



DAY TRIP TO INDEPENDENCE

From Brenham · Washington County, Texas



FARM AND
RANCH



Photo: Tabitha Williams, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

LIVING COMMUNITY

A rural crossroads community (140 people in 2000) with the Baylor ruins, a historic church, a Baptist museum and old cemeteries.

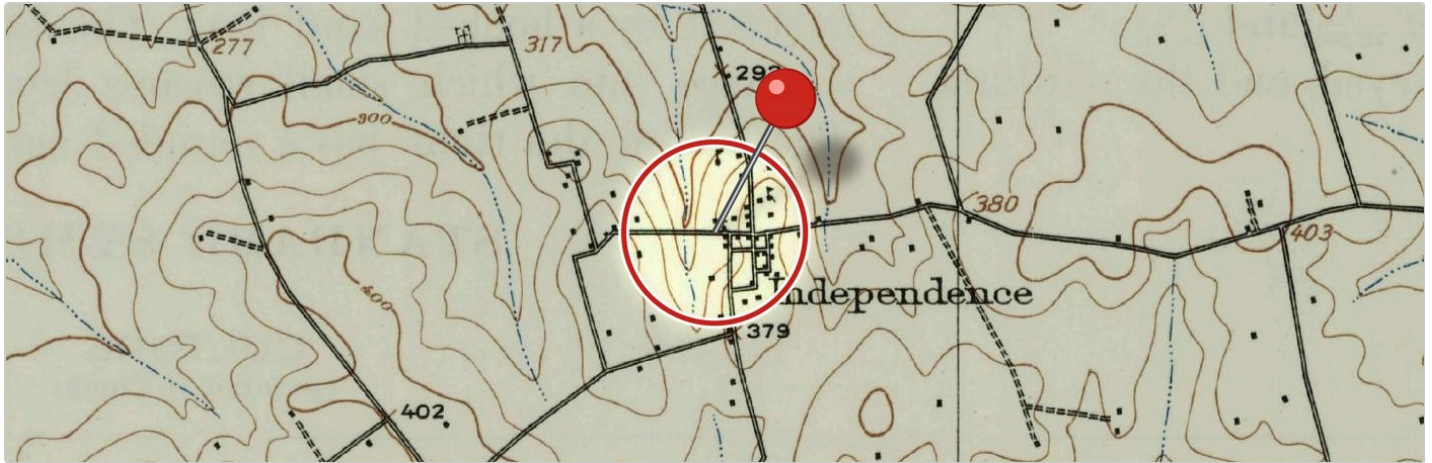
Independence makes a half day from Brenham. Come Tuesday to Friday if you want both the Baptist museum and the visitor center open. It pairs well with [Washington-on-the-Brazos](#), about 12 miles east.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive north from Brenham on TX 105 and FM 50, about 20 minutes. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk Baylor College Park and the columns, then the Windmill Hill marker and bell tower. |
| ☐ Midday | Independence Baptist Church, the Texas Baptist Historical Museum (closed Sunday and Monday), and the Old Independence Cemetery. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Continue east to Washington-on-the-Brazos, or back to Brenham. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The columns.** The four stone columns of the women's college on their arched base, as in the photo under the overview.
- **The bell tower replica.** With the 1936 Baylor marker on Windmill Hill.



USGS topographic map, 1914 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	12 mi, about 20 min each way from downtown Brenham. From Houston: 83 mi, about 1 h 45 min.
MUSEUM	The Texas Baptist Historical Museum, 10405 FM 50, is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except major holidays. Entry is free. Groups call 979-836-5117.
VISITOR CENTER	The Independence Visitor Center, 10270 T.S. Saul Road, is open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baylor asks visitors to call 979-251-9227 first, as hours can change.
OUTDOOR SITES	Old Baylor Park, Windmill Hill and the cemeteries are outdoor sites. We found no posted hours or fees for them.
FOOD AND RESTROOMS	None we could confirm in Independence. Brenham is 20 minutes away.
ROAD	Paved farm roads.
WEBSITE	independencetx.com

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 30.31944, -96.34667 • 30°19'10"N
96°20'48"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/texas/coles-settlement/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.