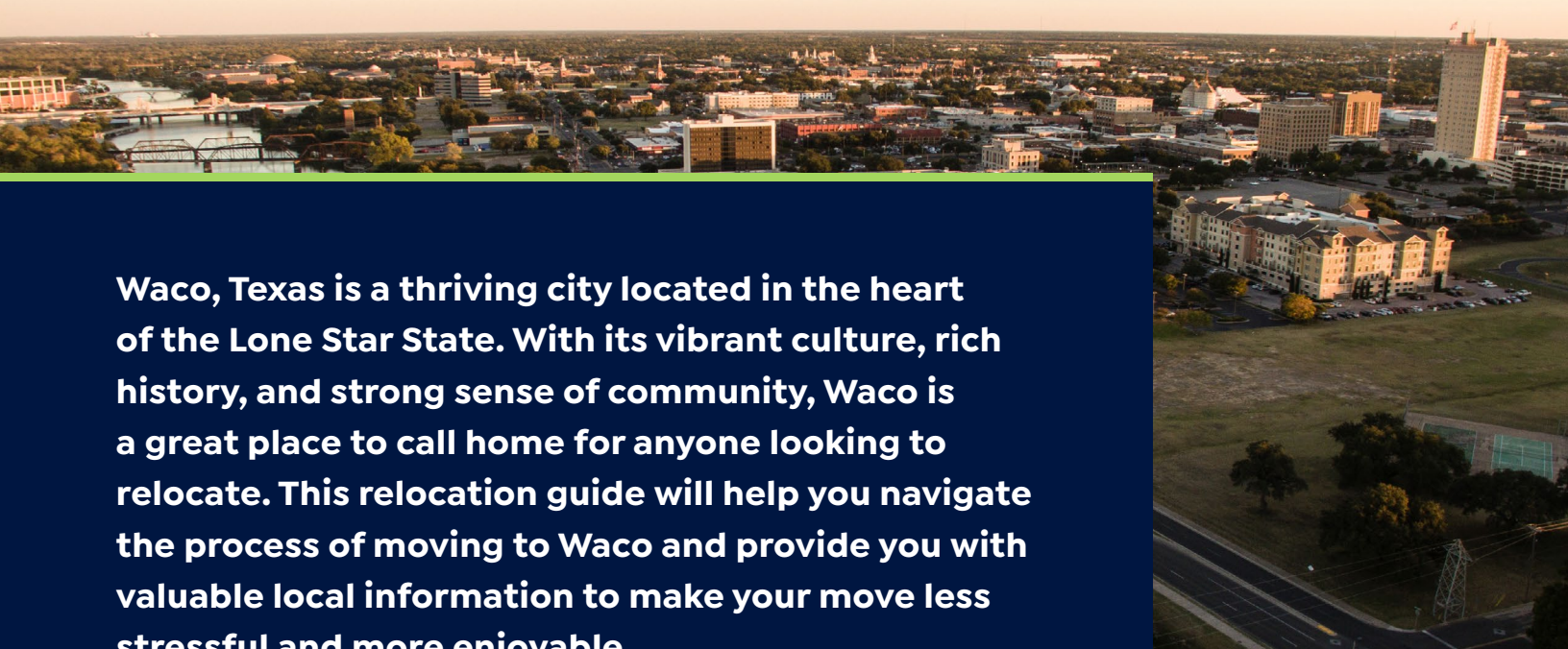


THE WACO, TEXAS RELOCATION GUIDE



Your Bank for Life



Waco, Texas is a thriving city located in the heart of the Lone Star State. With its vibrant culture, rich history, and strong sense of community, Waco is a great place to call home for anyone looking to relocate. This relocation guide will help you navigate the process of moving to Waco and provide you with valuable local information to make your move less stressful and more enjoyable.

Historical Information/Landmarks/ Major Attractions

Iconic landmarks and attractions abound in this vibrant city. Take in one of these sights today:

- **Waco Suspension Bridge:** Built in 1870, the Waco Suspension Bridge spans the Brazos River and played a significant role in the city's development as a transportation hub.
- **Dr Pepper Museum:** Located in downtown Waco, the Dr Pepper Museum showcases the history and cultural impact of the famous soft drink, which was invented in Waco in the late 19th century.
- **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum:** This museum pays tribute to the legendary Texas Rangers, featuring exhibits that chronicle their history, artifacts, and stories of their brave and valiant efforts.
- **Waco Mammoth National Monument:** The Waco Mammoth Site preserves the remains of a herd of Columbian mammoths discovered in 1978. Visitors can explore the excavation site and learn about the Ice Age giants.
- **Baylor University:** Established in 1845, Baylor University is the oldest continuously operating university in Texas. The campus features beautiful architecture, including the iconic Pat Neff Hall.

- **McLane Stadium:** Situated by the Brazos River and alongside the I-35 Corridor, McLane Stadium acts as both the gateway to Baylor University and a pivotal point for downtown Waco. This state-of-the-art multi-functional facility hosts world-class music, family and sporting events throughout the year in addition to Baylor University football. Tours are available weekly.
- **Mayborn Museum Complex:** Located on the Baylor University campus, the Mayborn Museum Complex is a family-friendly museum with interactive exhibits on natural history, science, and cultural heritage.
- **Historic Downtown Waco:** The downtown area is home to charming shops, restaurants, and historic buildings. It has experienced revitalization in recent years and offers a blend of history and contemporary attractions.
- **Texas Sports Hall of Fame:** This museum celebrates the achievements of Texas athletes and features exhibits on various sports, including football, basketball, baseball, and rodeo.
- **Magnolia Market at the Silos:** Made famous by the HGTV show "Fixer Upper," Magnolia Market is a popular shopping destination created by Chip and Joanna Gaines, offering home decor, food trucks, and a vibrant atmosphere.
- **Waco Tours:** Explore the wonders of Waco through a range of experiences, including classic tours, boat tours, or the option to tailor custom and private adventures.
- **Lake Waco Wetlands:** This is a diverse and ecologically important nature preserve located in Waco, Texas, offering visitors a peaceful and serene environment to relax, enjoy nature's beauty, engage in birdwatching, photography, and connect with the outdoors.
- **Valley Mills Vineyard:** With its picturesque vineyards and serene surroundings, visitors can indulge in wine tastings, take guided tours to learn about the winemaking process, and relax in a peaceful ambiance while savoring the locally produced wines.
- **Balcones Distilling:** A renowned Waco distillery known for its exceptional handcrafted spirits. With informative tours, tastings, and a focus on unique production techniques, visitors can immerse themselves in the art of craft distilling and discover the rich flavors of Balcones' award-winning whiskies.
- **Waco Downtown Farmers Market:** Browse the local Farmers Market, which brings together local farmers, artisans, and vendors, offering a diverse array of fresh produce, handmade goods, and unique culinary delights in the heart of Waco's downtown district.

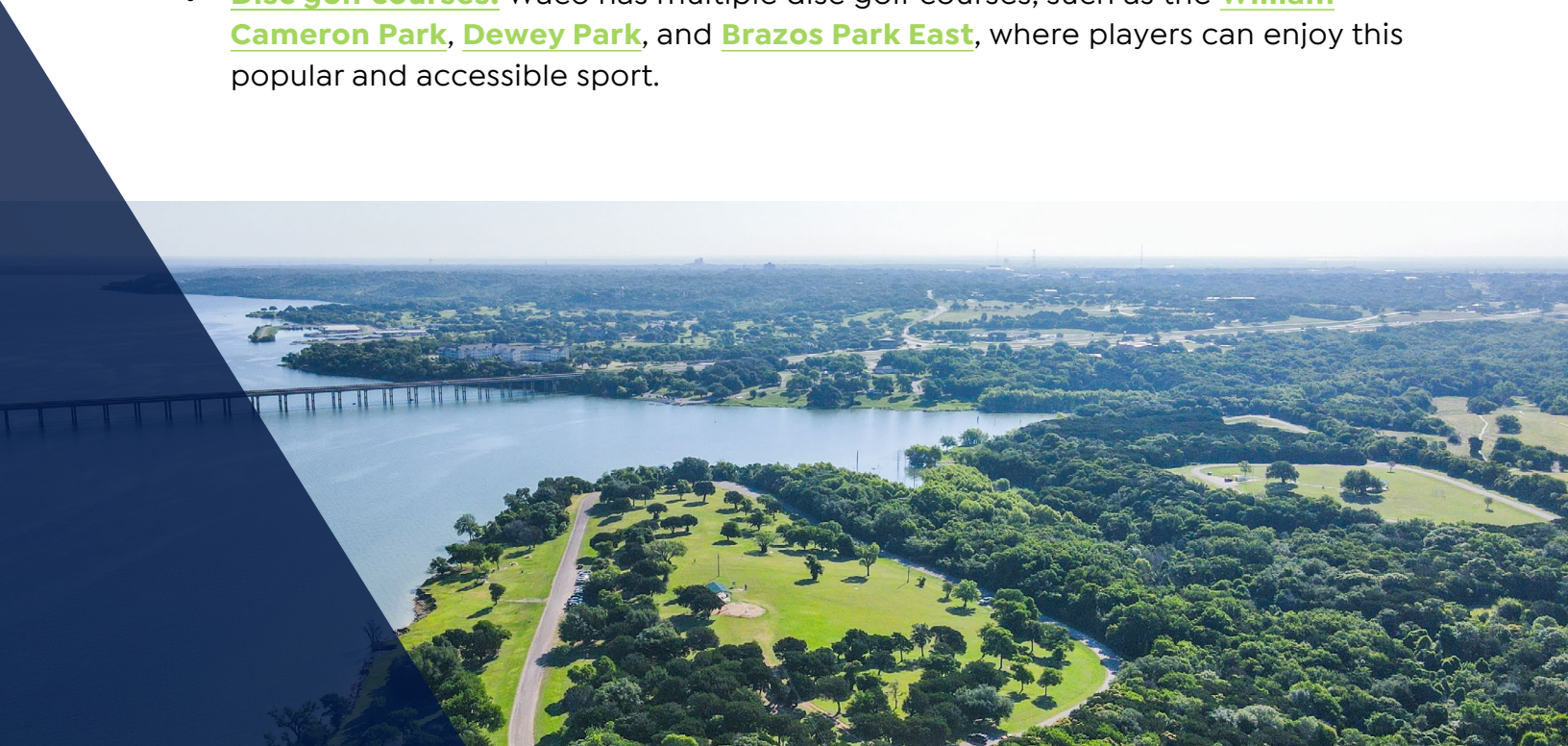


Parks and Recreation

Nestled along the Brazos River, Waco, Texas offers nature lovers a beautiful respite. These parks and recreational facilities provide a diverse range of activities and outdoor spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy without leaving the city.

- **Waco Surf Park:** This is one of the largest inland surfing and water sports facilities in the country, featuring an array of accommodations, a massive Cable Park, the world's allegedly longest lazy river, the Wedge Slides, and a 2-acre surf lake utilizing PerfectSwell® technology for an unparalleled surf experience, making it the perfect destination for a fun-filled day or a family adventure.
- **Cameron Park:** Spanning over 400 acres, Cameron Park is a scenic oasis along the Brazos and Bosque Rivers, offering numerous trails for hiking, biking, and jogging. It also features picnic areas, playgrounds, disc golf, and beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.
- **Brazos Park East:** The park features boat ramps, pavilions, a disc golf course, hiking trails, restrooms, horseshoe pits and scenic views of the limestone cliffs across the river.
- **Hawaiian Falls Waterpark:** With exciting water slides, lazy rivers, wave pools, and interactive play areas, Hawaiian Falls offers a fun-filled aquatic adventure for all ages. From exhilarating rides to relaxing attractions, visitors can enjoy a day of refreshing water-based entertainment and create lasting memories at this popular Waco waterpark.
- **Lake Waco:** Located just west of the city, Lake Waco is a popular destination for boating, water sports, and fishing. The lake has several parks along its shoreline, including Airport Beach Park and Reynolds Creek Park, providing facilities for swimming, picnicking, and camping.

- **Waco Mammoth National Monument:** In addition to its historical significance, the Waco Mammoth National Monument offers outdoor recreational opportunities. The monument features walking trails that wind through the park, providing a chance to enjoy nature while learning about the area's prehistoric past.
- **Riverwalk:** Waco's Riverwalk is a scenic pathway that follows the Brazos River, offering a pleasant walk or bike ride with beautiful views of the water. It connects various parks and attractions, including the Suspension Bridge, and provides access to downtown Waco.
- **Bledsoe-Miller Community Center:** This community center features a range of recreational facilities, including a gymnasium, indoor pool, fitness center, and sports fields. It offers programs and activities for people of all ages, making it a hub for recreational opportunities.
- **Whitehall Park:** This park in far west Waco is a versatile outdoor destination featuring basketball courts, a tennis/pickleball court, and even a gaga ball area. Not only that, but the park also includes Woof Way Dog Park, where you can bring your furry friend along for some fun.
- **Skate park:** The Sul Ross Skate Park provides dedicated spaces for skateboarders and BMX riders to practice their skills.
- **Golf courses:** Golf enthusiasts can enjoy the courses in Waco, such as Cottonwood Creek Golf Course and Twin Rivers Golf Club, offering challenging fairways and beautiful surroundings. But, arguably the best golfing to be had in Central Texas can be found at **Ridgewood Country Club**.
- **Disc golf courses:** Waco has multiple disc golf courses, such as the **William Cameron Park**, **Dewey Park**, and **Brazos Park East**, where players can enjoy this popular and accessible sport.





Arts and Entertainment

Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of culture that Waco has to offer! Prepare to be captivated by an abundance of artistic wonders, for this city is a treasure trove of creativity.

- **Waco Civic Theatre:** A local theater group that produces a variety of stage plays, musicals, and performances throughout the year, showcasing local talent and providing quality entertainment for the community.
- **Waco Symphony Orchestra:** The Waco Symphony Orchestra presents a range of classical and contemporary music concerts, featuring talented musicians and guest performers from around the world.
- **Art Galleries:** Waco is home to several art galleries, such as the [Martin Museum of Art at Baylor University](#) and the [Cultivate 7Twelve Art Gallery](#), which display a diverse collection of artworks, including paintings, sculptures, and photography.
- **Waco Cultural Arts Fest:** An annual festival that celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Waco through live performances, art exhibits, craft demonstrations, and interactive activities, providing a vibrant and engaging experience for attendees.
- **Music Venues:** Waco offers various venues for live music performances, including [The Levitt AMP Waco Music Series hosted at the Bridge Street Plaza](#), [The Backyard Bar Stage and Grill](#), [Common Grounds](#), and [The Melody Ranch](#), hosting local bands, touring artists, and a wide range of musical genres.
- **The Waco Hippodrome Theatre:** A historic theater that has been restored to its former glory, showcasing a mix of movies, live performances, and special events, providing a unique and nostalgic entertainment experience.
- **The BASE:** Waco's newest multi-use meeting and event center. BASE stands for "Business, Arts, Sports, and Entertainment." It can hold over 3,000 people and has hosted events from basketball games to galas.



Local Food and Dining

There are many great and diverse food offerings in Waco. If you want to eat like a local, start here:

- **George's Restaurant and Bar:** A local favorite for over 80 years, George's offers a diverse menu featuring burgers, sandwiches, salads, and Tex-Mex dishes, as well as live music on select nights.
- **Clay Pot Restaurant:** Specializing in Vietnamese cuisine, Clay Pot offers flavorful dishes such as pho, banh mi sandwiches, spring rolls, and traditional rice and noodle dishes, showcasing the vibrant flavors of Vietnam.
- **Helberg BBQ:** A family-owned bbq restaurant that focuses on serving the highest quality food, using USDA Prime Beef without any growth hormones or antibiotics, sausages are made by hand, and everything is cut to order.
- **Cafe Homestead:** Located on an organic farm, Cafe Homestead serves farm-to-table meals using fresh, locally sourced ingredients, offering a menu that highlights seasonal produce and homemade specialties.
- **Milo All Day:** A trendy eatery serving modern American fare with a focus on locally sourced ingredients, Milo All Day offers a creative menu featuring dishes like avocado toast, grain bowls, and gourmet sandwiches.
- **La Fiesta:** A family-owned Mexican restaurant that has been serving authentic Tex-Mex cuisine for over 50 years, La Fiesta offers a variety of dishes including enchiladas, tacos, and sizzling fajitas, accompanied by homemade salsa and margaritas.
- **Alpha Omega:** A Mediterranean grill and bakery focused on using fresh ingredients to create amazing dishes.
- **Waco Health Camp:** A local institution since 1949, Health Camp is known for its classic drive-in experience and delicious burgers, shakes, and fries, perfect for a nostalgic and satisfying meal.

- **Dichotomy Coffee & Spirits:** For those looking for a cozy café atmosphere, Dichotomy offers specialty coffee drinks, craft cocktails, and a small bites menu in a stylish setting.
- **Pinewood Roasters:** An establishment that is part coffee roaster, part coffee bar, and part public house. From their coffee bar, they serve the classics with an upgrade, using only house-made syrups and coffee brewed with beans sources from around the world, roasted in their complex.
- **Common Grounds:** A local coffee house that's been serving people delicious coffee, beverages, and treats since 1994.
- **Di Camplis Italian:** Di Camplis Italian is a beloved local eatery in Waco, known for its authentic Italian cuisine, including delicious pasta dishes, an impressive wine list, and mouthwatering desserts.
- **Diamondbacks:** Diamondbacks is a popular steakhouse in Waco, serving high-quality steaks, fresh seafood, and a variety of delectable sides, making it a go-to spot for special occasions.
- **Pignettis:** Pignettis is an upscale Italian restaurant in Waco, known for its warm hospitality and flavorful, eclectic tastes. From homemade pasta to innovative dishes, Pignettis offers a delightful dining experience.
- **Union Hall Food Court:** Located in the heart of Waco, Union Hall Food Court features a diverse selection of 20+ food stalls, ranging from gourmet burgers and tacos to sushi and artisanal pastries. It's a must-visit spot for any hard-to-please foodie.



Cost of Living

Waco, Texas strikes the perfect balance between affordability and quality of life. With a cost of living 3% lower than the state average and a notable 11% lower than the national average, this city offers a practical and budget-friendly lifestyle. Enjoy the benefits of stretching your hard-earned dollars further, allowing you to make the most of your resources and enjoy the vibrant community and attractions Waco has to offer. It's a place where you can find a comfortable standard of living without the burden of excessive expenses, making it an attractive choice for those seeking both affordability and a fulfilling life.

Local Economy

As the county seat of [McLennan County](#), Waco experiences consistent growth, attracting both talent and investment. With its diverse community, abundant natural resources, strategic location, and extensive amenities, Waco consistently garners high ratings as an attractive destination for both living and conducting business. Home to the prestigious [Baylor University](#), known for its academic excellence and vibrant campus life, Waco benefits from the presence of a renowned higher education institution. The city is also home to three expansive industrial parks, namely Texas Central Park, Waco International Aviation Park, and Waco Regional Airport Industrial Park, each offering thousands of acres for potential development. Moreover, Waco presents enticing prospects for revitalization, with a bustling downtown area and riverfront properties ripe for advantageous development ventures. [The Central Texas African American Chamber of Commerce](#) was established to create economic and community development by focusing on small businesses, education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships, to improve economic, civic and cultural sustainability within the community. [The Central Texas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) is a non-profit organization built to unite the Hispanic community in Central Texas. Their goal is to develop partnerships, equip Hispanic leaders, and support local businesses.

Education in Waco

The [Waco Independent School District](#) serves Waco students from elementary through high school. Other schools that are near Waco in the surrounding areas include [Lorena Independent School District](#), [LaVega Independent School District](#), [China Springs Independent School District](#), [McGregor Independent School District](#), [Robinson Independent School District](#) and [Midway Independent School District](#).

If you're looking for private school options for your child, check out:

- [Vanguard College Preparatory School](#)
- [Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School](#)
- [Live Oak Classical School](#)
- [Parkview Christian Academy](#)
- [St. Paul's Episcopal Day School](#)
- [Waco Montessori School](#)

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and there may be additional private schools in Waco as well. It's always a good idea to research and visit different schools to find the best fit for your specific needs and preferences.

Higher education options in Waco include, of course, [Baylor University](#) as well as [Texas State Technical College](#), and [McLennan Community College](#).

Transportation

Get around Waco by bus

Waco Transit System (Waco Transit): The Waco Transit System operates a network of bus routes throughout the city, providing public transportation for commuters and residents. It offers regular fixed-route service, paratransit services for individuals with disabilities, and special services for students.

Lyft or Uber

Popular ride-sharing services like **Uber** and **Lyft** operate in Waco, offering convenient and on-demand transportation options through their mobile applications.

Need a flight in or out of the city?

Waco, Texas is served by the following airports locally and nearby:

- **Waco Regional Airport (ACT):** Located just a few miles northwest of downtown, Waco Regional Airport offers commercial flights and serves as the primary airport for the city. It provides connections to major cities in Texas and beyond.
- **Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW):** Situated approximately 100 miles north of Waco, DFW is one of the largest and busiest airports in the United States. It offers a wide range of domestic and international flights, providing convenient travel options for those willing to make the drive from Waco.
- **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS):** Located approximately 100 miles southwest of Waco, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is another major airport serving the region. It offers a variety of domestic and international flights and is known for its convenient layout and amenities.



Healthcare

When you move to Waco, you can rest assured that you'll always have good healthcare options available to you.

- **[Baylor Scott & White Medical Center:](#)** Baylor Scott & White Medical Center is a full-service, fully-accredited not-for-profit hospital serving the residents of McLennan County and the surrounding Central Texas region.
- **[Ascension Providence:](#)** Ascension Providence is a full-service critical care hospital with 24/7 emergency care and advanced specialty care services.
- **[Waco Family Medicine:](#)** Waco Family Medicine offers medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the underserved residents of McLennan and Bell counties.



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