the right place. The Course is located two miles south of the intersection of Hwys. 281 and 29, off Highway 281. Call (512) 756-8471 or go online at www.delawaresprings.com

Galloway Hammond Recreation Center is a state-of-the-art physical activity center located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Facilities include two indoor swimming pools, outdoor splash/spray park, cardio fitness, weight room, aerobics, gym, jogging trails and outdoor sport fields. Also featured is an RV park adjacent to the recreation center. Located on Highway 281 South. Call (512) 756-6180 or go online to www.gallowayhammond.com

Hamilton Creek Park offers visitors a pleasant stroll on lighted walkways along the creek. Fountains, picnic areas and a children's play area are included in the experience. Watch the schedule for special events held throughout the year.

The Highland Lakes Air Museum houses vintage aircraft and static displays of military equipment. Home to the Highland Lakes Squadron of the Confederate Air Force, the museum also houses a collection of WWII memorabilia. Located just south of Burnet on Highway 281 at the Burnet Municipal Airport. Admission. Call (512) 756-2226 for more information or go to www.highlandlakessquadron.com

Fort Croghan Grounds and Museum marks the location of the Fort Croghan, one of the four forts established in 1849 to protect settlers from hostiles. Today's Fort Croghan is representative of those early days of what was to become Burnet, Texas. See the sights and imagine the frontier as you visit the blacksmith's shop, the one room school house, the powder house, the stage coach stop and others. The museum offers over 1200 historic artifacts from in and around the Burnet County area including the first fire wagon and the jail house door. Special events include Fort Croghan Day (second Saturday in October) a re-enactment of life on the frontier and Christmas at Old Fort Croghan (the second Saturday in December) when the fort comes to life with the sites and sounds of Christmas on the frontier. The museum is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from April to September and for tours by appointment. Call (512) 756-8281 or go online to www.fortcroghan.org

Burnet's Historic Square offers unique shops and eateries housed in buildings from the 1800's. Everything from antiques to Texana to Victorian furnishings can be found there. Enjoy lunch at one of the unusual eateries or stop for a cup of cappuccino. Maybe you prefer a scoop of ice cream at an old style ice cream parlor or a taste of home-style fudge. The Burnet Courthouse (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) centers the town square. The Burnet Bulletin building housed the county's oldest newspaper (in continuous publication since 1873) and is listed as a Texas Historic Site. The Chamber of Commerce, located on the southeast corner of the square can provide you with a Walking Tour Brochure for the Historic District. Go to www.cityofburnet.com/tourism/historic_square.htm

The History Plaza is located on the south side of the courthouse and takes visitors on a winding pathway that follows the history of Burnet County. Historic homes and structures can be found throughout the city. Many are currently used as bed and breakfast's. Contact the Chamber of Commerce (512) 756-4297 (www.burnetchamber.org) for an updated list of B&B's and hotels.

The Hill Country Flyer rolls into Burnet every Saturday and Sunday during season. The Hill Country Flyer is one of several excursion trains run by the Austin Steam Train Association. Board the train in Cedar Park, enjoy a leisurely ride to Burnet and a layover perfect for shopping and enjoying Burnet's amenities. Call ASTA for schedules and reservations. Call 512-477-8468 or go online to www.austinsteamtrain.org

Burnet Gunfighters perform against a backdrop of Old West Town, every Saturday and Sunday whenever the Hill Country Flyer runs, with a few exceptions. This rip-roaring wild-west show is a must-see for visitors to Burnet. All performers are volunteers and the group is non-profit. Admission is free, donations are accepted. Old West Town is located adjacent to the Railroad Depot.

Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery -This is a unique scientific facility where fish are hatched and stocked in area lakes. These fish are shipped to all parts of the country. Take Highway 29 west from Burnet for about nine miles, then left on Park Road 4 for about five miles. Follow the signs to the hatchery. (512) 793-2474

Events

The Bluebonnet Festival– Declared *The Bluebonnet Capital of Texas* by the 67th State Legislature, the City of Burnet celebrates it's declaration with a festival the 2nd weekend of April. Come for some fun and bring your camera to take pictures of the bluebonnets. Call the Chamber of Commerce at (512) 756-4297 or go online to www.burnetchamber.org.

Bluebonnet Air Show– The Highland Lakes Squadron of the Confederate Air Force presents an annual air show featuring a fly-in of vintage planes. The show features planes from across the U.S. Held the 2nd weekend in April. Call the CAF at (512) 756-2226 or go online to www.highlandlakessquadron.com.

Burnet BBQ Cookoff and Fiddlers Festival – One of the best BBQ Cookoff's in Texas offering trophies and cash prizes combined with one of the premier Fiddlers Contests in Texas. The Fiddlers Contest offers \$5,000 in cash and trophies. A weekend full of music and good food. Saturday's events culminate in a music festival featuring top entertainment. Held annually the third weekend in May at the Burnet Rodeo Grounds, Hwy. 281 South in Burnet. Contact Damon Beierle with Double Eagle Entertainment for information. (512) 585-8215.

Burnet Rodeo – Watch real live Texas cowboys as they compete in bull riding, bronco busting, calf scrambles, barrel racing and lots more. Enjoy live entertainment and good ole Texas BBQ. The last week in June at the Burnet County Fair Barn. Call (512) 756-5463 for information.

Heritage Festival - A Texas Heritage Art Exhibit, showcasing 2-dimensional artwork by K-12 students from BCISD, MFISD and/or youth participating in a 4H program in Burnet County. Includes a scheduled presentation of fine arts groups from Burnet County presenting a selection of music, drama, songs, poetry and storytelling reflecting the rich history of our state. Held in conjunction with the Burnet Rodeo.

Fall Creek Vineyards Grape Stomp and Harvest Festival – Fall Creek Vineyards celebrates the grape harvest with the Annual Grape Stomp and Harvest Festival, the second and fourth Saturdays in August. Call (915) 379-5361 for more information.

Tri-Hard Triathlon - The TRI-Hard is a sprint triathlon with an 800 meter swim, 18 mile bike and 5K run at Inks Lake State Park. Cost is \$60 per individual and \$175 for a relay team (male, female or mixed teams). Proceeds benefit the Old Burnet Community Center. Participants can register online at www.signmeupsports.com. The event is limited to 450 participants.

A Day Out with Thomas – A Day of Family Fun with Thomas and Friends. Take a 25 minute ride with a full size Thomas the Tank Engine TM. Meet Sir Topham Hatt. Enjoy Storytelling, Live Music, Build with Lego® Duplo® Bricks and Much More! October 9-11. www.austinsteamtrain.org/events.html

Fort Croghan Day– Second Saturday in October from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. See a real live blacksmith, sugar cane made into syrup, bread baked in a wood burning stove, or visit a one-room school house and “do your lessons” on a slate board. Call (512) 756-8281 or go to www.fortcroghan.org

Burnet Cultural Arts Festival – The Burnet Cultural Arts Festival is held for two days every October to celebrate the arts in Burnet. Each year features a specific genre of the arts and brings entertainers from across the country. For more information go online to www.bcafburnet.org

Main Street Bethlehem – Held the first and second full weekends in December from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Wind your way through this permanent structure alive with peasants, royal guards, shepherds and of course, wise men all on the trek to see the baby Jesus. A Must-See for the holiday season. Call the First Baptist Church of Burnet at (512) 756-4481 or go online to www.fcburnet.org/mainstreetbethlehem.htm

Christmas at Old Fort Croghan– Second Saturday in December from dusk until 9:00 p.m. Real live families gather to celebrate the Christmas season as it was done in the 1800’s. Another Must-See for the holiday season. Call (512) 756-8281 or go online to www.fortcroghan.org

Christmas Festival and Trail of Lights– Celebrate Christmas on Burnet’s Historic Square with seasonal activities and the arrival of Santa. Follow the Trail of Lights from the Train Depot through the Historic Square, all the way to Hamilton Creek Park which, as part of the Hill Country Trail of Lights, is lighted with thousands of Christmas lights. Contact the Burnet Chamber of Commerce for more information at 512.756.4297 or go online to www.burnetchamber.org

Natural Wonders

White Bluff -This tall limestone cliff of travertine flowstone was caused by centuries of water flowing over the cliff. This tall bluff is framed by huge hardwood trees that turn spectacular colors in late spring. White Bluff is about 14 miles from Burnet. Take Highway 29 west of Burnet for 3-1/2 miles, turn right on Ranch Road 2341 for about 11 miles until you see the White Bluff sign. Note: The bluff is on private property. Please view from the road only.

Fall Creek Falls -This spectacular waterfall tumbles about 50 feet before it hits the water of Lake Buchanan. Before the lake was formed, this fall was over 100 feet high. This waterfall is accessible only by boat. This is an excellent sightseeing area for boat owners. For non-boat owners, the Vanishing Texas River Cruise takes cruises to these falls daily. The closest boat ramp to Fall Creek Falls is at Burnet County Park, about 12 miles up Ranch Road 2341.

Packsaddle Mountain -Of interest to both historians and geologists, this area landmark was the sight of the last great Indian battle in 1873 between eight white settlers and 17 Indians. Much of the mountain is 600-million-year-old sandstone. Traces of gold, silver and other metals have been found in Honey Creek at the base of the mountain. Easily seen from most of the area lakes, the long saddle in the mountains is where it gets its name. Located between Marble Falls and Fuzzy's Comer on Highway 1431, about 25 miles from Burnet.

Post Oak Falls -Post Oak Falls is the tallest waterfall in the area, close to 100 feet tall. Accessible only by boat, boat owners should put in a Burnet County Park and head north on Lake Buchanan. Colorado Bend State Park is just a few minutes farther up the lake. The area can be viewed also on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise.

Granite Mountain -This huge dome of high quality granite is prized worldwide for its beauty and strength. Quarrying began in the 1880's for construction of the Texas Capitol Building. There appears to be an unending flow of granite as the quarrying has taken place for over a century and yet the granite dome has hardly been dented. Granite Mountain can be viewed from a roadside picnic area on Highway 2341, just one mile northwest of Marble Falls. The quarry itself is closed to the public.

Stone Mountain – This impressive mountain of granite has been an area landmark at least a century. Take Highway 29 west of Burnet for 3 ½ miles, turn right on Ranch Road 2341 for about six miles, then left on the Graphite Mine Road.

Longhorn Cavern - Longhorn Cavern State Park, south of Burnet in Burnet County, is 645.62 acres classified as a scenic park in the rugged Hill Country. Longhorn Cavern was acquired in 1932 - 1937 from private owners. It was dedicated as a state park in 1932, was opened in 1938 and was dedicated as a natural landmark in 1971. The cave is 68 degrees year round. The park offers guided tours that last approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes (a 1-1/4-mile round trip). For your safety and comfort, low-heeled shoes with rubber soles are recommended. Open every day except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Call 1-877-441-CAVE or go online to www.longhorncaverns.com

Scenic Drives

Mormon Mill Road (Highway 340) -This historic roadway winds its way from Burnet to Marble Falls. Although narrow, there are some pretty views as it winds its way south from Burnet. The road passes the sight of the old Mormon Mill, a mill used to grind

corn as early as 1851 (now on private property). (Take Highway 281 south from Burnet about 3 miles, turn left on Highway 340 and follow the Mormon Mill Road all the way to Marble Falls.

Graphite Mine Road (Highway 690/Highway 114) -This scenic road winds its way along the eastern shore of Lake Buchanan, providing some interesting panoramas of the lake and the surrounding hills. One of the best views of Buchanan Dam is from the road, especially when the flood gates are open. The only graphite mine in the southern U.S. is located on this road. This is a colorful route in the spring when the wild flowers are in bloom, but caution must be taken to watch for livestock on unfenced range land. Take Highway 29 west of Burnet for 3-1/2 miles, turn right on Ranch Road 2341 for about six miles, then left on the Graphite Mine Road.

Ranch Road 2341- Few roads in Texas offer the diversity of sights as does RR 2341, from crossing running creeks to driving by geological wonders. There are several breathtaking views of Lake Buchanan, and this is the main road to the Vanishing Texas River Cruise. White Bluff can be viewed on this road, and there is a hill with the prettiest view of upper Lake Buchanan. Excellent anytime of the year, the road is particularly impressive during the spring wild flower season and the fall foliage season. Some of the oldest exposed granite formations in the country can be seen in the area. Travel west of Burnet on Highway 29 for 3-1/2 miles, then right on Ranch Road 2341 (look for the sign to the Vanishing Texas River Cruise.) The road is about 15 miles long and dead-ends at the Canyon of the Eagles resort.

Highway 29 west to Llano and the eagle's nest -Also a superb drive when the wild flowers are in bloom, Highway 29 west to Llano offers interesting views of granite and limestone formations. You will pass over the Inks Lake Bridge and get a good view of Buchanan Dam. As you pass the dam and continue west, you will follow the Llano River, about 32 miles from Burnet. Just east of Llano, during mating and nesting season, you may get a once in a lifetime opportunity to see bald eagles nesting in the wild. The eagles have nested here since 2004. The nest is on private property and for the sake of the property owners, not to mention that of the eagles, stay outside the fence.

Highway 1431 from Marble Falls to Fuzzy's Corner -This winding, stunning road follows the general direction of the Colorado River as it cuts through Granite Shoals, Kingsland and Fuzzy's Corner. There is a breathtaking scenic overlook in Kingsland that offers a panoramic view of the entire area. Travel west on Highway 1431 to Highway 29.

Park Road 4 to Inks Lake State Park and Longhorn Cavern State Park - This winding road connects both these popular state parks and offers beautiful settings for picnics and relaxing drives. You will pass the beautiful 9-hole golf course along Inks Lake and it is a Texas tradition to stop at Inks Lake State Park and feed the deer. At the intersection of Park Road 4 and F.M. 2342, continue on Park Road 4 toward Longhorn Cavern State Park. Head up the hill then take the first right turn to one of the best picnic areas in Texas, overlooking hundreds of miles of the Texas Hill Country. From the picnic area, Park Road 4 twists past Longhorn Cavern before ending at Highway 281. To reach Park Road 4, take Highway 29 west about 9 miles then turn left on Park Road 4.

Hoover Valley Road (Highway 116) -Just 3.4 miles west of Burnet begins Highway 116, better known as the Hoover Valley Road. Scenic views of lakes Buchanan and Inks highlight this route as well as a look at some scenic ranches. This road has numerous curves and lots of deer on it. Take Highway 29 west for 3.4 miles then turn left onto the Hoover Valley Road. This road intersects Park Road 4 between Inks Lake State Park and Longhorn Cavern State Park.

Lake Victor -This 28-mile photogenic tour makes for a compelling drive through the Hill Country and is particularly suited for bicycles and motorcycles. From the intersection of Highway 281 and Highway 29, head north on Highway 281 about a mile then turn right on F.M. 963. Follow 963 eight miles then left on F.M. 2340, opposite the Bethel Church. Follow 2340 past Lake Victor (there is no lake) back to Highway 281, then go straight across to the small paved road, this is C.O. 109. Follow this beautiful country road to the junction at C.O. 108 and then go left on 108. This winding road will end up back on Highway 281.

Shady Grove Road -Wildlife abounds on the narrow country roads common to this course. This is another excellent ride for cyclists. Go north on Highway 281 to F.M. 963, then turn right. Where 963 curves left and an unsigned road heads straight, take the road straight ahead which is C.O. 200, or the Shady Grove Road. Follow 200 past Shady Oak Grove then turn right on F.M. 1174. Follow 1174 as it snakes through the hills then go right on F.M. 243 at the edge of Bertram. Follow 243, which jogs right on Highway 29, then turn right at the Mount Blanc Church (this road is unmarked although from Burnet it is known as the Old Austin Road). Follow this road back to Highway 29.

Public Parks and Attractions

Hamilton Creek Park -Approximately 3,000 linear feet of park development on Hamilton Creek. This park starts on the north side of State Highway 29 west of U.S. Highway 281 and extends southeast to the east side of U.S. Highway 281. Facilities located in the park include a pavilion, picnic areas, playground, creek walk, nature trail, fountains, and walking trails. The park is enhanced by large oak trees on both sides of the creek area.

Galloway-Hammond RV Park – Tucked behind the Galloway-Hammond Recreation Center is GHRC RV Park. The park offers three-way hookups and laundry facilities. Dump services are also offered. Call (512) 756-6180 for information or go online to www.gallowayhammond.com The park is located on Highway 281 South in Burnet.

Haley Nelson Park – Haley Nelson Park is a 51 acre park located just off Highway 29 West, in the City of Burnet. Featured are ball fields, disk golf, picnicking and horseshoe pits. *Park is under construction and expected to be completed by summer 2009.* Check the City of Burnet website for updated information at www.cityofburnet.com

Black Rock Park -Boat ramp, primitive camping, RV sites, dump station, playground, bathrooms, swimming and fishing. A fee is collected for overnight camping. Go west from Burnet on Highway 29 for about 13 miles, turn right on Highway 261 and continue up the road until you see the signs to the park. Go online to www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/black_rock.html

Shaw Island Park -Fifteen sites, primitive camping, group camping, no charge, no reservations. Go west from Burnet on Highway 29 for about 13 miles, turn right on Highway 261, and continue up the road until you see signs to the park.

Inks Lake State Park – This is a scenic 2,000 acres in the heart of the Texas hills. There is a golf course, RV hookups, restrooms, nature trails, camping, swimming, fishing, and picnicking. This is one of the most scenic and popular parks in Texas. Go about 9 miles west of Burnet on Hwy. 29, then left on Park Road 4. Just follow the signs to the park entrance. Go online to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/inks

Lake Buchanan -This lake has a multiple-arch dam more than 11,000 feet long and was the longest dam in the world when it was completed in 1937. The most exciting fishing around Burnet is fishing for striped bass on Lake Buchanan. These large bass can range from five to fifteen pounds, with prize fishing going well over 20 pounds. This large lake is an excellent lake for boaters, swimmers and fishermen. There is an abundance of interesting scenery, protected areas for skiing, public campgrounds and private RV parks and cabins. There are numerous public boat ramps around the lake. Lake Buchanan is about 10 miles west of Burnet on Highway 29. Go online to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/buchanan

Lake LBJ –Named for President Lyndon B. Johnson, this constant-level lake lies below Lake Buchanan in the Highland Lakes chain. There is excellent fishing, skiing and water recreation along these clear lakes. Several communities are situated along the lake including Kingsland, Highland Haven, Granite Shoals, Sunrise Beach, Deer Haven, Blue Lake and Horseshoe Bay. For more information go online to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/lbj

Colorado Bend State Park (915/628-3240) -This breathtaking state park includes about six miles of the Colorado River before it empties into Lake Buchanan. The park is filled with large quantities of native wildlife, spectacular scenery and the quiet solitude one might expect from one of the most isolated parks in Texas. Because of its remote location, the park is easier to reach by boat than by car. The park is located at the uppermost point of Lake Buchanan. There are numerous caves in the park so visitors should be cautious, but be sure to walk to Spicewood Creek, one of the prettiest waterholes in Texas. The park features primitive camping only. Located south of Bend, Texas on the Colorado River. For more information, go online to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/colorado_bend