

# Abilene



The Friendly Frontier



**A**bilene, home of 120,000 friendly people, welcomes you. Relax, explore our city and enjoy our mix of old West heritage, contemporary culture and traditional values.

## FRONTIER TEXAS!

625 North 1st

437-2800

Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

\$8—Adults; \$6—Ages 60+ & Military; \$5—Students & Teachers with ID; \$4—Ages 3 to 12; Free—Under Age 3

Experience the big picture of the Texas frontier between 1780-1880 as the story comes to life in this multimedia facility. Visitors can meet—at least figuratively—some of the real people who lived and died on the Texas frontier. You'll feel the terror of a wolf attack, the chaos of a buffalo stampede and the tension of a deadly card game shootout in the Beehive Saloon. Buffalo hunters, Comanche warriors, explorers and pioneers await you in the multimedia theatre called the *Century of Adventure*. Make plans to bring the entire family! **The Abilene and Forts Trail Visitor Center** is located inside Frontier Texas! The visitor center offers free visitor information.



## ABILENE ZOO

Nelson Park, Hwy. 36 & Loop 322 • 676-6085

\$4—Ages 13-59; \$3—Sr. Citizens; \$2—Ages 3 to 12  
Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day—Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years' Day

- Over 202 Species!  
*Jaguars, elephants, giraffes, black bears, monkeys, reptiles, amphibians, birds and butterfly gardens*
- Wetlands Boardwalk
- Climate controlled Creepy Crawler Center
- Children's programs and special events



## THE GRACE MUSEUM

102 Cypress • 673-4587

Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thurs. closes at 8 p.m.)

Closed Sunday, Monday and Major Holidays

\$5—Adult; \$4—Sr. Citizen, Student, Military; \$3—Ages 4 to

For the full brochure click [here](#).



12; Free—Ages 3 and younger; Free on Thurs., 5 to 8 p.m.

The Grace boasts three outstanding museums in one location.

- Children's Museum: Hands-on art, science and technology
- Art Museum: Exhibits of the world's finest art
- History Museum: Life in Abilene from 1900 to 1950

## BUFFALO GAP HISTORIC VILLAGE

Buffalo Gap, TX • 572-3365

Travel through time from the 1870s to the 1920s.

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
- Bed & Breakfast accommodations
- Wedding Chapel
- Vintage baseball (call for schedule)

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

Winter Hours: Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., Noon to 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day. \$5—Adults; \$4—Ages 65+ & military; \$2—Students (grades K-12 and college students with ID); Free—Children ages 5 and younger (interactive audio tours & guide books additional)

## THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

220 Cypress • 677-8389

Free - Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday and Major Holidays  
This unique gallery is home to over 75 artist members and ten working studios.



Four galleries feature exhibits of painting, sculpture and photography by local, regional and national artists.

The Center also sponsors Artwalk on the 2nd Thursday of each month — 5 to 8:30 p.m. — A fantastic, fun, family evening with art exhibits, entertainment, dining and shopping in historic downtown. Admission to most museums is free!

## PARAMOUNT THEATRE

352 Cypress • 325-676-9620

Self-guided tours: Noon to 5 p.m., weekdays

This fully restored 1930s theatre features:

- Concerts and live theater
- Touring shows
- Classic, art house and special event films
- Outstanding architecture: *Arched columns, two grand staircases, hand-blown glass chandeliers, Pueblo-Deco artwork ceilings and a 1,200 seat auditorium with twin-domed turrets, a velvet blue ceiling, drifting clouds and twinkling stars*



## 12TH ARMORED DIVISION MEMORIAL MUSEUM

1289 N. 2nd • 677-6515

In the short space of five months the 12th Armored Division became one of the most feared fighting machines of WWII.



### The Memorial Museum:

- Displays and interprets the Division's historical collection
- Serves as a teaching museum for the study of WWII and its impact on the American people
- Offers academic access to historical materials &

provides educational programs for children  
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

## NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE

102 Cedar • 673-4586

This one-of-a-kind museum exhibits and tours the best works of today's premier children's book illustrators. NCCIL (pronounced "nickel"):

- Opens three new exhibits a year, each traveling to venues across the U.S.
- Offers free children's art activities and numerous family events

Free! Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## ABILENE STATE PARK • FM 89, Buffalo Gap 325-572-3204 • Reservations: 512-389-8900

This scenic park covers 1,200 acres along Elm Creek. Once a resting place for the Comanche Indians, visitors now find:

- Modern camping and recreational facilities
- Buffalo and part of the official Texas Longhorn herd



- Hiking and nature trails
- Picnic sites, game area and children's playground
- Full-sized swimming pool and a children's pool open Memorial Day to Labor Day (Wed.-Sun, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)
- Photo opportunities and wildlife observation
- Bicycle riding and fishing pond

Fees: \$4—Ages 13 and over; \$2—Ages 65+ Texas residents. 41-wheeled camper/tent site; 36-group trailer sites; 12-water only tent sites; 3 full hook-ups: \$15-\$18 per night; 8-screened shelters: \$18/night; 2-air conditioned recreation halls: \$80/day or \$160/night

## PUBLIC SCULPTURE

Abilene is known for its numerous public sculptures. For a complete list visit the Abilene Cultural Affairs web site: [www.abilenecac.org](http://www.abilenecac.org).

Pictured is *Jacob's Dream*, by Abilene artist Jack Maxwell, an almost 40-foot bronze sculpture with four angels ascending and descending a ladder that reaches 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 Abilene Christian University, 1600 Campus Court.



## DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

**696-5609**, Public Affairs  
Dyess houses an Air Combat Command wing with two B-1 Bomber and two C-130 Squadrons.

Visitors will enjoy:

- Dyess Visitor Center (an overview of the base and its history)
- Dyess Linear Air Park with its 32 planes from WWII, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, and Operation Desert Storm (contact Dyess Public Affairs to schedule tours)



## FORT PHANTOM HILL

Open Daily • Free

Visit the ghostly ruins of this 1851 Army post. As you walk among the dozen chimneys and three buildings you almost hear the soldiers going about their daily routine.

To explore the ruins, from Interstate 20, go north on FM 600 for 11 miles.



## JANUARY

3rd Monday **Martin Luther King Dinner**  
3rd Saturday **West Texas Rehab Telethon**

## FEBRUARY

2nd Weekend **Disability Resources' Celebrity Quail Hunt**  
3rd Saturday **The West Texas Sports Expo**  
4th Week **Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife Expo**

## MARCH

2nd Weekend **Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-up**

## APRIL

2nd Weekend **Central Texas Gem and Mineral Show**  
3rd Weekend **Buffalo Gap Food and Wine Summit**

## MAY

1st Weekend **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**  
2nd Weekend **Western Heritage Classic Ranch Rodeo**

## JUNE

Last two Weekends **Fort Griffin Fandangle**

## JULY

4th of July **Big Country July 4th Family Festival**

## AUGUST

3rd Weekend **Big Country Air Fest "Wings and Wheels"**

## SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend **Chili Super Bowl**  
3rd Weekend **Altrusa Antique Show**  
4th Weekend **West Texas Book & Music Festival**  
Last Weekend **Hot Air Balloon Festival**

## OCTOBER

1st Saturday **Spirit of the Frontier Festival**  
Last Weekend **Buffalo Gap Historic Village Haunted House**

## NOVEMBER

1st Weekend **Junior League of Abilene's Christmas Carousel**  
2nd Weekend **Christmas in November**  
3rd Weekend **"The Nutcracker"**  
1st Tuesday after Thanksgiving **City Sidewalks**  
Mid-November through Mid-January **The Ice House**

## DECEMBER

1st Thursday in Dec. through Dec. 24 **Christmas Lane**

For a complete listing of events visit our web site:

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

