



Heritage Tour

The Heart of Texas' rich heritage includes African-Americans, Hispanics, Czechs, Germans, American Indians, and more. Waco itself is named after the Waco Indians, and McLennan County is named after a native Scotland, Neill McLennan, one of the first European settlers in the area. Our heritage is commemorated in over 300 historical markers found in our county, along with many historic homes and sites.

8:40 am Waco Tourist Information Center

Located at Exit 335B off IH 35 – *Allow 20 minutes for rest stop and welcome reception including complimentary cookies and coffee.*

9:00 am Texas Ranger Hall of fame & Museum

Located next door to the Tourist Information Center – *Allow 1.5 hours to tour.*

The official State Hall of Fame for the oldest state law enforcement agency, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum houses historical artifacts detailing the history of the Texas Rangers. From their cowboy hats to their silver stars, to guns, saddles and pop culture. A great place to gather Texas souvenirs!

Allow 20 minutes for driving and loading time.



10:50 am Oakwood Cemetery

Located on South 5th Street – *Allow 45 minutes to tour.*

Once the site of a race track, Oakwood Cemetery is now the final resting place for many eminent Texans. Several Texas governors, United States Senators, Congressmen, military officers, University presidents, writers, philanthropists and business leaders have been laid to rest inside this historic cemetery. Our step-on guide (upon request) will regale you with stories of the famous and infamous.

Allow 15 minutes for driving and loading time.



11:50 am East Terrace (circa 1872)

Located just across the river from Cameron Park – *Allow 45 minutes to tour.*

One of the most beautiful homes in Waco, East Terrace enjoys an open view of the peaceful Brazos River, and offers a Texas example of Italianate Villa architecture.

Allow 15 minutes for driving and loading time.

12:50 pm Lunch Time!

Enjoy lunch at a local favorite, visit the 'Siloteria' (food trucks at Magnolia Silos), or visit the River Square Center for multiple shopping and dining options.
Allow 15 minutes for driving and loading time.

2:00 pm Mayborn Museum Complex

Located on South University Parks Drive – *Allow 1.5 hours to tour.*

The Mayborn Museum Complex includes natural history exhibits, walk-in dioramas, exploration stations, a Waco mammoth Exhibit which allows guests to walk on a see through floor overlooking casts of the Columbian mammoth bones displayed exactly as they were unearthed at the Waco mammoth Site, and a 13-acre historic village.

Allow 15 minutes for driving and loading time.



3:45 pm Waco Suspension Bridge and Cameron Park

Located on University Parks Drive – *Allow 30 minutes for the scenic drive.*

Spend time learning about Waco's famous Suspension Bridge and Cameron Park. Waco's Historic Suspension Bridge was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi when it was completed in 1870, and is still an important landmark in Waco today. Cameron Park offers 416 acres of beautiful landscapes that include wildflowers, mountain bike trails, a bride path, and disc golf courses.

4:15 pm Waco Mammoth National Monument

Located on Steinbeck Bend – *Allow 45 minutes to tour.*

"The Nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths." – National Park Service. Though the first bones at the site were discovered in 1978, the site remained closed to the public until late 2009. Baylor University staff, students and volunteers spent countless hours excavating the site over the past 30 years. On July 10, 2015, the site became a National Monument – part of the National Parks System.



Waco & the Heart of Texas tourism staff and volunteers are happy to assist with hotel and restaurant selection, serve as step-on guides, and more. For details, call Susan Morton, 254-750-8610.