

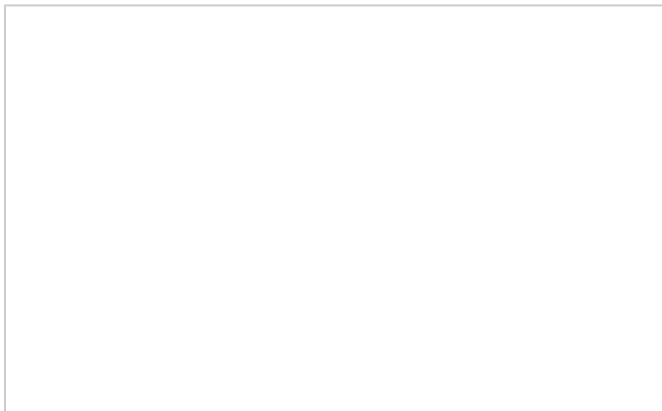


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Visit Brenham/Washington County  
115 West Main Street  
Brenham, TX 77833  
979-337-7580  
[www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com)



## Things to Do in Brenham



Brenham is an inviting country town nestled among the sprawling farmlands and oak forests of South Central Texas. This small community, located off of Highway 290 between Austin and Houston, is home to Blue Bell Creameries, a thriving arts scene, and its fair share of great shopping and dining, including award-winning barbecue. Elevate your taste buds with an expert-led tasting at Haak Wines in its stunning downtown setting. Brenham is just a few miles from the birthplace of the Republic of Texas, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and the fertile lands that surround town



contain three unique wineries that you can visit. In many ways, Brenham is a great starting point to experience the past and the present that make the Lone Star State what it is today.

With so much to see and do, it may be tough to figure out where to get started. We've got you covered. Read on to discover some of the best things to do in Brenham!

## Bell Creameries

This one is kind of a no-brainer. Brenham has been the home of [Blue Bell Creameries](#) for more than 100 years, making it something of an institution here. Every year, thousands and thousands of people head to the creamery to try the delicious ice cream right from the source. The creamery has an ice cream parlor where you can enjoy a scoop (or two) of this sweet confection, a visitor center where videos and exhibits present the company's history, and a country store if you're in a souvenir buying mood.

## Visit Blue



## Experience Farm Life

Pet a goat. Hug an alpaca. Harvest some vegetables. Make soap. If you've ever wanted to do any (or all) of these things, you're in luck. A few locations near Brenham are more than happy to have you lend a helping hand. [Barrington Plantation State Historic Site](#) encourages its visitors to participate in the daily chores. So if you decide to plant or harvest some crops, or any of the other chores around the farm, you're getting a history lesson along with a taste of farm life.

Enjoy horseback riding? The opportunity to do so can be found at a nearby ranch.

Don't think we forgot about those alpacas. Travel 15 miles west of Brenham and you'll find [Peeka Ranch Alpacas](#), a 60-acre farm home to 100 alpacas. Not only will you get to pet and feed these adorably furry creatures, but you'll also get to savor scenic views of the ranch's hay meadows and oak-tree-covered hills. A small gift shop stocked with alpaca wool products is on hand as well, just in case you want to take a souvenir home with you.

## Explore Texas History

Many of the most important moments of the early history of Texas played out near where Brenham is today. The Texas Declaration of Independence and the Republic's first constitution were created at present-day Washington-on-the-Brazos in March of 1836. Much of this history is remembered at the [Washington-on-the-Brazos](#) State Historic



Site, which occupies nearly 300 acres about 20 miles northeast of Brenham. The Site features quite a few things to see and do. Start at [Independence Hall](#), the building where the original 59 delegates fashioned the Declaration of Independence and the state's first constitution. From there, you'll be primed to visit the Star of the Republic Museum, a modern two-story facility that highlights Texas' remarkable past with interactive exhibits and artifact displays. (Note: This site is currently undergoing extensive renovations and is estimated to reopen in late 2025.)

This may already sound like a lot to see, but don't worry. There's more where that came from. Barrington Plantation State Historic Site, the former home of the last president of the Republic of Texas, Dr. Anson Jones, resides within the Site as well. These days, the farm is occupied by costumed interpreters using 1850's era methods and tools to tend to the farm, providing a unique look at what life was like in Texas at that time. Spending some time at the plantation while learning about the history of the Lone Star State near where the republic was born? It doesn't get any more Texan than that.

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## Drink some Brew or Vino

You may think this striking hillside setting is from a vineyard in Napa Valley or the Texas Hill Country, but you'd be mistaken. Instead, you're at one of the wineries near Brenham, each of which offers their own range of specialty wines that you can try in their tasting rooms.

Sample an award-winning wine at [Chapelton Vineyards](#), try wines made from prickly pears or cranberries at the [Texas Star Winery](#), or you can enjoy the best of both worlds in a farmhouse setting at [36 North Vineyard](#)

. Since all three wineries are close to town, you can make any trip to Brenham a wine sampling adventure. If you do, we suggest you bring along a designated driver so you can fully enjoy all the great flavors of the wineries in Washington County.

If a great brew is more to your taste, visit [Brazos Valley Brewery](#) near Downtown Brenham. There you'll find a family-friendly atmosphere and a tempting variety of brew flavors to choose from.



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## Catch a Show

Want to attend a play or a symphony? No problem! Brenham is home to the only professional theatre in Washington County, and there are state-of-the-art performance halls that routinely host concerts nearby. [Unity Theatre](#), located in a renovated warehouse in Downtown Brenham, brings in



professional actors, directors, and technicians from around the country to produce dramas, romantic comedies, musicals, and other types of shows. Meanwhile, the 500-seat [Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center](#) provides a compelling space for theatrical, musical, and choral performances by Blinn College students and guest performers. In addition, [The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre](#) offers entertainment in a restored 1925 vaudeville stage setting. These venues offer visitors and locals alike the opportunity to enjoy a top-class show without having to battle big-city traffic or crowds.

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## Take an Art Walk

Thanks to the annual Texas Arts and Music Festival, Brenham now has many beautiful works of outdoor art. Take an Art Walk to find all 20 murals (and growing) in the downtown area; admire each mural and take a selfie.

