

Texas Plains Trail Region

52-County Roundup of Holiday Events, updated 12/7/2018

Home — or away — for the holidays?

The winter holiday season is upon us, and with it the shopping, the baking, the caroling, the card-writing, the calling and visiting, the hall-decking, the wrapping and giving, the worship and reflection that the season brings — and of course, the traveling!

Whether you're hosting at home or going over the river and through the woods for your holiday celebrations, in the coming weeks you'll likely be looking for some entertainment away from your own four walls.

Our Texas culture is rich in traditions to explore with family and friends, from performances and presentations, to outdoor recreation and highway history, to visiting museums and historic sites. We've rounded up nearly 50 events and opportunities around the Plains and Panhandle going on from now through the end of December, so we hope some of these are near you.

Many have been presented annually for decades, including banner-year anniversaries of Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas at the Cactus Theater (25th annual tour), the National Ranching Heritage Center's Candlelight at the Ranch (40th), and 60 years of the Carol of Lights at Texas Tech University.

Print out this list of beloved traditions and new events to take with you, and enjoy a parade in a historic downtown, a show in a vintage theater, or a mouth-watering locally cooked meal. Or download a full list, with street addresses and contact information, below.

AMARILLO

Christmas in the Gardens

Thursday, 11/29/18–Sunday, 12/23/18

6:00 PM–8:00 PM–Nightly

Amarillo Botanical Gardens

1400 Streit Dr., Amarillo, TX 79106

(806) 352-6513; info@amarillobotanicalgardens.org

www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org

Adults \$5; kids 6–12, \$2

Center City Electric Light Parade

Friday, 11/30/18

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Downtown; start 11th Ave. & Polk St., Amarillo, TX

(806) 372-6744; info@centercity.org

www.centercity.org/lightparade

Free

A Winter Wonderland of lighted floats travels down neon-lighted Polk Street. Center City welcomes the holidays with a lighted parade starting at 11th Ave. & Polk St. at 6 p.m. on November 30. The parade continues down to Third Avenue and over to the Amarillo Civic Center Area for the lighting of the city of Amarillo Christmas Tree, a musical program and free visits with Santa Claus & Mrs. Claus.

Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas Ball Concert

Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian

Monday, 12/10/18, 7:00 PM

9151 I-40, Amarillo, TX 79118

With Amarillo's own Gary Roller, and the stars of the Rio Grande Band. Concert includes museum exhibits. The VIP Dinner with Mr. Murphey and Rio Grande Band will begin at 6:00 PM. Ticket prices start at \$35. All proceeds go to benefit the Kwahadi Museum.

(806) 335-3175

ZOOLights Safari (7th Annual)

Saturday, 12/1/18–Sunday, 12/23/18

6-8 pm nightly

Amarillo Zoo

700 Comanchero Trail, Amarillo, TX, 79107

(806) 381.7911

zoo@amarilloparks.org

www.zoo.amarillo.gov/events/zoolights

General admission applies

ZOOLights will be brighter and more sparkling than ever this year as this festive, family fun event returns for its 7th season. Come out Thursday thru Sunday beginning Saturday, December 1st to see thousands of holiday lights, along with displays. Plus, each weekend we will have special events to bring more of the holiday cheer. Decorate a cookie at Mrs. Claus' Kitchen, get a photo with Santa Lion or Tiger Claws, play some holiday games, and find your way through our holiday maze.

HAPPY Holiday Pops

Saturday, 12/15/18–12/15/18

2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Globe-News Center

500 S. Buchanan St., Amarillo, TX 79101

www.amarillosymphony.org

(806) 376.8782

BIG SPRING

Big Spring Herald Lighted Christmas Parade

Saturday, 12/01/18, 5:30 PM

710 Scurry St., Downtown Big Spring, TX 79720

(432) 263-7331

www.bigspringchamber.com

Breakfast with Santa at the Heritage Museum

Saturday, 12/01/18

Heritage Museum of Big Spring

510 Scurry St., Big Spring, TX 79720

(432) 267-8255

www.heritagebigspring.com

Comanche Trail Festival of Lights (22nd annual)

Sunday, 12/2/18–Tuesday, 12/25/18

6:00 PM–10:00 PM–Nightly

Comanche Trail Park

Entrance off US 87 S, Big Spring, TX 79720

(432) 263-8235

www.bigspringchamber.com

Free; donations appreciated

Bring the family to enjoy a leisurely drive through the historic park, illuminated with more than 1 million lights and sculptures. For 2018, visit the newly restored Comanche Springs, and stop in for refreshments and gift shopping at the end of the Trail — with an expanded schedule starting the first Sunday in December.

BORGER

Downtown Merchants' Christmas Open House

Sunday, 11/18/18

Noon–4:00 PM

Borger

Christmas Parade

Monday, 12/03/18

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Downtown Borger

Borger, TX 79008

(806) 274-2211; borgerchamber@amaonline.com

www.borgerchamber.org

Free

Hometown Christmas

Friday, 12/07/18

6:00 PM–Midnight

400–500 block of Main St., Borger, TX 79008

(806) 274-2211, borgerchamber@amaonline.com

www.borgerchamber.org

Free

This Christmas, we're going all out with an old fashioned Christmas celebration. The same week of our Christmas parade, come out for some Friday night fun at our 2nd Annual Borger Hometown Christmas. Bella Musica will kick off the night at 6:30 p.m. with Christmas carols as we light our new official downtown Christmas tree (location & actual tree to be determined). The FUMC Bell Choir will perform at Neumann & Bailey at 7 p.m. Our friends at The Coffee Ranch! will host Christmas movies at their new event space The Ranch (the old Serendipity building): 7:45 p.m. - "The Star" & 10:00 p.m. - "Elf." Throughout the evening, there will be a host of fun activities, including a snowball cornhole contest, s'more roasting with the firemen, roasted chestnuts (prepared by Plum Good Food's Jordan Watson-Grounds), pizza by Jesse's Pizza Co. - Borger as well as carriage rides and hot sales at our Downtown Merchant stores & street vendors!

Mama & Me's Christmas Extravaganza at the Dome

Saturday, 12/15/18- Sunday, 12/16/18
10:00 AM-5:00 PM
1113 Bulldog Blvd., Borger TX 79007
www.facebook.com/events/902237053317729/

BROWNFIELD

Keep the Cheer Here Late Night Shopping

Tuesday, 12/04/18
5:00 PM-8:00 PM
Downtown Brownfield businesses
Free

On December 4th, you can support small businesses and shop local! From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. explore that local shops have to offer, including Nelson Pharmacy, Main Place, Forever Nutrition, ACES, Oooh La La , Wind Song Mercantile, Whitehouse Parker, and The Triple D Restaurant & Winery.

CANYON

Christmas in Canyon/Festival of Lights/Parade of Lights

Friday, 11/30/18-Saturday, 12/01/18
4:00 PM-7:30 PM
Historic Courthouse Square and West Texas A&M University Campus
Along 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015
www.canyonchamber.org/events

Hang your hat in historic Canyon during two full days of holiday festivities, beginning with the Festival of Lights at WTAMU Friday evening at 5:30 followed by a Christmas Open House at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, and continuing Saturday with parade, shopping, and tree lighting surrounding Canyon's restored courthouse.

Christmas Open House (39th Annual)

Friday, 11/30/18-Saturday, 12/01/18
6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
2503 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015
(806) 651-2242
www.pphm.org

The museum will be bustling with Christmas activity as role players in Pioneer town invite you step in and step back to Christmas in the 1890's. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Christmas

Open House ready to take requests from children who visit them in their sleigh in the snowy woods of Hazlewood Lecture Hall. In the basement, children can make holiday crafts in the craft corner. In the Petroleum Theater, storytellers will weave Christmas stories in a cozy living room setting with a crackling fire while songs by children's choirs and entertainers fill the rest of the museum with music from the Derrick Room. The event is free of charge. Suggested admission is one can of food per person to benefit the High Plains Food Bank. PPHM's Christmas Open House began collecting donations for the food drive four years ago and is now one of the area's largest food drives.

Christmas Concert

Sunday, 12/2/18

4:00:00 PM and 7:00 PM-6:00 PM

WTAMU Campus, Mary Moody Northen Hall Recital Hall

2403 Russell Long Blvd., Canyon, TX 79015

(806) 651-2840

The West Texas A&M University Choirs and Symphony Orchestra with special guests will celebrate the music of the holiday season at 4 and 7 PM.

CANYON

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Saturday, 12/15/18

Christmas Crafts

Take a little piece of Palo Duro Canyon home with you to hang on your Christmas tree!

12/22/18

Full Moon Hike

Palo Duro Canyon has a very different beauty under the light of a full moon. Here's your chance to experience it!

12/31/18

Hoppin' John Midnight Hike

It's a Palo Duro tradition - The Hoppin' John Midnight Hike is a great way to ring in the new year in one of the most beautiful places in Texas! We'll start off with a taste of traditional New Year luck food, then we'll count down to the first day of 2019, and we'll end with a 1.5 mile hike on easy terrain. There's no better way to start the New Year off on the right foot... literally!

1/1/2019

First Day Sunset Hike

Close out the first day of the 2019 with a sunset hike in beautiful Palo Duro Canyon State Park!

CHILDRESS

Christmas in the Park (23rd Annual)

Friday, 11/22/18- 01/01/19

5:30 PM

Fair Park

4th St NW at Ave. I NW, Childress, TX 79201

www.facebook.com/Christmas-In-The-Park-Childress-Texas-328242733875778/

Free

Thousands of twinkling lights decorate Fair Park, which includes seven grassy acres and Fair Park lake, the lake dam, and the wooden bridge across the lake. It's a winter wonderland complete with Santa and elves, a gingerbread house, toy soldiers, angels, trains and planes and cowboys and a Christmas sea monster rising out of the lake — all accompanied by Christmas sounds resonating from your car radio as your family rides through the park. Daily through January 1.

CLARENDON

Saints' Roost Museum Christmas Dinner-Dance

Saturday, 12/01/18

6:30 PM

Donley County Activity Center, Clarendon, TX 79226

(806) 874-2421; tourism@cityofclarendontx.com

www.clarendonedc.org

COLORADO CITY

Festival of Trees/Parade/Lions Club Dinner

Saturday, 12/01/18

Colorado City, TX 79512

(325) 728-3403; ccitychamber@gmail.com

www.coloradocitychamberofcommerce.com

Christmas Parade, Chili Supper, Santa Pics

Christmas in the Barn

Thursday, 12/13/18

5:00 PM–8:00 PM

Ericson Pioneer Farm and Ranch Museum

211 E. Aspen, Crosbyton, TX 79322

Free

The Crosbyton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is inviting vendors to set up a “pop up shop/bazaar.”

DALHART

Christmas Tour of Homes

Saturday, 12/08/18

1:00 PM–5:00 PM

Dalhart

(720) 939-2666, sandovnr05@gmail.com

\$15

Xi Delta Gamma Christmas Craft Bazaar

Saturday, 12/08/18

10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Rita Blanca Lake Coliseum

2222 FM 281, Dalhart, TX 79022

(806) 673-2536

xideltagamma@hotmail.com

cca.dalhart.org

Free entry

DIMMITT

Christmas Light Parade (2nd annual)

Thursday, 12/13/18

6:30 PM–9:00 PM

Dimmitt High School

1405 Western Cir., Dimmitt, TX 79027

(806) 647-2524

dimmittchamber@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/events/christmas-parade-of-lights/113008136057386/

DUMAS

Candy Cane Lane

Saturday, 11/17/18

6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Moore County Courthouse Square

715 S. Dumas Ave., Dumas, TX 79029

(806) 935-2123

www.dumaschamber.com/content/upcoming-events

Free

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, we doll up our courthouse square in Christmas lights, decorate the grounds with food booths, arts and crafts booths, a Santa's House attended by the jolly old elf himself, seasonal singing, wagon rides and Santa Claus officially opens the Christmas season by throwing the switch that turns on Christmas lights throughout the city! We invite you to enjoy a small-town tribute to the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Open House

Saturday, 12/01/18

Noon–4:00 PM

Window on the Plains Museum and The Art Center

1810 S. Dumas Ave., Dumas, TX 79029

(806) 935-5312; fineart54@valornet.com

www.dumasmuseumandartcenter.org

FRITCH

Christmas Bazaar (42nd Annual)

Saturday, 12/8/18

7:00 PM–10:00 PM

Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum

101 N. Robey Ave., Fritch, TX 79036

themuseum@fritchcityhall.com

Free pictures with Santa, cookies and homemade cocoa, caroling, shopping, door prizes, Ugly Sweater Contest

GAIL

Lighting of the Star on Gail Mountain

Friday, 11/23/18

5:30 PM–8:00 PM

Borden County Courthouse

117 E. Wassom Ave., Gail, TX 79738

lightsforgail@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/events/306628996516057

Free

The Borden County Courthouse and Borden County Museum will open at 5:30 p.m. for viewing, reminiscing, fellowship, and refreshments. Santa Claus will be available to visit with the children. Join us for Christmas Music provided by local musicians, story time for children, ornament contest and door prizes, before folks gather to watch the 7 p.m. illumination of the star atop the mesa that bears the town's name.

JAYTON

Kent County Winterfest

Saturday, 12/8/18

RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, 12/15/18 due to JAYTON JAYBIRDS PLAYING IN STATE FOOTBALL SEMIFINALS

10:00 AM–4:30 PM

Emergency Services Building

227 S. Main St., Jayton, TX 79528

L'Rae Lee, Kent County AgriLife, (806) 237-3751, or Tiffany Hamm with the Kent County Chamber at (806) 237-2222

Free

There will be a noon meal of chili, beans and cornbread by the Junior Class and the EEA Clubs will have a Sweet Shop offering slices of homemade pie. There will be activities for children and a Children's Store where kids can purchase gifts for \$1 for family and friends. After the afternoon wraps up at the Emergency Services Building, the Kent County Chamber of Commerce will have soup and a movie for \$5 at the Community Center followed by their annual lighted parade and the tree lighting on the Town Square.

LAMESA

Christmas on the Square

Thursday, 12/13/18

4:00 PM–7:00 PM

Dawson County Courthouse Square

400 S. 1st St., Lamesa, TX 79331

Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center

(806) 872-2181; sandra@lamesachamber.org

www.lamesachamber.org

Lighted parade, caroling, bounce houses, Santa in the Plaza, Miss Merry Christmas Pageant

LEVELLAND

Levelland Festival of Lights and Christmas on the Square

Thursday, 11/29/18

5:30 PM–8:00 PM

South Plains College and downtown Levelland

Hockley County Courthouse Square, Levelland, TX 79336

(806) 894-9079

www.ci.levelland.tx.us/223/Levelland-Festival-of-Lights

Free

The event begins at the SPC entrance with the lighting of the trees. Hot coco will be served and the SPC Symphonic Band will play Christmas music before the ceremonial "flip of the switch"

by the SPC President to turn on all the campus Christmas lights! The Lighted Parade route is over a mile long and will start at SPC and travel North on College Ave, turn West onto Houston Street and end at the Square. Santa Claus will lead the parade and arrive at the gazebo to visit with all the children about their Christmas wishes and receive a goodie bag from the Marigolds of Levelland. Many other activities will take place on the Courthouse lawn while families wait to see Santa.

LUBBOCK

High and Dry: A Photographic Exhibition of Peoples and Places of the World's Dry Lands (18th annual)

11/26/18-01/30/19

International Cultural Center

601 Indiana Ave., Lubbock TX 79409-5004

(806) 834-2372

jan.stogner@ttu.edu

Cowboy Christmas Show with Michael Martin Murphey (25th Annual)

Thursday and Friday, 11/29/18-11/30/18

7:30 PM-9:30 PM

Cactus Theater

1812 Buddy Holly Ave., Lubbock, TX 79401

(806) 762-3233; cactustheater@gmail.com

www.cactustheater.com

\$35 Balcony / \$40 Reserved floor / \$50 Reserved floor / \$70 VIP - Meet & Greet

Carol of Lights at Texas Tech University (60th Annual)

Friday, 11/30/18

6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Texas Tech University

2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409

(806) 742-2661

www.housing.ttu.edu/caroloflights

Free

With a flip of the switch, 25,000 colored lights illuminate 18 buildings around Tech's historic campus in an tradition that dates to 1959. For visitors unable to attend the opening ceremony and concert, lights can still be enjoyed nightly from dusk till midnight through January 1, 2019.

Candlelight at the Ranch (40th Annual)

Friday and Saturday, 12/7/18 and 12/8/18

CHANGED TO Friday and Saturday, 12/14/18 and 12/15/18

6:30 PM-9:00 PM

National Ranching Heritage Center

3121 4th St., Lubbock, TX 79409

(806) 742-0498; julie.hodges@ttu.edu

www.nrhc.ttu.edu

Members free, non-members \$5

Candlelight at the Ranch recreates a frontier holiday similar to those on the open prairie from 1780 to 1950. The event will include more than 4,000 luminaries lining the paths of the

historic park as volunteer Ranch Hosts dressed in period clothing to recreate holiday scenes from another era.

Miracles Christmas Parade (14th Annual)

Saturday, 12/8/18

6:00 PM

Starts at 34th & Avenue Q, going west to Indiana Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79411

(806) 741-7271; miraclesparade@sbcglobal.net

www.miraclesparade.com

Free

The Miracles Christmas Parade exists to bring cheer to every spectator, participant, and organizer and to provide families and individuals an event that will build lasting holiday memories.

Santa Land at Mackenzie Park (62nd Annual)

Monday, 12/10/18–Sunday, 12/23/18

6:00 PM–10:00 PM–Nightly

Mackenzie Park

The entrance to Santa Land is located off of the East Broadway entrance into Mackenzie Park east of Avenue A and the South Plains Fairgrounds.

Lubbock, TX 79403

(806) 775-2673

<https://ci.lubbock.tx.us/departments/parks-recreation/events/santa-land>

Parents are welcome to bring cameras to take photos of their children with Santa at no charge. For those who forget their cameras, keepsake digital photos may be purchased for \$5 each. Bring your children and grandchildren to Mackenzie Park and enjoy a 60-year Lubbock tradition! Children from Lubbock and surrounding communities are invited to Santa Land's Opening Ceremony on Monday, December 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Lubbock City Council members will welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus from the North Pole, turn on the Christmas lights in this winter village, and officially open Santa Land.

Lubbock Parks and Recreation has hosted Santa Land for the past 62 years, and admission for all ages is free. Santa Land is open every evening from December 10-23, 2018, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. nightly. Approximately 50,000 people visit Santa Land each year to see the festive holiday village with its huge lighted Christmas tree, animated displays, bonfires, traditional holiday scenes, and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each evening at 6:00 p.m. during this 14-night event, a sleigh with tiny reindeer bring Santa and Mrs. Claus to Santa Land to hear the Christmas wishes of area children. Don't forget to look for Bo, Santa Land's very own Elf on the Shelf each night and message your pictures of him to our Parks and Recreation Facebook page to enter a chance to win a prize!

Families will enjoy live entertainment most evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Hot chocolate and other refreshments are available for sale at the concession stand.

Holland Gardens Christmas Tree Displays

Holland Gardens

3739 50th St., Lubbock, TX 79413

(806) 792-6336

When Christmas comes around, the Hollands transform their store into a winter wonderland with all kinds of Christmas trees fully decorated for your enjoyment.

MATADOR

Christmas in the Foothills

Saturday, 12/1/2018

5:00-8:00 PM

Downtown Matador, TX

Santa arrives by stagecoach at the Motley County Library, 6:00 p.m.; Motley Clinic Open House; Cookie/Candy Sale, Hotel Matador Lobby; music on courthouse square; vendors in Old Mercantile Bank Building; Book sale at library

PLAINVIEW

Christmas Parade of Lights (27th Annual)

Thursday, 12/06/18

6:30 PM

Downtown Plainview

Broadway Park from Date St. to the Depot

Plainview

POST

"Bethlehem: A Christmas Musical"

11/3/18-12/16/18

3:00 PM

Ragtown Gospel Theater

870 Ragtown Rd., Post, TX 79356

1-877-RAGTOWN

www.ragtown.com

Adults \$22, children \$10

Six performances of Bethlehem, A Christmas Musical, will be staged by the Ragtime Gospel Theater in Post: Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 9, Dec. 15 and Dec. 16.

Lighted Christmas Parade

Saturday, 12/1/18

6:00 PM

Downtown Post

(806) 495-3461

The first Saturday of December brings a full-on celebration for our community and visitors. Great holiday shopping opportunities in our small-town atmosphere are topped off with the annual lighted Christmas parade on Main Street. Dozens of entries – horses, antique tractors, floats, vintage cars and, of course, Santa – all aglow with thousands of lights welcome the holiday season.

RANSOM CANYON

Ransom Canyon Christmas Lights

Ransom Canyon

Head over to the small town of Ransom Canyon outside Lubbock to enjoy some spectacular Christmas lights. The homes in this town, which has a population of just 1,123, is known for unique and stunning architecture. The light displays here wow people of all ages. Grab some hot cocoa, turn on the Christmas tunes, and enjoy the sights.

Ransom Canyon Christmas Tour of Homes

Thursday, 12/13/18

6:30 - 9:00 PM

COST: \$15

CONTACT Carol Farris, (806) 829-2637

Ransom Canyon City Hall

This year's tour features four beautifully decorated homes plus the Ransom Canyon Memorial Chapel.

ROARING SPRINGS

Late Night Christmas Shopping

Saturday, 11/24/18

5:00 PM

Downtown Roaring Springs

(806) 790-3880 or (806) 422-0194

Come visit with vendors and Santa Claus. Hot chili will be served as well.

SEMINOLE

Lighted Christmas Parade

Seminole

Thursday, 12/13/18

SLATON

Small-Town Christmas

Saturday, 12/1/18

6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Town Square

9th & Lubbock Street, Slaton, TX 79549

(806) 828-6328

Walk through a wonderland of amazing Christmas trees. Then visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at the Harvey House. Join us for an evening of good food, good friends and holiday cheer.

SNYDER

Heritage Village Christmas

Thursday, 11/29/18

5:00 PM-8:00 PM

Heritage Village

900 E. Coliseum Dr., Snyder, TX 79549

(325) 574-4279

Activities in this collection of restored old-time buildings will include games, live entertainment, a bake sale, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Lighted Christmas Parade

Saturday, 12/1/18

5:30 PM

Scurry County Courthouse Square

1806 25th St., Snyder, TX 79549

SPUR

Late Night Shopping

Monday, 12/03/18

5:00 PM–9:00 PM

Downtown Spur

Burlington Ave., Spur, TX 79370

3rd Tuesday night in December, annually

TAHOKA**Santa's Land Drive-Thru Christmas Park**

Not held in 2018

South 11th and Ave O, Tahoka, TX 79373

www.facebook.com/SANTASLAND79373

From Cathy Chancy Ross: I had hoped to have Santa's Land Drive thru Park opened one more season after dad passed away July 12, 2018. I soon realized that it would be really hard to get it all done with my number one helper gone. He worked year round to have it ready to go. Even with volunteers we had learned in years past that life happens and not everyone is able to help like they planned. I hope you all have great memories to cherish, I know I do. I do worry about the folks that are struggling to explain where Santa is and having to find a new one. One thing that keeps me going is knowing what a wonderful time Mom and Dad will have celebrating this year.

WHEELER**Christmas on the Square**

Saturday, 12/08/18

RESCHEDULED TO SATURDAY, 12/15/18

6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Courthouse Square and downtown, Wheeler, TX

Live Nativity scene, a warehouse turned into a complete Winter Wonderland with Santa, horse drawn carriage rides, Toys for Tots train, Christmas Movies with concession and caroling.