

Theatres

Gem Theatre

Take a step back to the good old days and enjoy a great show at the historic Gem Theater with cushioned theater seats. The history of the Gem Theatre, located at 217 Main Street in Turkey, is quite colorful. It opened in 1928 showing silent movies. On several occasions during the 1930's, Turkey's most prominent son, Bob Wills, performed in the theatre. In 1941, the Theatre presented "Take Me Back to Oklahoma" which starred Wills in his first motion picture role. Ray Price and Gene Watson & the Farwell Party Band have been favorites to perform at the Gem Theatre as well as the Byron Stillwell Band and Lynn Alexander & the 8-Second Band.

The Gem Theatre is now the home of the monthly Jamboree held the first Saturday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm with free admission to the Jamboree. Dinner is served in the patio area starting at 6:00 pm sponsored by area organizations. For information contact: Turkey Heritage Foundation; Marie Cruse, PO Box 131, Turkey, TX 79261, Phone (806) 423-1420.

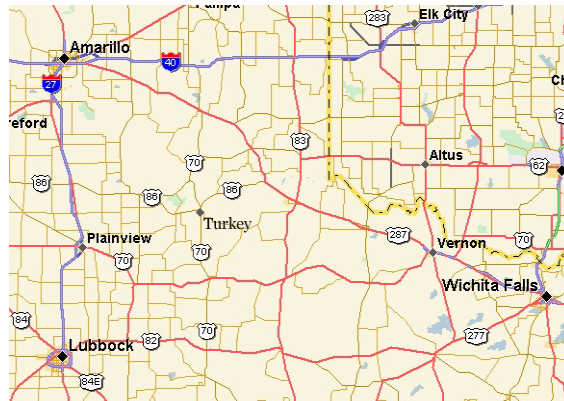
Midway Drive-In

Just five miles west of Turkey on Highway 86 is the Midway Drive-in. Located between Turkey and Quitaque as well as between New York and L.A., the Midway offers a scenic view of sunsets and bright stars as a bonus to weekend movies. A 50' x 70' screen with outdoor benches, a play area for children, and a full-service concession provides guests with a family-friendly atmosphere. Couple that with a food menu selection of: homemade foot long chili dogs, funnel cakes, and grilled hawaiian chicken sandwiches and some might mistake the Midway for Paradise. Open Friday through Sunday every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information check out www.midwaydrive-in.com or give us a call at (806) 455-1467.

Location

Turkey, Texas is located in the southwest corner of Hall County, just below the edge of the Llano Estacado. Highway 70 and Highway 86 pass through Turkey and it is located just 30 miles off Highway 287. Turkey is 100 miles southeast of Amarillo, 100 miles northeast of Lubbock, and about 250 miles northwest of Dallas.

Map



Accommodations

Hotel Turkey

Hotel Turkey was built in 1927 to provide lodging



for railroad travelers and salesmen. It has continued in operation since that time. Hotel Turkey now operates as a Bed and Breakfast with 14 lavishly furnished rooms. Most rooms have a private bath, cable TV and wireless internet access. A large sitting room, two glass enclosed porches, dining room, patio and large back yard provide a relaxing stay. The patio is the perfect place to unwind. The dining room can seat up to 34 guests.

Hotel Turkey is a great place for business conferences, retreats, family reunions and weddings. Weekend packages are available. RV hook-ups are also available. Hotel Turkey is located at 3rd and Alexander and is owned and operated by Monte Greene. For reservations, call: (806) 423-1151; hotelturkey@hotmail.com, www.turkeybb.com.

Marie Cruse's Country Cottages - Rent by day, week or month. Owner Marie Cruse. Call (806) 423-1420 for reservations.

Old Lumberyard Lodge located at 200 Reona is an excellent place for family reunions and celebrations. The Old Lumberyard Lodge has three bedrooms with queen size beds, a game room, spacious kitchen and a very large meeting hall and eight RV hook-ups. Bob Wills' fans have enjoyed the accommodations annually as a place to listen to live bands playing San Antonio Rose and Faded Love. Throughout the summer, arrangements can be made to enjoy a fish fry and play Bingo and Bunko at the Lumberyard Lodge.

Tour guides are available as well as hunting and fishing information. Come enjoy the comforts at the Old Lumberyard Lodge. Owned and Operated by Stuart and Vivian Smith, (806) 423-1166.

Berend RV Park located at 407 Houston has Full Hook-Ups. Home: 940-574-4059, Cell: 940-733-6323.

Turkey RV Park located at 508 Johnson is owned by Mike & Anita Sheldon. Home: (918) 272-9248, Cell: (918) 741-1891.

RV Park located at 801 Alexander is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Freeman. Phone: (972) 935-2246.

RV Park located at 506 Memphis is owned by Betty Paxton. Phone: (405) 779-7548.

Other Interests

Church of Western Swing - The Assembly of God church was built the same year as Hotel Turkey...1927. Henry Baker, Bobby Baker, and others have jam sessions during Bob Wills' Week. It has a stage with Bob Wills' posters and memorabilia everywhere. It's not a bar and no smoking is allowed. There's just plenty of good Bob Wills' Music. Owner: Henry Baker (580) 228-2879 callmeh@texhoma.net

Turkey Track - Located at 411 Main is a great place to go during Bob Wills' week to listen to the music! If you are a musician, come and join in the daily and nightly jams. Owner J. M. Dickson. (806) 423-1083 or 423-1420.

The Barn - Square Dancing is held during Bob Wills' week. Owners - Pearl & Hack Boydston, (505) 749-5092.



About Turkey

Turkey, Texas was originally called Turkey Roost because of the wild turkey roosts along Turkey Creek, but the name was shortened with the establishment of the Post Office in 1893. Officially incorporated in 1926, Turkey is best known as the Home of Bob Wills, the King of Western Swing who was raised "down between the rivers" outside the town.

Ham's Barbershop was open during the 1920's where Bob Wills was a barber. In the early 1930's, Wills formed the Texas Playboys band and ushered in a new era of country-western music called Western Swing. Ham's closed in 2001.

The Caprock Canyons State Park is located about 15 miles west of Turkey and is now home to the original free-roaming bison herd belonging to Col. Charles Goodnight. Hike or ride the Rails & Trails here in Turkey (contact Caprock Park for trail information).

Visit the Tampico Historical Monument off the Estelline Highway 9 miles North of Turkey.

The Bob Wills' Foundation purchased the Turkey school buildings. The City Offices, Turkey Medical Clinic, Public Library, Senior Citizens Room, and the Bob Wills' Museum are located in the former grade school building.

The Bob Wills' Foundation has built a Bob Wills' Monument and an adjacent Bob Wills' Park including a camping area, picnic area, and playground. For reservations contact City Hall at 806-423-1033.

Population (approx.): 500 Climate (avg.):
Days/Summer 90-100 Nights/Summer 65-85
Days/Winter 35-45 Nights/Winter 20-30

Each year on the last Saturday in April, there is a [Bob Wills' Day Celebration](#). The morning begins with a parade, and then a bar-b-que lunch is served in the former grade school cafeteria. At noon an old fiddlers contest is held in the former high school auditorium. At 2pm an outdoor concert is held on the old football field. An arts and crafts fair is available all day. A western dance ends the festivities in the old gym Saturday night. Turkey, Texas is the Western Swing Capital of the world. Visit www.turkeytexas.net for more information on all businesses and events.

Museums

Bob Wills' Museum

Bob Wills, referred to as "the best damn fiddle player in the world" by Merle Haggard, was the legendary band leader and composer from Turkey, Texas. Wills became the "King of Western Swing" with his dynamic combination of New Orleans jazz, blues, and folk fiddle music. He and his bands, the most famous being the Texas Playboys, swept the country off its feet with favorites like "San Antonio Rose," "Faded Love," and "Take Me Back to Tulsa."



His music was so popular in the early forties that his records sold more than any other recording artists at that time. Wills was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville and is the only performer, other than Gene Autry, to have been voted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. Wills' legendary status was not only achieved through his music but also on the big screen. His popularity escalated in the early forties when he and his band made more than a dozen cowboy movies. Bob Wills died on May 13, 1975, yet his musical influence lives on in much of today's country music.

Established by the Wills' family, the Bob Wills' Museum exhibits many wonderful photographs of Bob's career, family momentos, fiddles, clothes, and awards.

The museum is located at 602 Lyles. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm -5pm or by special appointment. For more information please call (806) 423-1253 or (806) 423-1033.

Turkey Roost Museum

This wonderful old building with the original tin ceiling was built in the late 1920's. This is the ideal place to house the treasures and memorabilia of the history of Turkey, Texas. Many wonderful items have been donated to the museum. The Museum is open on Saturdays from 9:30am-11:30am and 1:30pm-3:30pm. It is also open for all celebrations in Turkey. Tours may be arranged by calling Margie Pinkerton at (806) 423-1240 or Pat Carnes, (806) 423-1389.

Restaurants

Galvan's

For authentic Mexican food, as well as American favorites, eat at Galvan's Restaurant, at 502 Main St., Turkey. Galvan's is a great place to meet your friends and family. Carry outs are welcome. Open Monday - Saturday 6am - 9pm Sunday: 7am - 2pm. Phone (806) 423-1320.

Turkey Café

The Turkey Café's specialties are chicken fried steak, Philly cheese sandwiches, salads, pizzas, hamburgers, charbroiled steaks, and fish on Fridays. The Turkey Café is located at 301 Main Street inside the Turkey General Store. Owned and operated by Joni & Craig Chancellor and Doshia Holt. Open Monday-Saturday 7:00am-8:00pm. (806) 423-1115.

Shopping

ALLSUP'S

Allsup's has been in the same location for the past 19 years. Allsup's serves local folks and travelers with fast food, gas, ice, money orders, fountain drinks, milk, bread, lottery tickets and much more. Open: 24/7 - Located at the intersection of Highway 70 and 86.

Lacy Dry Goods

Lacy Dry Goods is a down home, old fashioned dry goods store that has been owned and operated by the Lacy family for over 75 years. The large open style store is located on Main Street. Lacy's specializes in clothing for the "working man" and carries Resistol hats, Wrangler jeans, Carhart coats, and a complete selection of cowboy and work boots. For the ladies, Lacy's features the latest fashions including Brighton belts and accessories. You may purchase a Turkey, Texas t-shirt and cap here. As you leave Lacy's, you'll be singing, "Take me back to Turkey". Open Monday - Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm. Accepts

Visa & MC. Hubert and Delores Price, (806) 423-1155.

Self's Corner

Self's Corner has a nice selection of western tack, saddles, spurs, bits, halters, etc. They sell, buy, and trade. They also have a great selection of glassware, quilts and dolls.

They are located at 304 Main Street. Store phone: (806) 423-1085, home (806) 423-1402, fax (806) 423-1011. Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00am-5:00 pm - or call for appointment.

Turkey Automotive

Turkey Automotive Supply located at 316 Main St., was established in the 1940's and is under new ownership. Deborah Wellman is proud to continue to offer a full line of automotive parts including Wix filters, Standard ignition parts, Dayco belts and hoses, BCA bearings, National seals, Wagner brakes, Moog chassis parts, and USA starters and alternators. They also have hardware items and movie rentals. Shop Turkey and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, where good customer service is still our goal. Hours of operation: Monday- Friday: 8am - 6pm, Saturday 8am - Noon, (806) 423-1366.

Turkey General Store

Turkey General Store is a hometown country grocery store in an old building with old-fashioned produce cases and shelving located at 301 Main Street. Turkey General has fresh cut ribeye steaks, thick sliced bologna, home town grown cantaloupe, watermelon and sweet potatoes, ice cold fountain drinks, and a clean store with a friendly staff. Hours: Monday-Saturday 7 am-8 pm, Craig and Joni Chancellor - Owners. (806) 423-1330

WindMill Collectiques, Etc.

WindMill Collectiques, Etc. has something for everyone including antiques and vintage glassware, pottery, china, milk and depression glass, oil lamps, crocks, a nice selection of ceramics and figurines, and various household items too numerous to list. New items include Mosser glass and figurines, lamps, Country Artist Butterfly Fairies, Tassel dolls, Painted Ponies by Westland Giftware, windmill pictures, Lazart rock art and western art, collectible dolls, crosses, Kara's Creations wind chimes, Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls, Willow Tree Angels by Demdaco, Thirstystone coasters, enamelware, McCoy knives made in Arkansas and collectible knives. For the collector, "Turkey, Texas" magnets, shooters, shot glasses, thimbles, Christmas ornaments, hat pins, and a variety of other items, as well as greeting cards.

Windmill Collectiques, Etc. is an authorized Fenton Dealer. The store is located at 204 W. Main, Owners: J. R. & Martha Bradshaw - Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5:30pm. (806) 423-1349. For appointment after hours, call (806) 423-1464. Most credit cards accepted. www.windcollect.com

Services

Laura's Beauty Shop

Serving the family hair care needs of the area for 35 years, Laura operates a full service beauty shop. She keeps up to date on hair styles by attending styling classes twice a year. Laura provides perms, hair coloring, hair cuts, styling, wax and dyes by appointment. Laura's is located downtown Turkey. Owner, Laura Stewart, Phone (806) 423-1222.

Tony's Service Station

Tony's offers oil changes, tire repair (including trucks), car washes, minor mechanics, and a little bit of everything. Tony is located on the corner of Highway 86 and 70. Hours: Monday -Friday: 7:30am - 5:30pm; Saturday 7:30am - Noon. Phone: (806) 423-1454 (shop) (806) 423-1344 (home).

Miscellaneous Services

There are five churches in Turkey: *First Baptist, Mount Olive Baptist, First United Methodist, Church of Christ, and the Catholic Mission.*

Visit the Turkey (Memphis State) Branch Bank for your banking needs.

Carson Insurance is located at 107 W. Main and is prepared to help you with your business and personal insurance and cell phone needs.

The Turkey Medical Clinic is located at 602 Lyles with an on-site assistant for most minor medical needs. Dr. Ontai from Plainview provides Tele-Med when needed and travels to Turkey once a month. The Pharmacy is contracted with Texas Tech.

Valley Peanut Growers Coop, located at 4th and Childress, was originally a peanut grading/shipping point. Today the Coop provides many farming and ranching services: fertilizers, chemicals, fencing supplies, sprayer and tillage parts, batteries, welding equipment, bearings, seals, welding supplies, livestock feed and veterinary supplies, garden products, hydraulic hose repair, tools, and tire sales, service and repair. Hours: M-F 7-5; Saturday 7-12. (806) 423-1484. peanutgrowers@hotmail.com