



DAY TRIP TO WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

From Navasota · Washington County, Texas



Photo: Noconatom, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

STATE HISTORIC SITE

Part of the old townsite is a state historic site with a museum, a replica Independence Hall, a reconstructed townsite opened in 2025 and a living history farm. The rest is a small farming community.

Plan a full day, Wednesday to Sunday. Start at the visitor center for tickets, walk the reconstructed townsite to Independence Hall, see the Star of the Republic Museum, and spend the afternoon at the Barrington Living History Farm. [Independence](#), the old Baylor town, is a short drive west on the way to Brenham.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Leave downtown Navasota west on TX 105. It's about 10 minutes to the site. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Buy tickets at the visitor center and walk the reconstructed townsite to the replica of Independence Hall. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | The Star of the Republic Museum. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Picnic at the free tables, or snacks from the Washington Mercantile. |
| ☐ 2 p.m. | The Barrington Living History Farm, Anson Jones's last home. |
| ☐ 4:30 p.m. | The townsite and farm close; the museum stays open until 5. Walk down to the Brazos before you leave. |

From Houston, the drive is about 1 h 35 min on TX 249, part of it toll road.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Independence Hall.** The plain wooden replica, as in the photo at the top of this page.
- **The Brazos.** The river that brought the ferry and the steamboats, and then failed the town.
- **Living history.** Ask the staff before photographing interpreters at work.



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

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	8 mi, about 12 min each way from downtown Navasota. From Houston: 76 mi, about 1 h 36 min.
HOURS	Wednesday to Sunday: visitor center and grounds 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., museum 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., townsite and Barrington Farm 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday: visitor center and grounds only.
ADMISSION	Adults \$10; seniors, veterans, teachers and first responders \$8; ages 6 to 17 \$6; 5 and under free; two adults and a child \$22, plus \$1 for each extra child. No ticket is needed on Monday and Tuesday.
TIME ON SITE	The THC suggests two hours for a quick visit, five for a half day, or a full day for the townsite, the farm and the museum.
FOOD	No restaurant. The Washington Mercantile in the visitor center sells drinks and snacks, the picnic tables are free, and food trucks come on special-event weekends.
RESTROOMS	In the visitor center, the museum, Barrington Farm and the picnic grounds.
EVENTS	The THC page lists living history days, such as trades and horse-racing demonstrations in the fall of 2026.
ON FOOT	The townsite, nature trails and Barrington paths are crushed granite and wheelchair accessible. Leashed pets are welcome outdoors, not in buildings.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Personal photos and video are fine in public areas, as long as they don't interrupt programs or tours. Commercial photography may need approval and fees.
WEBSITE	thc.texas.gov/complex/washington-brazos-complex

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 30.32528, -96.15667 • 30°19'31"N
96°09'24"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/texas/washington-on-the-brazos/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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