

Ten Buried Cadillacs, a Free 72-Ounce Steak — A

Dinner — Big Texan Steak Ranch

~1.5–2 hours · 72 oz. steak dinner free if finished in 1 hour

A Route 66 institution since 1960: order the 72-ounce steak dinner (it comes with shrimp, a salad, a baked potato and a roll) and it's free if you clear the plate within an hour — otherwise it's a very large, very good steak dinner. A free limo runs nightly from 5pm to pick guests up from Amarillo hotels.

Big Texan Steak Ranch · +18063727000 · www.bigtexan.com

Overnight — Big Texan Motel

From \$90–110 USD / night, for 2 people

A Western-saloon-themed motel attached to the steak ranch, with a Route 66 western storefront facade — about as on-theme a first night as the Panhandle offers.

Big Texan Motel · +18063727000 · www.bigtexan.com

Day 2

Palo Duro Canyon — the Grand Canyon of Texas

A short drive south to America's second-largest canyon: a hike to its most famous rock spire, then a night sleeping on the canyon floor itself.

Self-Drive — Amarillo to Palo Duro Canyon State Park

~30 min / 25 miles

A quick, well-signed drive south on Highway 217 to the park entrance at Fritch, with the canyon rim appearing almost without warning out of the flat Panhandle tableland.

Park Entrance — Palo Duro Canyon State Park

\$8 USD per adult / day · children 12 & under free

At up to 800 feet deep and 120 miles long, Palo Duro is the second-largest canyon in the United States — carved by the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River through bands of red, orange and white rock.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park · +18064882227 · tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/palo-duro-canyon

Hike — The Lighthouse Trail

~5.75 miles round trip · moderate · go early to beat the heat

The park's signature hike, a mostly flat out-and-back along the canyon floor to the base of the Lighthouse, a 310-foot hoodoo of banded red rock that's the most-photographed formation in the park.

Dinner — Tyler's Barbeque

~45 min · closed Sun–Mon · goes until they sell out

A Texas Monthly Top-50 smokehouse on the way back toward the canyon, known for brisket cooked low and slow — arrive early, since they close the doors whenever the day's meat runs out.

Hike — Caprock Canyons Trailway

~1 hour · flat, converted rail trail

A former railroad grade turned multi-use trail that cuts straight through Quitaque Canyon and the old Clarity Tunnel — an easy, flat stretch-your-legs hike before the drive home.

Drive Back — Quitaque to Amarillo Airport

~2 hours / 95 miles

The return drive northwest back across the Panhandle tableland to Rick Husband Amarillo International for the flight home.