

## SEE, SHOP, SAVOR, STAY, & SURF!

Waco offers enough to keep visitors busy for days! Take a guided tour, enjoy nature in Cameron Park, on the Brazos River, or Lake Waco, explore the famous Magnolia Market and wonderful local shops and restaurants. Enjoy local spirits, take in some live music, one-of-a-kind museums, and attractions, and eat like a local. Come for a special getaway trip, a tour, or simply to relax. Enjoy all that Waco has to offer.

### DAY ONE

Start your day with a guided tour from **Waco Tours** or **Brazos Tours**. Both companies offer scenic and Informative tours. Driving tours are a great way to get an overview of the city and get your bearings for your visit. Allow up to 3 hours for a guided tour. Both companies also offer relaxing river tours! You'll get to see our Waco Suspension Bridge where cowboys and cattle followed the Chisholm and Shawnee trails, Cameron Park, which includes over 26 miles of hiking and biking trails and breathtaking views, public artwork, and some familiar homes from Magnolia's *Fixer Upper* series.

#### Magnolia Market and the Silos

– A must see when in Waco. Lounge on the lawn, play ball on the Wiffle ball field, relax, and reflect in the Old Church, Enjoy the little corner bakery, cozy coffee shop, and grab some lunch at local food trucks. Shop Magnolia Market, Magnolia Home, The Shops at the Silos, and the Magnolia Seed and Supply gardens. The atmosphere begs for a relaxed visit – take your time and soak it all in. Plan for 1.5-3 hours here.

Explore walkable **Downtown Waco's** eclectic shops.

Local favorites include **Spice Village**, **The Findery**, **Sironia**, **Central Goods**, and **Simply Irresistible**. YES! Most will ship your treasured finds home for you.

#### Waco Surf

Spend the afternoon surfing. Yes, Surfing in Waco, Texas! Waco Surf is known to surfers worldwide as the go to place for consistent perfect waves. This amazing inland water park offers surfing (really!), wakeboarding, a mile long lazy river, and daring water slides.

Wind down with a Cajun dinner at **Brazos Landing**, located on the banks of the Brazos River.

Catch some **live music** and local spirits at one of the **local craft breweries, distillery, or wine bars**.

### DAY TWO

Start your day with breakfast at **Magnolia Table**! The historic Waco café restored and repurposed as seen on Magnolia's *Fixer Upper*.

Next Stop, the **Dr Pepper Museum**. The Dr Pepper Museum educates, inspires, and entertains by sharing the stories of Dr Pepper (the oldest major U.S. soft drink) and the soft drink industry. Located in the first building dedicated to the manufacturing of Dr Pepper, the museum holds one of the finest collections of soft drink memorabilia in the world. Be sure to stop in the old-time soda fountain for a Dr Pepper float to tide you over until lunch. Expect to spend 1.5 to 2 hours here.

Step back in time with a visit to the **Waco Mammoth National Monument**. Located within 100 acres of

wooded parkland along the Bosque River, the site offers an escape from the modern world and provides a glimpse into the lives and habitat of Columbian mammoths and other Ice Age animals. Since the discovery of the site in 1978, museum staff, students and volunteers have spent thousands of hours excavating and working to preserve the fossil material. While the remains excavated through 1990 are now housed at **Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex**, most of the fossil specimens excavated since then remain in situ (still in their original position within the bone bed). These specimens have been protected in recent years by a climate-controlled Dig Shelter, allowing for both public viewing and further scientific study. In 2015, President Barack Obama signed an executive order establishing Waco Mammoth National Monument and making this site a new unit of the National Park System. Plan to spend about 1-1.5 hours touring the site.

Next stop, lunch and self-guided tour at **Café Homestead** and **Homestead Craft Village**. Check in first at Tripadvisor's top rated Waco restaurant to save your spot for lunch. You may encounter a waiting line. Never fear, just add your name to the list and explore the Craft Village. They'll text you when your table is ready. This traditional community allows you to see artisan's demonstrating their crafts in the ways of old. Watch the iron work, woodwork, pottery, fiber crafts, cheese making, gristmill, and more. The village also offers a school of sustainability. Magnolia Network fans should be sure to look for the Mohawk Valley Inn and Apple Cider Mill feature on *Restoration Road*. Plan to spend about 3 hours for lunch and a self-guided tour.

Visit nearby **Brazos Bluffs Ranch** for a sunset horseback tour. "If Western movies have taught us anything, it's that nothing says romance like riding off into the sunset— so join us for an unforgettable horseback ride experience with a distinctive Texas twist!" It's not a Texas trip without this experience! Plan for 1.5-2.25 hours of adventure. The excursion includes snacks, drinks, and an amazing view from the bluffs overlooking the river.

Saddle sore after that ride? Enjoy dinner and a relaxing beer spa at **Pivovar**. A Czech inspired luxury experience. Located in a renovated historic building, Pivovar offers a boutique hotel, restaurant, brewery, beer garden, and even the only beer spa in Texas!

#### **Planning Tips for your Waco visit:**

- Waco offers a wide assortment of lodging options – from luxury boutique hotels to unique vacation rentals. Several hotels have opened over the last few years and six more are currently under construction. Visit our lodging page for the most current information.
- Magnolia's locations and Homestead Craft Village are closed on Sunday's. Most other attractions and museums are open on Sundays.
- Come hungry! We have no shortage of great food.
- Wear comfy shoes for your activity packed days.
- Coming during the summer? Plan outdoor activities early in the day and indoor activities in the afternoon. Winter? Flip that around.

#### **Can't Get Enough?**

We know you'll find you couldn't fit in all the unique-to-Waco experiences. This two-day itinerary will

only whet your appetite for future trips!

Contact our friendly **Waco Welcome Center** staff to help make your next visit to Waco exactly what you were hoping for. Our travel counselors will help you choose which experiences best suit your needs.

Check out our historic sites, public art, art galleries, museums, hiking and biking trails, festivals, concerts, and wonderful local shops and restaurants.

Other one-of-a-kind Waco experiences include:

**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum** Located on the banks of the Brazos River, this Official State Repository of Texas Ranger Memorabilia preserves the history of the Texas Rangers, a legendary symbol of Texas and the American West. Expect to spend at least 1.5 hours here.

**Mayborn Museum Complex** – A must include for families with children! This museum located on the Baylor University campus, celebrates the natural science and cultural history of Central Texas. The complex also offers the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, Jeans Discovery Center (children's hands-on museum!), and special exhibits. Plan on 2-3 hours here. Youngsters will not want to leave!

**Cameron Park Zoo.** Located in Waco's Cameron Park, this American Zoological Association accredited natural habitat zoo features lush native vegetation, waterfalls, and ponds – you'll see that the animals who call Cameron Park Zoo home not only survive in habitats that reflect their natural environments; they flourish. Plan for 3 hours to meander through the shaded paths and meet the residents. Never been to Texas? Make certain to include the Brazos River Country featuring the flora and fauna found along the Brazos River from the Texas Gulf Coast to the Texas Plains. Plan on at least 3 hours here.

**Texas Sports Hall of Fame** Home of more than 400 Texas sports legends and over 6,000 pieces of Texas sports memorabilia. The TSHOF is the FIRST hall of fame in the nation with memorabilia from each inductee, dating back to the first class in 1951. Anticipate 1.5 hours to view the exhibits.

**Armstrong Browning Library and Museum** See the world's largest collection of materials and works of art dedicated to the lives and works of Victorian era poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The entire building and surrounding grounds reflect the poetry of these masters and include 62 stained glass windows depicting their poetry, and paintings by their son, Pen.

**Lake Waco Wetlands** – A must see for nature lovers and birdwatchers. Over 180 acres of habitat for native animals and plants. The wetlands offer 3.5 miles of nature trails for hiking, bird watching, and photography.