

2011 MEDIA GUIDE



**ABILENE**  
*Convention and Visitors Bureau*

# TOP 10 THINGS

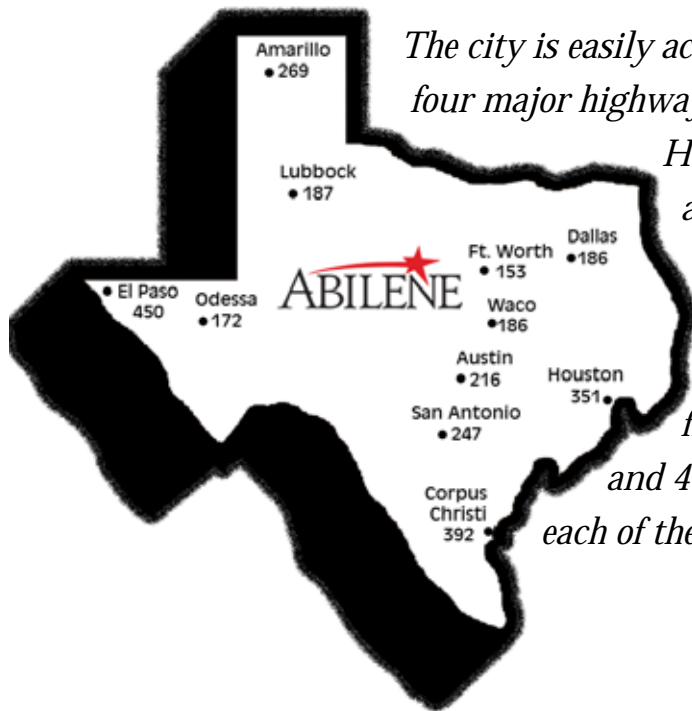
ya gotta do in

# ABILENE

- ▶ Find adventure at Frontier Texas!
- ▶ Feed the giraffes at the Abilene Zoo
- ▶ Bite into a juicy rib-eye steak
- ▶ Be amazed at The Grace Museum
- ▶ Catch a star at the Paramount Theatre
- ▶ Step back into time at Buffalo Gap Historic Village
- ▶ See artists in action at The Center for Contemporary Arts
- ▶ Book time for the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature
- ▶ Shop, shop, shop till you drop
- ▶ Review WWII at the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum

[www.abilenevisitors.com](http://www.abilenevisitors.com)

**V**isit Abilene, the defining city of West Texas, where the frontier spirit is still applied to discovery, development and creativity. Spend a few days in Abilene, the home of 120,000 friendly people. Relax, explore and enjoy our mix of western heritage, contemporary culture and traditional values.



*The city is easily accessible by four major highways: Interstate 20, Hwy. 83/84 East/West, and Highway 277 North/South. It is also served by State Highways 351 and 36. Abilene is 525 miles from the southern border and 450 to 460 miles from each of the other three borders.*

---

To arrange interviews, request copies of photographs or tour facilities contact:  
Nanci Liles, Executive Director  
325-676-2556 ■ 800-727-7704  
Night Number: 325-676-2574  
email: [nanci@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:nanci@abilenevisitors.com)

---

It was about 1875 when settlers began to arrive in any appreciable numbers in what is now Taylor County. In 1878, Taylor County was formed from the Bexar and Travis land districts, with Buffalo Gap being named the county seat.



The westward progress of the Texas and Pacific Railway gave impetus to the founding of Abilene when it considered two possible routes through West Central Texas. Col. C. W. Merchant and area ranchers met with railway officials to induce them to choose a route through the site of what is now Abilene. Shortly thereafter, the railway joined Merchant, John Simpson, and their associates in purchasing land in the area that was destined to become Abilene. In 1880, Merchant and Simpson named the town "Abilene" after the famous Kansas cattle shipping point of the same name, in hopes that Abilene, Texas would become an even more important city than Abilene, Kansas.

With the railroad completed to current Abilene, a town lot auction was held on March 15, 1881, and ABILENE was "born". By the end of the next day, 317 lots were sold for the sum of \$51,360. The remaining lots were sold at a private sale.

In 1883, Abilene had enough people and spirit to petition for an election to move the county seat from Buffalo Gap. Both sides waged a month-long campaign to win the election. Tales of election day shenanigans spread far and wide. People from Buffalo Gap charged that passengers on the T&P were encouraged to leave the train, vote, and then partake of a barrel of whiskey set up in a nearby lumberyard. Abilene won by a landslide, however, on the day of canvassing the votes, two groups armed with six-shooters and Winchesters almost took things into their own hands. Fortunately, cool heads prevailed and a confrontation was averted with each side agreeing to leave the decision to the County Judge and Commissioners. Abilene was named the new county seat which stabilized conditions and had the effect of bringing new enterprises to town. Today, Abilene is the center of a 22-county trade area.

- 1876 (January) -- One of the last Indian fights occurs. With the area more secure, large numbers of settlers begin to arrive.
- 1878 -- Taylor County, named for the Taylor brothers who died at the Alamo, is formed from the Bexar and Travis land districts. Buffalo Gap is named county seat.
- 1880 -- Colonel C. W. Merchant, his twin brother John, and other ranchers meet with Texas & Pacific railway officials to persuade them to choose a new route through the site of what is now Abilene. They name the town "Abilene" after the famous Kansas cattle shipping point.
- 1881 (January 13) -- The railroad tracks reach Abilene.
- 1881 (February) -- The U.S. Post Office opens and the first official train arrives.
- 1881 (March 15) -- A town lot auction is held and Abilene is "born". By the end of the next day, 317 lots are sold for the sum of \$51,360.
- 1883 (January 2) -- The city incorporates. It boasts two newspapers, several churches, and a public school. Abilene now has enough people to petition for an election to move the county seat from Buffalo Gap.
- 1883 (October 23) -- Abilene wins the county seat election by a landslide. This stabilizes the area and brings new enterprises to town. Today Abilene is the center of a 22 county trade area.



# HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ABILENE

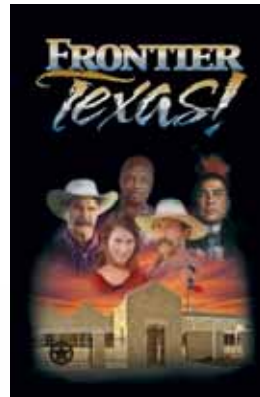


The Texas and Pacific Depot, one of Abilene's most outstanding landmarks, is located in Everman Park. Built in 1910, it provided passenger service until 1967. In 1994 it was restored to its 1920s appearance. The Depot now serves as the home of Abilene's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Cultural Affairs Council.



Downtown offers you art and history through its museums; specialty gift stores, antique shops, special events; and local flavor at uniquely Abilene restaurants. Downtown is home to:

- Frontier Texas!
- The Grace Museum
- The Center for Contemporary Arts
- 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum
- National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature
- Cockerell Galleries & Studios
- Paramount Theatre
- Cedar Break Fine Art Gallery
- ArtWalk: Held the 2nd Thursday of each month — 5 to 8:30 p.m. A fantastic, free family evening of art and entertainment!
- Downtown Dayz — 2nd Saturday in April and October



In the same way that Texas' early frontier forts established a protective gateway at the edge of western civilization, Frontier Texas! establishes itself as a welcoming

gateway to historic downtown Abilene. Visitors can relive the Old West with the help of state-of-the-art technology at this 14,000 square-foot facility on 6.4 acres.

Frontier Texas! brings the frontier to life by introducing you to the people who lived in the region between 1780-1880. Life-sized holographic figures provide dramatic first-hand stories about the hardships of settling the region. A multimedia circular theatre "The Century of Adventure" recreates life on the early frontier - from Indian attacks to buffalo stampedes, saloon shoot-outs to the wild fury of a prairie thunderstorm. Frontier Texas! is like nothing you have ever experienced before.

Frontier Texas! also serves as a visitors' center for Abilene and the Texas Forts Trail region, a 650-mile heritage tourism loop **that starts and ends in Abilene.**

Open Daily!  
Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.  
*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day*

Adults: \$8  
Ages 60+ and Military: \$6  
Students and Teachers with ID: \$5  
Ages 3 to 12: \$4  
Younger than age 3: Free

Abilene & Forts Trail Visitor Center ■ 625 North 1st St. ■ 325-437-2800

# FRONTIER TEXAS!

**THE GRACE MUSEUM**  
102 Cypress St. • 325-673-4587

The Grace Museum houses three museums inside the historic Grace Hotel. An Art Museum, History Museum and Children's Museum await you. The four story, 55,000 square-foot, missions-revival style building represents the hopes of the western frontier.

The museum enriches the cultural life of Abilene and the West Texas region through its permanent collections, special exhibits, seminars and special events. The elegant restored ballroom and lobby, glass loggia, large enclosed brick courtyard and open-air rooftop terrace provide a memorable setting for weddings and special events.

The Grace Education Center, located on the 3rd floor, incorporates numerous innovative architectural and design details including a metal-clad magnetic wall for displaying artwork, and one of the first uses in the U.S. of a "green" expandable wall divider system made from pleated paper. This artist's loft space is used for art classes, school visits, summer camps and special programs. It has a teacher resource library and a dedicated distance-learning studio for internet-based programs, which serves thousands of students across Texas.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,  
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
*Closed Sunday, Monday and Major  
Holidays*

Adults: \$6  
Ages 4 to 12: \$3  
Sr. Citizen, Student and Military: \$4  
Ages 3 and younger: Free  
Free on Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.



*The Children's Museum offers hands-on art, science and technology for children of all*



*The authentic 1940s era Mallouf Boot Shop highlights the craft of custom made boots.*



The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) is a non-profit organization committed to children and literacy. It is located in a beautifully renovated 1920s-style building. The NCCIL celebrates the artistic achievements of children's book illustrators through exhibits of their original artwork.



Educational programming is designed to stimulate creativity, promote literacy and increase appreciation for the arts. Free weekly art activities are provided for children and their families.

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*Closed Sunday, Monday, Major Holidays.*

Free

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S  
ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE  
102 Cedar St. ■ 325-673-4586



In the short space of five months the **12th Armored Division** became one of the most feared fighting machines of World War II. 72,243 prisoners were credited to the Division. The Division saw the horror of the Nazi atrocities as they liberated death camps, including Hurlag, Landsberg and Dachau. Nearly 8,500 Allied Prisoners of War and 20,000 non-military prisoners were liberated by the 12th.

The **Memorial Museum** houses the Division's historical collection and serves as a teaching museum for the study of World War II and its impact on the American people. It also offers innovative educational programs for children and academic access to historical materials.

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;  
*Closed Sunday, Monday & Major Holidays*

Adults: \$3; Children ages 7 to 12: \$1; Children ages 6 and younger: Free

12TH ARMORED DIVISION  
MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
1289 North 2nd St. ■ 325-677-6515

**THE CENTER FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ARTS**  
220 Cypress St. ■ 325-677-8389



*The Center also sponsors ArtWalk on the 2nd Thursday of each month — 5 to 8:30 p.m. — ArtWalk is a fantastic, free family evening of art and entertainment!*

than 70 artist members, with four galleries and 10 working studios. The Center presents more than 24 exhibits annually by regional and national artists working in a wide variety of media, including photography.

Tuesday - Saturday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Closed Sunday, Monday and Major Holidays.*  
Free

The mission of The Center for Contemporary Arts is to provide enriching and educational experiences for the region. It is a valuable asset to the community, preserving and strengthening cultural heritage while showcasing and promoting regional artists.

Located in historic downtown Abilene, The Center is home to more

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE**  
352 Cypress St. ■ 325-676-9620



One of historic downtown Abilene's most fascinating features is the Paramount Theatre. Opening in 1930, this magnificent movie palace is a monument to a by-gone era in America, when movie going was prime entertainment.

Restored in 1986, it features arched

columns, two grand staircases, hand-blown glass chandeliers, Pueblo-Deco artwork ceilings and a 1,200-seat auditorium with twin-domed turrets, and a velvet blue ceiling with drifting clouds and twinkling stars. The Paramount now offers classic, art and special event films, concerts, live theatre and touring shows.

Free self-guided tours: Noon to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Schedule events are listed on the community calendar:  
[www.abilenevisitors.com/Calendar](http://www.abilenevisitors.com/Calendar)



Cockerell Galleries and Studios is home to many of Abilene's promising photographers and artists. Upstairs are 12 working artist studios and a small gallery. The galleries are open: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Closed Saturday, Sunday and Major Holidays.* Free.

Downstairs houses the ACU Downtown Gallery, 325-674-2085. This gallery features Abilene Christian University's student and faculty shows, intercollegiate competitions and exhibits by nationally renowned guest artists. Wednesday - Saturday: Noon to 3 p.m.; *Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Major Holidays.* Free.

**COCKERELL GALLERIES  
AND STUDIOS**  
1133 North 2nd St. • 325-829-7975



Cedar Break Gallery of Fine Art is home to Barry Authur. His paintings and sculptures are what great western art is all about. From beautiful landscapes, western and wildlife, to intricately carved sculptures; the gallery offers a wide variety of art. Barry can usually be found in his studio, located within the gallery, working on a painting or deep in research for the next one.

Monday – Friday:  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
or by appointment  
*Closed Saturday, Sunday  
and Major Holidays.*

**CEDAR BREAK GALLERY OF FINE ART**  
957 North 2nd St. • 325-677-9999

The Abilene Zoo was founded in 1919 and moved to its current location in Nelson Park in 1966. It is the only zoo located between Fort Worth and El Paso.

The mission of the Zoo is to promote an increased awareness of the natural world through conservation, environmental education and the preservation of endangered species.

The Adventure Center, located outside the zoo's entrance, is home to educational children's programming and the amazing Zoo store.

Inside the zoo you will find an enriching environment where plants and animals offer an ever changing, exciting, educational and recreational experience. The Zoo houses 160 species that represent over 500 animals. Included are jaguars, black rhinos, bison, maned wolves, giraffes, black bears, lions, a white tiger, two species of primates, reptiles, birds, cougars and more!

Rounding out the Zoo is a Wetlands Boardwalk, the Creepy Crawler Center, and the Elm Creek Backyard that features local and regional animals.

**Open Daily!**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(gates close - 4:30 p.m.)

Memorial Day to Labor Day enjoy the *Sunset Safari*, a Thursday evening at the zoo, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. *Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day*

Ages 13-59: \$5

Senior Citizens: \$4

Ages 3 to

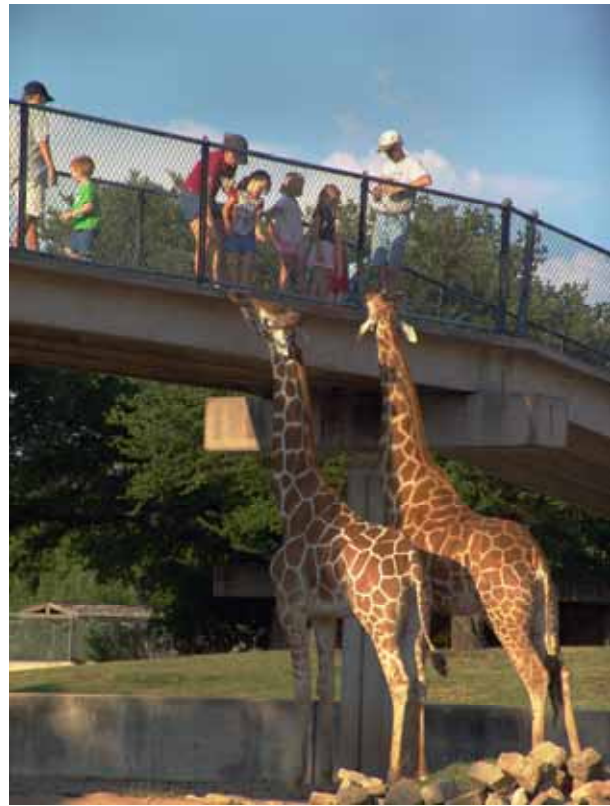
12: \$2.50

Children

younger

than age 3:

Free



*Don't forget to buy crackers to feed the giraffes!*



*Wetlands Boardwalk*



*The Creepy Crawler Center, features 49 exhibits of rare reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.*

PrimeTime Family Entertainment Center is your source for family fun in Abilene. Featured are:

- NASCAR Simulators
- 16-lane Brunswick bowling alley, with automatic scoring, automatic bumper rails, and bowling ramps for handicapped bowlers
- X-D Theater
- Bumper Cars
- Laser Tag
- Billiards
- Batting Cages
- Over 80 arcade games
- 36-hole miniature golf course
- 1,000-foot electric go-kart track
- Café
- Meeting and party rooms
- Shuffleboard

**Open Daily!**



PRIMETIME FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER  
4541 Loop 322 - 325-690-5555

# BUFFALO GAP HISTORIC VILLAGE

133 N. William St. • Buffalo Gap, TX • 325-572-3365

In the early days of the Texas frontier, great herds of buffalo favored the “gap” in the Callahan Divide. This area was also a favorite camping place for Native Americans. The site of the original settlement in Taylor County, Buffalo Gap Historic Village is located a few miles south of Abilene.

A historical resource since 1956, the Village preserves and presents the heritage of the Texas frontier. The Village boasts:

- A rich collection of Indian artifacts and frontier firearms
- 21-buildings from the founding of the area
- Interactive audio tours and guide books
- Gallery with historic maps and art by area artists
- Guest House Accommodations
- Rental Facilities: Chapel and reception/meeting rooms
- Extensive collection of publications from State House Press and the McWhiney Foundation Press
- Home to Texas Frontier Heritage and Cultural Center



To reach the Village take FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Rd.) to Buffalo Gap, turn right on Elm for two blocks to 133 N. William St.

### Open Daily!

Summer: Memorial Day to Labor Day  
Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sun., Noon to 6 p.m.

Winter: Closes at 5 p.m.

*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day*

Adults: \$7  
Ages 65+ and military: \$6  
Students grades K-12 and college students with ID: \$4  
Ages 5 and younger: Free

Located in present-day Jones County, Fort Phantom Hill is on the Texas Forts Trail and is one of the most pristine historic sites in Texas. It was one of a second line of forts laid out in the early 1850s to protect the westward moving frontier of Texas settlement.

Originally known as the "Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos," the fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1851 until 1854.

Shortly after the army abandoned Fort Phantom Hill, fire destroyed most of the log walls and thatched roofs of the post's buildings. However, much remains for visitors to explore, inspect and study, including three original stone buildings, an intact stone powder magazine, a stone guardhouse and an almost-intact commissary or warehouse, more than a dozen stone chimneys, and stone foundations from the original fort.

The 22-acre site is owned by the non-profit Fort Phantom Foundation and is registered with the Texas Historical Survey Committee. The site is open daily during daylight hours and is free of charge. To explore the ruins, from Interstate 20, go north on FM-600 for 11 miles.



**FORT PHANTOM HILL**  
**F.M. 600 at Lake Fort Phantom ■ 325-677-1309**



The frontier forts of Texas were lonely outposts in wild country. As settlers streamed west with dreams of new opportunities, the federal government established lines of forts to protect Texans on the advancing frontier. Beginning in 1848, the U.S. Army built 44 major outposts and set up at least 100 temporary camps in Texas. Many West and Central Texas communities were founded adjacent to these frontier outposts.

The 650-mile driving trail region includes 29-counties in West Central Texas and highlights eight historic frontier forts. The remains of these forts offer a tangible link to an early period of Texas History.

**TEXAS FORTS TRAIL**  
**325-795-1762**

World War II saw the blossoming of “tent cities” throughout the nation. Camp Barkeley, south of Abilene, became an Army infantry training camp for thousands of recruits. Army Air Corp cadets learned to fly trainers and P-47 Thunderbolt fighters while stationed at Tye Army Air Field, a Camp Barkeley adjunct. When both installations were closed at the end of World War II, the deed to Tye Army Air Field was sold to Abilene for \$1.

Following the outbreak of the Korean crisis, Abilenians called for a military installation.



Citizens raised \$893,000 to purchase an additional 3,500 acres to provide a home for the military base. Several prominent men were instrumental in convincing authorities of the suitability of a base in Abilene. Oliver Howard, W. P. Wright, Sr. and others worked with Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Congressman Omar Burlison, to persuade military and civilian officials to station a base in Abilene. In July 1952, the Department of Defense

announced that Congress had approved the \$32 million needed to construct a base in Abilene.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on September 24, 1953. Dyess' red brick ranch-style architecture boasts a Texas influence throughout the base. One unique feature of the base is that all buildings are permanent structures.

Known as Abilene Air Force Base, the Strategic Air Command base was dedicated by city fathers at the end of Abilene's Diamond Jubilee on April 15, 1956.

On December 6, 1956, the base was renamed after Lt. Col. William E. Dyess who was born in Albany, Texas, August 9, 1916. The only son of Judge Richard T. and Hallie Graham Dyess, young Edwin took his first airplane ride in a barnstorming World War I aircraft that came through Albany in 1920. Lt. Col. Dyess served valiantly during World War II, was captured and survived the Bataan Death March. The colonel made it back to the U.S. and began training for overseas combat again. During training Colonel Dyess' pursuit aircraft caught fire while flying over a heavily populated area. With ample opportunity to abandon the aircraft, Colonel Dyess choose to sacrifice his own life rather than risk the lives of others. He remained with the P-38 and died after guiding it onto a vacant lot.

**Today**, Dyess is home to the 7th Bomb Wing with two B-1 Squadrons and the 317th Airlift Group with two C-130 Squadrons. For an overview of base history, visit the Dyess Visitor Center Memorial Park located just outside the base at Arnold Blvd. and Military Dr.

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 325-793-2199 - Free.



The Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center has a total capacity of 735 megawatts. It is comprised of 291 GE 1.5 megawatt wind turbines and 130 Siemens 2.3 megawatt wind turbines spread over nearly 47,000 acres in Taylor and Nolan County, Texas. It currently one of the largest wind farms in the world.

The wind turbines are 262 feet tall at the hub in the center of the blades. Each turbine has three blades, each blade is 126 feet long. The generator begins making electricity with wind speeds of approximately 8 mph and can operate in winds as high as 55 mph. When winds exceeds 56 mph, the internal computer shuts the equipment down. Optimum wind speed for power generation is between 25 and 35 mph. Dyess Air Force Base is 100% "green," using energy only from wind power.

"The Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center is an important new source of clean, renewable power for the region that also provides significant economic benefits to the area in the form of taxes, new jobs, lease payments to landowners and the purchase of local goods and services," said Mike McMahan, Abilene Chamber of Commerce President. "Projects like Horse Hollow are possible because of the pro-business environment that exists in Texas today as well as tremendous support they receive locally."

FPL Energy is a leading competitive energy supplier utilizing clean fuels such as natural gas, wind, solar, hydroelectric and nuclear to generate electricity. It is the world's leader in wind energy, with 49 wind facilities in operation in 15 states. It is a subsidiary of FPL Group, (NYSE: FPL) one of the nation's largest providers of electricity-related services with annual revenues of nearly \$16 billion.



*Leddy Boots*

**Leddy Boots**

**1602 North Treadaway ■ 325-677-7811**

James Leddy began the family tradition of hand-crafting western boots in 1949. Today, Mr. Leddy's family carries on his craft. From custom fitting to finished boot, the Leddy art shines through. Many famous rodeo and country performers purchase their boots here.

**Bell Custom-Made Boots and Repair**

**2118 North Treadaway ■ 325-677-0632**

Alan Bell is another legendary Texas boot maker. He has a charmingly rustic workshop just a few blocks north of Leddy's, and walk-ins are welcome. Bell is always good for a story or two, but call first to make sure he hasn't gone fishing.



*Art Reed*

**Art Reed Custom Saddles**

**361 E.S. 11th St. ■ 325-677-4572**

Art Reed has been custom-making saddles, chaps and belts for over 40 years. This small but unique shop is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and most Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon.

**Lankford's Texas Mesquite Products**

**1042 Cottonwood St. ■ 325-670-9888**

Terry Lankford fashions ranch-style furniture and accessories that capture the natural beauty of Texas Mesquite. His creations are in demand through custom orders from around the country, but he often has pieces for sale right outside his workshop. He's happy to show guests his craft can usually be found at the shop.



*Damon Albus*

**5D Custom Hats and Leather**

**742-A Butternut St. ■ 325-673-9000**

Damon Albus, owner of 5D Custom Hats and Leather, specializes in high-quality, custom-made cowboy hats and leather accessories. Damon strives to keep western tradition alive and welcomes visitors to view hats being made.



*For over 58 years the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra has performed classical and pop's concerts featuring world renowned guest artists and conductors. 325-677-6710*

Abilene is home to a thriving performing arts community.

Abilene Christian University (325-674-2739); McMurry University (325-793-3889); and Hardin-Simmons University (325-670-1405); present plays and dinner theatres throughout the year. Abilene Christian University also hosts a summer Shakespeare Festival.

Abilene Community Theatre hosts six productions annually, including one musical production. 325-673-6271.

Abilene Ballet Theatre, founded in 1985, is the only regional ballet company in Abilene's history. The company holds two performances each year, at the historic Paramount Theatre. Artistic Directors are Nancy Gore and Lisa Gore-Etter. 325-675-0303.

Abilene Cultural Affairs Council and Celebrity Attractions present the Best of Broadway each year. This series has entertained more than 50,000 people with shows and musicals. Celebrity Attractions. 800-869-1451.

The Abilene Opera Association performs every other year in the historic Paramount Theatre. The production features local performers as well as special guest artists. 325-676-7372

Abilene Community Band performs at numerous civic and cultural events in the Abilene area. Members of the band are all volunteers and come from a multitude of different backgrounds. 325-695-2422

Chorus Abilene is composed of three choirs for youth singers in grades 1 - 12 and an adult choir. The choirs perform several concerts through out the year. 325-673-7464

The Ball Ranch offers chuck-wagon suppers and an original western stage show every Saturday night, from April through December. 325-698-2186

Paramount Productions produces two musicals or plays yearly, bringing together artists from Abilene and the surrounding regions to perform on stage at the historic Paramount Theatre. 325-676-9620

"Live at the Paramount" an exciting concert series, features nationally and internationally recognized performing artists showcased in the intimate setting of the landmark Paramount Theatre. The series, now in its fifth year, is co-sponsored by KACU, Abilene Public Radio 325-674-2441, and the Paramount Theatre 325-676-9620.

Abilene is known for its numerous public sculptures. For a complete list visit our web site: [www.abilenevisitors.com/Public-Sculpture](http://www.abilenevisitors.com/Public-Sculpture)

Pictured left is *Jacob's Dream* by Abilene artist Jack Maxwell. At almost 40-foot, the bronze sculpture features four angels ascending and descending a ladder reaching toward heaven. It illustrates the biblical account of Jacob's dream from Genesis 28.

Surrounding the sculpture is a baptismal pool and 30 weathered stones, each engraved with words from scripture. The paths around the sculpture are linked by these words resulting in a different scripture depending on the direction you enter.

*Jacob's Dream* is located on the east side of the campus of Abilene Christian University, 1600 Campus Court.



*Dinosaur Bob*, sculpture by Bob Wade, sits atop the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature's Garage, 133 Cedar St.



| Ranch and Contact Information   | Ranch Type                     | Package          | Day (Maximum capacity) | Overnight (Maximum capacity) | Individual | Convention/Meeting | Motorcoach | Groups | Meeting Rooms | Activities   | Misc.                                    | Meals Included | Meals on Request | Shuttle on Request | Handicapped Accessible |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------|---------------|--|--|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <p>Lytle Bend Ranch<br/>325-672-6082</p> <p>2.7 miles past airport on Hwy. 36. Right on Potosi Cemetery Road</p>              | Catering                       | Day or evening   | 1,000                  |                              |            | ★                  | ★          | ★      | ★             | Volleyball, softball, dancing and hayrides. All outdoor facilities. J.A. Corral, an indoor meeting room, is available offsite. Catered meals with a variety of choices. Specializing in chuck wagon meals. | Group rates                              | ★              |                  |                    |                        |
| <p>Perini Ranch Steakhouse<br/>325-572-3339 or 572-3464</p> <p>15 miles south of Abilene on Hwy. 89</p>                       | Restaurant                     | Day or evening   | 60 to 1,000            |                              | ★          | ★                  | ★          | ★      |               | Ranch surrounds restaurant. Hayrides, dancing, volleyball, washer and horseshoe pitching, seasonal entertainment. Cowboy breakfast, chuck wagon and catered meals.   | Reservations for groups and individuals  | ★              |                  |                    | ★                      |
| <p>Stasney's Cook Ranch<br/>888-762-2999</p> <p>35 miles northeast of Abilene or 8-miles northeast of Albany off Hwy. 283</p> | Nature Retreat and Guest Ranch | Day or overnight | 150                    | 34 Singles                   | ★          | ★                  | ★          | ★      | ★             | Birding, abundant wildlife viewing, hiking and biking trails, hunting, and art and photography workshops. A roomy lodge is available for day retreats or group functions                                   | Reservations required for all activities | ★              | ★                | ★                  | ★                      |
| <p>Cross Shield Ranch<br/>806-254-6055</p> <p>60 miles north of Abilene</p>   | Working Ranch                  | Day              | 65                     |                              |            | ★                  | ★          | ★      |               | If your group is looking for a true, western experience where cowboys still ride horseback and work cattle, they will find it on the Cross Shield Ranch Tour.  | Reservations required                    | ★              | ★                |                    |                        |

# RANCHES

**JANUARY**

3rd Monday

Martin Luther King Dinner  
Abilene Civic Center  
325-672-7800, Tonya Jones-Brown  
325-676-0138, Floyd Miller

3rd Saturday

West Texas Rehab Telethon  
Television and Country/Western stars entertain you live on stage at the Abilene Civic Center. 325-793-3508, West Texas Rehab Center

**FEBRUARY**

2nd Weekend

Celebrity Quail Hunt  
325-677-6815, Disability Resources

3rd Saturday

West Texas Sports and Fitness Expo  
325-692-2972, Abilene Youth Sports Authority

4th Week (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife Expo  
325-677-7241, Abilene Chamber of Commerce

**MARCH**

1st Saturday

Outlaws and Legends Music Fest  
Biggest 1 Day 1 Stage Event in Texas.  
325-677-6815, Mark Powell

2nd Weekend

Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-up  
The world's largest rattlesnake hunt.  
325-235-5488, Sweetwater Chamber

**APRIL**

2nd Saturday

B!G DAY Downtown  
325-676-2556, Wilma Butman

2nd Weekend

Gem & Mineral Jewelry Show  
325-692-4642, Sallie Lightfoot

3rd Weekend

Buffalo Gap Food and Wine Summit  
800-367-1721 or 325-572-3424, Perini Ranch

**MAY**

1st Weekend

Cinco de Mayo Celebration  
For over 29 years St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church, 2525 Westview Dr. has hosted this celebration annual celebration. Cinco de Mayo marks a victorious battle that took place in Puebla, Mexico. There 4,000 brave Mexican soldiers triumphed over twice as many French fighters on May 5, 1862. Enjoy great food, a softball tournament, flea market, children's games, entertainment and a nightly dance. 325-672-1794, St. Vincent Church



2nd Weekend

Western Heritage Classic Ranch Rodeo  
Real cowboys from working ranches across the U.S. compete in riding, roping and cutting competitions as well as wild cow milking and other fun events. The Rhinestone Round-up kicks off the festivities with dinner and an art show. During the day enjoy a western art show and sale, cowboy poetry and music, a chuck wagon cook-off, cowboy matched horse races, the world's largest bit and spur show, trade show and special children's activities. Rodeo competitions and dances are held Friday and Saturday nights.  
325-677-4376, Taylor County Expo Center

## JUNE

### Last two Weekends

#### Fort Griffin Fandangle

Frontier life is recreated with song and dance in an outdoor theater. Before the show enjoy barbecue on the Courthouse lawn. In Albany, Texas just 35 miles from Abilene. 325-762-3838, Ticket Office

## AUGUST

### Last Weekend

#### Chili Super Bowl

(Chili & Brisket Cook-off)

See and sample the world's largest bowl of chili. Two days of fun under the shade trees of Old Settlers Reunion Grounds in Buffalo Gap. 325-675-8412, Ticket Office

## SEPTEMBER

### Starts 1st Friday after Labor Day

#### West Texas Fair and Rodeo

Excellent exhibits and competitions, PRCA rodeo, livestock and horse shows, entertainment, midway and carnival. 325-677-4376, Taylor County Expo Center

### Last Weekend

#### Action Sport Medicine Champions' Classic

Football season is kicked off West Texas style at Shotwell Stadium with this multi-game weekend featuring some of the best teams in Texas. Proceeds from the event are used to fund college scholarships for Abilene's graduating student athletes. 325-676-2556, Debi Schultz, Sports Sales Director, Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau

## SEPTEMBER - CONTINUED

### 4th Week—Monday through Saturday

#### West Texas Book and Music Festival

Hosted by Friends of the Public Library  
Local authors reception - Tuesday  
Brown bag lunches with authors and musicians - Wed. - Thu. - Fri.  
Cookbook Gala - Thursday evening  
Music in the Park Series - All week  
Book writing workshops; *Hall of Texas Authors* with Texas authors and publishers selling and autographing books - Saturday. Abilene Civic Center 325-676-6025, Ricki Brown



### Last Weekend

#### Big Country Balloon Fest

Sponsored by Optimist Unlimited Club of Abilene. Nightly balloon glow, arts and crafts, games, food booths, children's contests, games, 10K race and children's fun run. Hare and Hound Race on Saturday morning. All in Redbud Park, 3125 S. 32nd St. 325-795-0095, Optimist Unlimited

## OCTOBER

### 2nd and 3rd Saturdays

#### Buffalo Gap Historic Village Ghost Tours

325-572-3365, Buffalo Gap Historic Village

**NOVEMBER**

1st Weekend

Christmas Carousel  
Sale of arts, crafts, gifts and unique items. Preview market, gala and more!  
Abilene Civic Center  
325-677-1879, Junior League

2nd Weekend

Christmas in November  
Unique display of arts, crafts and gifts.  
Abilene Civic Center  
325-673-1142, Bette Pitcock

3rd Weekend

“The Nutcracker”  
This classic ballet is performed by Abilene’s Regional Ballet Company “Ballet Abilene” and guest artists.  
Historic Paramount Theatre.  
325-675-0303, Ballet Abilene

**NOVEMBER**

1st Tuesday After Thanksgiving



**City Sidewalks**

For over 22 year the Abilene Downtown Association has hosted this event, where you can rediscover the charm of Christmas, complete with a parade and community tree lighting.  
325-676-2556, Wilma Butman

**DECEMBER**

1st Tuesday through December 24

Christmas Lane  
Lighted outdoor Christmas display, an indoor display that includes animated dolls plus Santa photos and free calls to the North Pole.  
325-795-3547, Abilene State Supported Living Center



**Christmas Carousel**

*The Abilene Civic Center hosts a Broadway in Abilene series; concerts and comedy tours; gun and knife shows; and numerous arts, crafts and gift shows; throughout the year. For a complete list of Abilene’s events visit our web site: [www.abilenevisitors.com/Calendar](http://www.abilenevisitors.com/Calendar)*

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Area Code: 325  
 Elevation: 1,750 feet  
 City Size: 121.5 sq. miles  
 County: Taylor  
 Population: 117,063

**AGE GROUPS:**

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 0-20  | 32% |
| 21-34 | 21% |
| 35-54 | 25% |
| 55+   | 22% |

Median Age: 33 years  
 # of households: 43,996

**AVERAGES:**

Coldest Month: January (31.8°)  
 Hottest Month: July (94.8°)  
 Annual Rainfall: 23.78 inches  
 Wind speed: 12 mph  
 Relative Humidity: 59%

**ECONOMY:**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Higher Education     | \$290.0 million |
| Agriculture          |                 |
| Farm Products        | 41.0 million    |
| Livestock            | 27.0 million    |
| Oil & Gas (Dist. 7B) | 568.0 million   |
| Retail Sales         | 1.7 billion     |
| Travel Trade         | 329.5 million   |
| Dyess AFB Payroll    | 238.3 million   |

**HOSPITALS:**

Abilene Regional Medical Center  
 325-695-9900

Acadia Abilene (*mental health and substance abuse*)  
 325-698-6600

Hendrick Health Systems  
 325-670-2000

Reliant Rehabilitation Hospital  
 325-691-1600

**LIBRARY:**

Abilene Public Library

Main Branch  
 202 Cedar St.  
 325-676-6025

Southside Branch  
 1401 S. Danville Dr.  
 325-698-7565

Mockingbird Branch,  
 1214 N. Mockingbird Ln.  
 325-437-7323

**NEWCOMER INFO.:**

Abilene Chamber of Commerce  
 325-677-7241

**NEWSPAPER:**

Abilene Reporter News  
 325-673-4271

**UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES:**

Abilene Christian University  
 325-674-2000

Abilene Commercial College  
 325-672-8495

Cisco College  
 325-794-4400

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University,  
 Dyess AFB  
 325-692-2007

Hardin-Simmons University  
 325-670-1000

McMurry University  
 325-793-3800

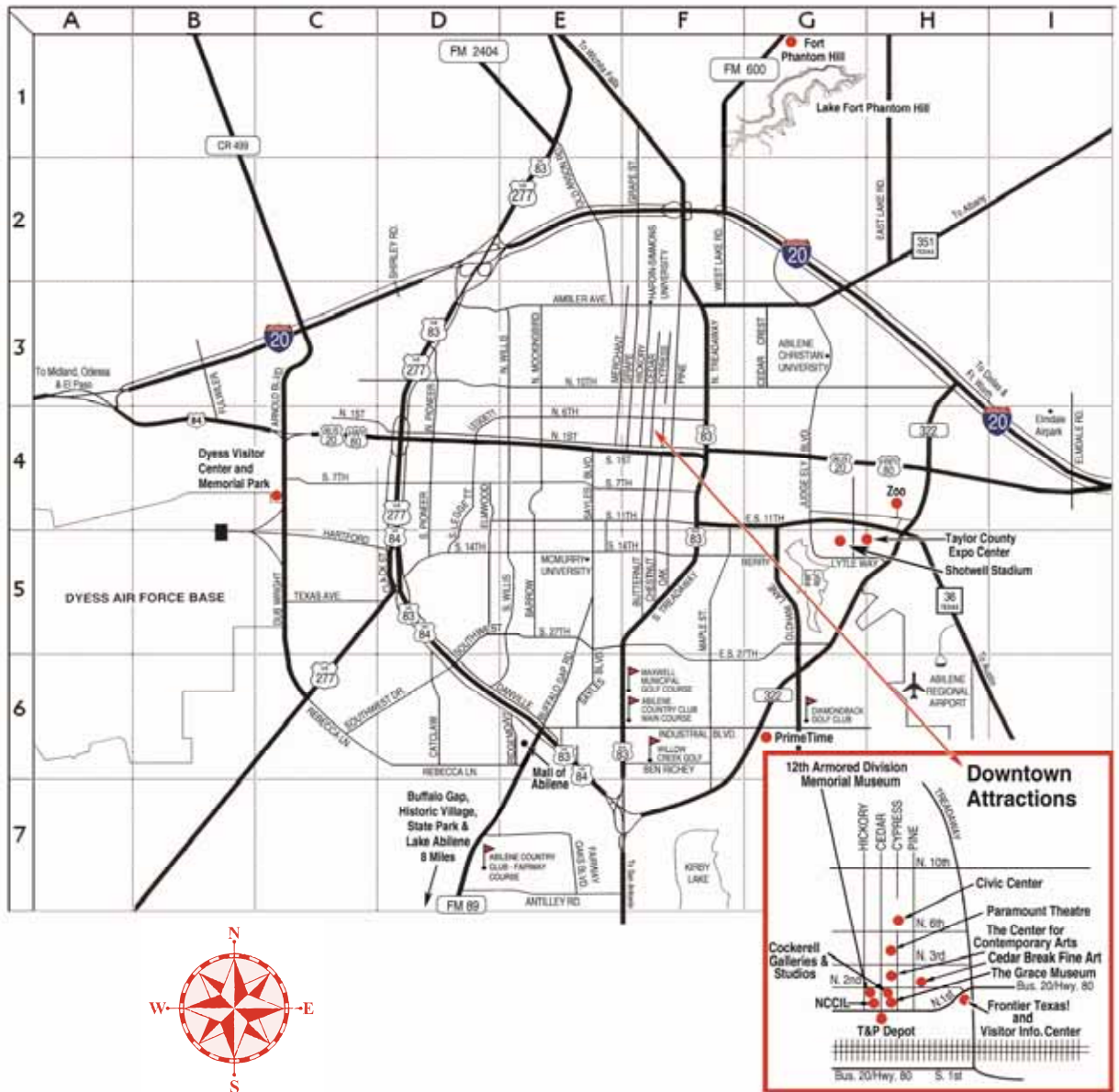
Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing  
 325-671-2399

Texas State Technical College  
 325-672-7091

Texas Tech University - School of Nursing  
 325-676-3822

Texas Tech University - School of  
 Pharmacy  
 325-676-7984

# ATTRACTIONS MAP





*The Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau's photos are copyrighted by the photographer and are available for use by conventions, meetings, tour planners or for media related tourism activities. Photos are not public domain. Please note photo credit is required:  
© Steve Butman Photography*



# ABILENE

*Convention and Visitors Bureau*

1101 North 1st ■ Abilene, Texas 79601  
325-676-2556 ■ 800-727-7704  
[www.abilenevisitors.com](http://www.abilenevisitors.com)

## STAFF

### **Executive Director**

Nanci Liles  
[nanci@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:nanci@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Office Manager and Web Site Development:**

Wilma Butman  
[wilma@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:wilma@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Convention Sales Director**

Jennilee Latimer  
[jennilee@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:jennilee@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Sports Sales Director**

Debi Schultz  
[debi@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:debi@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Convention Services Director**

Hester Woods  
[hester@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:hester@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Visitor Services Manager**

Le'ann Mayhall-Ardoyno  
[le-ann@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:le-ann@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Communications Director**

Shanna Smith-Snyder  
[shanna@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:shanna@abilenevisitors.com)

### **Receptionist and Visitor Information**

Lu Christopher  
[info@abilenevisitors.com](mailto:info@abilenevisitors.com)