

Amarillo Texas

Relocation Guide

A Pocket Guide to Moving the Yellow City



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Amarillo, Texas

Where cowboy boots outnumber neckties and the sunsets look Photoshopped — offers a hearty slice of West Texas charm wrapped in a modern-day ranching spirit. Born along the tracks of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad in the late 1800s, Amarillo still proudly wears its Old West roots while embracing the pace of today's world (just don't expect it to rush).



Downtown Amarillo blends vintage neon signs and revitalized brick buildings with coffee shops, breweries, and art galleries — all with enough personality to match the locals. The city's Cadillac Ranch (yes, those are real Cadillacs nose-down in a field) is a quirky roadside icon, while Palo Duro Canyon, the second-largest canyon in the country, lies just down the road, offering fiery sunsets and rugged beauty that rivals anything out of a spaghetti western.

Amarillo might be known for its cattle, but don't be fooled — it's also rich in culture, from the Amarillo Symphony to boot-scootin' honky-tonks. And if you're up for the challenge, you can attempt the 72-ounce steak at The Big Texan (though we recommend making peace with your stomach first).

This isn't just a place you pass through. Amarillo is a place you land — sometimes for a job, sometimes for more space, but usually because life just feels a little lighter out here.

Wondering when to visit Amarillo? Here's your seasonal breakdown, West Texas style:



Winter (December to February)

Yes, it snows. No, we don't cancel everything.

Amarillo winters are full of surprise snow flurries, wind that'll rearrange your hairstyle for free, and a pace that slows just enough to breathe. While you won't find a ski resort nearby, the holiday lights at Hodgetown Stadium and the cozy energy of Amarillo's downtown shops make it a charming winter retreat — boots, scarves, and all.

Spring (March to May)

Spring: when the wind blows hard enough to steal your hat and your heart.

Spring in Amarillo brings wildflowers, patio weather, and a sense of renewal (and sometimes, tumbleweeds). It's the season where locals re-emerge after hibernating behind windshields and drive-thrus. Great for house hunting, hiking, and getting that first sunburn of the year at an outdoor festival.



Summer (June to August)

Yes, it's hot. But it's a dry heat — which means it just feels like you're in an oven, not a sauna.

Summer is all about backyard BBQs, lake days at Lake Meredith, and live music at Starlight Ranch or the Lumber Yard. Mornings are made for early adventures, afternoons for air conditioning, and evenings for big skies, brisket, and watching kids catch fireflies. Amarillo summers might be warm, but they're full of life.



Fall (September to November)

Locals call it "the sweet spot."

With golden cottonwoods lining the streets and pumpkin patches popping up like tumbleweeds in a strong breeze, fall in Amarillo is cozy, calm, and surprisingly colorful. It's ideal for hiking in Palo Duro, sipping hot coffee on the porch, or catching a high school football game under the Friday night lights. Fewer crowds and cooler temps make it the perfect season to explore without breaking a sweat — or your patience.



Top Neighborhoods

Finding your perfect corner of Amarillo, one porch light at a time.

Every buyer has a different wish list — charm, convenience, space, or something shiny and new. Here's how Amarillo stacks up across different categories.

1 Top Charm & Character

Where Amarillo's personality shines brightest.

Wolflin / Wolflin Village

Vintage homes, historic charm, and tree-lined streets. Walkable, eclectic, and full of soul.

- ✓ Unique architecture
- ✓ Close to shops & Amarillo College

Bivins

Another classic neighborhood with big front porches, mature trees, and that "old Amarillo" charm. Think character-filled homes and neighbors who've been around long enough to tell you all the stories.

- ✓ Character homes
- ✓ Close to hospitals & downtown

Puckett

Established, quiet, and timeless. Big yards and traditional homes with plenty of curb appeal.

- ✓ Spacious lots
- ✓ Solid community vibe

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2 Top Proximity to Amenities

WFor the folks who want Target, tacos, and takeout within five minutes.

The Colonies

Upscale, master-planned community with everything nearby — shopping, dining, and great schools.

- ✓ *High resale value*
- ✓ *Walkable to restaurants & shops*

Sleepy Hollow

Peaceful streets, great schools, and minutes from the medical district and shopping hubs.

- ✓ *Central location*
- ✓ *Family-friendly*

City View

Growing southwest area with easy access to I-27, schools, and, yes, Target.

- ✓ *Newer construction*
- ✓ *Convenient commuting*

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3 Top Established Neighborhoods

Well-loved, tried-and-true areas where roots run deep.

Ridgecrest

Classic Amarillo neighborhood with well-kept homes and a long-standing community feel.

- ✓ *Affordable & stable*
- ✓ *Close to Amarillo College*

Paramount / Olsen

Mature trees, mid-century homes, and a convenient location near I-40.

- ✓ *Established character*
- ✓ *Great access to shopping & dining*

Southlawn

Affordable starter homes with a strong neighborhood vibe and good access to schools.

- ✓ *Budget-friendly*
- ✓ *Long-standing community*

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4 Top New Construction Neighborhoods

Fresh paint, modern layouts, and the smell of new lumber.

Heritage Hills

Rapidly growing west side community with brick and stone new builds.

- ✓ *Affordable new homes*
- ✓ *Close to Soncy & Loop 335*

Homestead by Betenbough

Builder incentives, budget-friendly, and perfect for first-time buyers.

- ✓ *Builder-backed warranties*
- ✓ *Southeast Amarillo*

The Trails

Upscale west side living with walking trails and quick access to schools.

- ✓ *Golfing & Amenities*
- ✓ *Family-oriented design*

Pinnacle

More upscale new builds with larger homes and curb appeal.

- ✓ *Custom feel*
- ✓ *Quiet, growing area*

Highland Springs

Spacious lots just outside town — country feel with new homes.

- ✓ *Semi-rural vibe*
- ✓ *Plenty of space to spread out*

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5 Top Neighborhoods With Elbow Room

When your dream home includes space for horses, RVs, or just peace & quiet.

Bushland South / Bushland North

Bigger lots, strong schools, and fewer neighbors breathing down your neck.

- ✓ *Strong sense of community*
- ✓ *Country feel, close to town*

Highland Springs

Yes, it belongs here too — wide-open skies, starry nights, and quiet living.

- ✓ *Semi-rural*
- ✓ *Room for toys & hobbies*

Tanglewood / Timbercreek Canyon

Secluded areas just outside Amarillo with larger homes, acreage, and a peaceful setting.

- ✓ *Custom homes on big lots*
- ✓ *Close to Palo Duro Canyon*

River Falls

More upscale new builds with larger homes and curb appeal.

- ✓ *Community golf course, amenities*
- ✓ *Private, gated community*

Top Rated Schools

Where tiny hometown heroes are made—and still get big opportunities.

Education is important, and Amarillo delivers. Here's what to know:

School Districts

- Amarillo Independent School District (AISD)
- AISD serves nearly 29,700 students (PK–12) with a student-teacher ratio of 17 to 1. About 44% of students are math-proficient, and 51% in reading. AISD earns a solid A-minus overall rating and is ranked #1 in Potter County **Niche+1**.
- Canyon ISD & Bushland ISD
- Though not in Amarillo's district boundary, these nearby districts are top-rated options for families:
 - Canyon ISD—which covers places like Canyon and West Plains—features Canyon High School (rated ~3.8/5) and West Plains High School (~4.36/5, with an "A" overall school grade) **Niche+1**.
 - Bushland ISD includes Bushland High School, rated around 4.13/5 and praised for its small-town, tight-knit feel with a 10:1 student-teacher ratio **Niche+1**.

[Amarillo ISD Ratings](#)

[Bushland ISD Ratings](#)

[Canyon ISD Ratings](#)

Top Rated Schools

Where tiny hometown heroes are made—and still get big opportunities.

- Elementary & Middle Schools (Top Picks)
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary – Grade A, student-teacher ratio 16:1 [Niche](#)
- Wolflin Elementary – Grade A, student-teacher ratio 14:1 **[Niche](#)**
- Belmar Elementary – Grade A, student-teacher ratio 15:1 [Niche](#)
- Other strong elementary options include Windsor (A–), Puckett (A–), Whittier (A–) [Niche](#)
- Middle Schools:
- West Plains Junior High (Canyon ISD) – Grade A, 15:1 ratio [Niche](#)
- Pinnacle Intermediate School (Canyon ISD) – Grade A–, 16:1 ratio [Niche](#)
- Crockett Middle School (AISD) – A–, 17:1 ratio [Niche](#)
- Austin Middle School (AISD) – A–, 16:1 ratio [Niche](#)

[Amarillo ISD Ratings](#)

[Bushland ISD Ratings](#)

[Canyon ISD Ratings](#)

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High Schools (Standouts)

- Amarillo High School (AISD) – Rating: ~4.02/5, solid “B+” grade, with ~17:1 ratio Niche+1
- Caprock High School (AISD) – Rating: ~4.07/5, “B” grade, ~16:1 ratio Niche+1
- Tascosa High School (AISD) – Rating: ~3.95/5, “B” grade, ~17:1 ratio Niche+1
- Boys Ranch High School (Boys Ranch ISD) – Rating: ~3.56/5, but standout for very low student-teacher ratio (~4:1) and a family-like environment Niche
- Palo Duro High School (AISD) – Rating: ~4.03/5, strong size with ~15:1 ratio **Niche**
- West Plains High School (Canyon ISD) – Top performer at ~4.36/5 with “A” school grade, ~16:1 ratio Niche+1

[Amarillo ISD Ratings](#)

[Bushland ISD Ratings](#)

[Canyon ISD Ratings](#)

Indoor Activities

- **Don Harrington Discovery Center -**

This is a popular choice for families, featuring interactive exhibits and educational shows, including the popular "Grossology" show.

- **Amarillo Museum of Art -**

The museum focuses on enriching the lives of the community through art exhibitions and educational programs.

- **American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum -**

This museum explores the history and development of the American Quarter Horse through interactive exhibits and videos.

- **Panhandle Plains Historic Museum -**

As the largest history museum in Texas, it covers 14,000 years of history and features a significant art collection.

- **Trampoline & Adventure Parks -** Amarillo has two options; AMP'D or Urban Air & both offer a variety of fun for kids and families.

- **Cinergy -** Whether it's bowling, arcade games, an escape room, laser tag, birthday parties, movies, or food and drink, this is a must!

- **West Texas Golf Lounge -** When the weather isn't friendly, you can still work on your game while enjoying beverages and food!

- **Amarillo Ice Ranch -** You can play hockey, ice skate, or host a birthday party here!



Outdoor Activities

*Great for Sunrise or Sunsets!

- **Palo Duro Canyon State Park*** - Known as the "Grand Canyon of Texas", it offers stunning scenery, hiking trails (including the popular Lighthouse Trail), camping, and opportunities for biking and horseback riding.
- **Amarillo Botanical Gardens** - A beautiful place to stroll and enjoy various plant life.
- **Amarillo Zoo** - Explore a variety of animal exhibits.
- **Wildcat Bluff Nature Center*** - Provides hiking trails and opportunities to learn about the local ecosystem.
- **Cadillac Ranch*** - A unique art installation featuring ten buried Cadillacs, offering a fun photo opportunity.
- **Lake Meredith Recreation Area*** - Offers boating, fishing, and other water-based activities.

Personal Favorites

- **Sod Poodles** - Amarillo's Minor League Baseball Team; often has theme nights, fireworks, & food and drink, bounce houses and more. Fun for the whole family!
- **Water Parks & Theme Parks** - Wonderland Park is a theme park featuring rides, games, & more. The CAP (Canyon Aqua Park) & Thompson Park pool offer ways to beat the summer heat!



Best Annual Events

- **Coors Cowboy Club Cattle Drive & Parade** - A traditional event where Texas Longhorns are paraded through downtown Amarillo, often accompanied by classic cars and other floats.
- **Hoodoo Mural Festival** - This festival brings world-class muralists to downtown Amarillo, transforming walls into vibrant art, and includes a music festival component.
- **Texas Route 66 Festival** - A celebration of the iconic Mother Road with car shows, live music, and various events throughout the Route 66 Historic District.
- **Tri-State Fair & Rodeo** - A large-scale event featuring carnival rides, food, rodeo action, and livestock shows, typically held in mid-September.
- **Fall Festival at Maxwell's Pumpkin Farm** - Enjoy pumpkin picking, a corn maze, and other fall-themed attractions like feeding farm animals!
- **Christmas In The Sky** - At the home of the Sod Poodles, Hodgetown! See a drone show, fireworks, complimentary treats, & more!
- **Amarillo Lights at Maxwell's Pumpkin Farm** - Enjoy over 1 million lights that illuminate the enchanting light displays, perfect for snapping the perfect photo while exploring over 20 holiday attractions.



Best Margarita

- **Best Classic "Mexican Restaurant" Marg**
El Tejavan / Braceros / Jorge's / El Patron
- **Best Drink Specials Marg**
El Tejavan (Thirsty Thursdays)
- **Best "Atmosphere" Marg**
Jorge's

Best Beer

- **Best Hangout Brewery**
Pondaseta Brewing Co.
- **Best Downtown Brewery**
6 Car Pub & Brewery
- **Best Locals Hangout**
Texas Firehouse

Best Mexican Food

- **Best Classic Mexican Food**
Bracero's Mexican Bar & Grill
- **Best Street Tacos**
El Giro
- **Best Grab & Go**
Rosa's Cafe
- **Top 2 Dine-In Options**
Jorge's / The Plaza



Best Sports Bar

- **Best Food**

Texas Firehouse / Hummers Sports Cafe

- **Best Family Friendly**

House Divided

- **Best Atmosphere**

The 9th Inning Sports Bar

Best Gastropub

- **Best Atmosphere**

Cellar 55

- **Best Indoor-Outdoor**

Cask & Cork

- **Best Tapas Style**

Sa.vor Tapas Bar

Best Cocktails

- **Best Downtown**

Crush Wine Bar Grill

- **Best Atmosphere**

Patio Vista at The Barfield

- **Best Speakeasy**

Paramount Recreation Club

**look on their website to reserve secret spaces!*



Best Live Music

Be sure to check live music calendars online!

- **Best "off the main drag" hangout**

GoldenLight Cafe & Cantina

- **Best Indoor-Outdoor**

Shark Beach Burgers

- **Best Place For Bikers**

Skooterz Bar and Grill

- **Best Country Atmosphere**

The Western Horseman Club

Best Fine Dining

- **Best New American Fare**

Metropolitan Steak & Seafood

- **Best Atmosphere**

Drunken Oyster

Best Barbecue

- **Tyler's Barbecue**

Consistenlty winning the Best Of Amarillo award, you just can't go wrong here.

- **Spicy Mike's Bar-B-Q Haven**

Spicy Mike's in Amarillo has a true passion for Texas food done right.

- **Nine Line BBQ**

Owned & operated by Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, their barbecue is definitely a force to be reconned with.



Best Asian Food

- **Best Dine-In/Out**

Chop Chop

- **Best Downtown Sushi**

Young Sushi "Rocks!"

- **Best Pho**

Saigon 84

Best Pizza

- **Best Artisan Pizza**

575 Pizzeria

- **Best Dine in**

Fireslice

Best Burger

- **Best "Hidden Gem"**

Coyote Bluff

- **Best Atmosphere**

Blue Sky

- **Best Grab and Go**

Buns Over Texas



Tried one of our recommendations? We'd love to hear about it!

Tag @movingtoamarillotexas and share your favorite spots—we might feature them in the next guide! Let's build the ultimate local list, together.

Where to Stay

For those planning a stay in Amarillo, Texas, there are a variety of accommodations to suit different tastes and needs starting with short-term rentals and ending with hotels. Here's a breakdown of some of the best options:

1. Hidden Hideaway Barn (Airbnb)

- What to expect: Rustic barn-style retreat with wraparound patio and wide-open country views. Quiet, great Wi-Fi, ideal for couples or work-from-anywhere.
- Nearby: Cadillac Ranch (10 min), Palo Duro Canyon (30 min), Westgate Mall shopping.

2. Cactus Patch Grain Bin (Airbnb)

- What to expect: A converted grain bin with loft bedroom, pond access, and a quirky, Texas-chic vibe. Pet-friendly with fenced yard.
- Nearby: Amarillo Botanical Gardens, Amarillo Zoo, Route 66 Historic District.

3. Elegant Oasis Home (Airbnb)

- What to expect: Large modern home with two living rooms in the upscale Bivins neighborhood. Great for families or groups.
- Nearby: Amarillo Museum of Art, historic downtown, restaurants on 6th Ave (Route 66).



Where to Stay

4. The Cottage Guest House (Airbnb)

- What to expect: Cozy detached cottage with vintage charm in a historic neighborhood. Private and peaceful.
- Nearby: Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts, Hodgetown Ballpark (Sod Poodles baseball).

5. Spic and Span Luxury Home (Airbnb)

- What to expect: Spacious home with multiple TVs, fast Wi-Fi, BBQ setup, backyard firepit—perfect for families or longer stays.
- Nearby: Don Harrington Discovery Center, medical center area restaurants, I-40 access.

6. The Cottage on Crockett (VRBO)

- What to expect: 4-bedroom, 2-bath classic home with modern updates. Great for large groups and longer stays.
- Nearby: Close to WTAMU (Canyon, TX), direct route to Palo Duro Canyon (20 min), Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

7. VRBO Private Pool Rental

- What to expect: Spacious family-friendly home with a private pool or shared community pool, backyard space, and full kitchen.
- Nearby: Shopping at Westgate Mall, movie theaters, and Amarillo's west-side dining scene.

These short-term stays offer a blend of modern comfort, scenic beauty, and convenient access to Amarillo's attractions, ensuring a memorable visit to this charming Texas city.

Where to Stay

8. The Barfield, Autograph Collection (Hotel)

- What to expect: Downtown boutique luxury hotel in a restored 1920s building. Features Toscana Italian Steakhouse and speakeasy bar.
- Nearby: Route 66 nightlife, Amarillo Civic Center, fine dining.

9. Embassy Suites Downtown (Hotel)

- What to expect: All-suite upscale Hilton with free breakfast, indoor pool, and highly rated service.
- Nearby: Hodgetown Stadium, Amarillo Little Theatre, coffee shops and breweries downtown.

10. Tru by Hilton Amarillo West (Hotel)

- What to expect: Fun, modern mid-range option with bright décor, game areas, and free breakfast.
- Nearby: Westgate Mall, Cadillac Ranch, restaurants along Soncy Rd (I-40 corridor).

11. The Western Horseman (Hotel)

- What to expect: Newly remodeled independent hotel blending rustic-Texan charm with modern amenities. Indoor pool, putting green, Tesla charging, shuttle service, and pet-friendly. On-site restaurant/bar features live music and craft cocktails.
- Nearby: Shuttle to Big Texan Steak Ranch, short drive to Palo Duro Canyon and Cadillac Ranch, and entertainment at Starlight Ranch.

These hotel stays offer a blend of modern comfort, scenic beauty, and convenient access to Amarillo's attractions, ensuring a memorable visit to this charming Texas city.



Thanks for letting me be part of your Amarillo adventure —it's a privilege to share the best of this West Texas city with you.



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