



## Fact Sheet – Kilgore, TX

**Intro:** Visit Kilgore is the official marketing organization that invites visitors to discover Kilgore, TX. Kilgore is situated on Interstate 20, 120 miles east of Dallas in both Gregg and Rusk County. In addition to I-20, the city is crossed by U.S. Highway 259 and State Highways 31, 42, and 135. Kilgore is a great combination of small town living mixed with create architecture, and amenities alike. Kilgore is mostly know for it's booming oil industry back in the 1930s which help the 'World's Richest Acre' that can still be visited today. We are also home to the World Famous Kilgore College Rangerettes, who brought show business to football halftime. Our town is a welcoming community to all travelers with plenty to explore. To learn more or plan your visit you can go to [visitkilgore.com](http://visitkilgore.com)

**What:** Kilgore is the home of the Texas Shakespeare Festival, Rangerette Revels, East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook-off, Reel East Texas Film Festival, Kilgore Oktoberfest (the only Oktoberfest in East Texas), numerous other festivals and events, and the best Christmas parade in Texas. In addition, three museums are located in Kilgore: Texas Museum of Broadcasting & Communication, East Texas Oil Museum and the Rangerette Showcase Museum.

**Origin:** The area around what is now Kilgore was a rural agricultural and forestry region when in 1872 the International and Great Northern Railroad established it as a distribution hub. Constantine Buckley "Buck" Kilgore donated a two hundred foot strip of land for the railroad right of way and station, and I&GN purchased one hundred seventy-four acres from Kilgore to plat a townsite. Townsite was created in 1874. The new town became a small trade center for farmers, lumber men and cotton growers. The small community had a population of about five hundred when the discovery of oil on the Daisy Bradford #3 and the Lou Della Crim #1 changed all of that permanently. Kilgore grew to 10,000 people overnight.

**Size:** Kilgore is home to over thirteen thousand residents in 2021.

**Climate:** According to WeatherSpark.com, the summers are hot and oppressive; the winters are short, cold, and wet; and it is partly cloudy year round. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 38°F to 94°F and is rarely below 26°F or above 100°F. Based on the beach/pool score, the best time of year to visit Kilgore for hot-weather activities is from late May to mid September.

**Airports:** East Texas Regional Airport, 9.7 miles from Downtown Kilgore, Shreveport Regional Airport, 64.8 miles, and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, 140 miles.

**Districts:**

Entertainment District: This special zone of Downtown Kilgore is home to two of the Historic Theaters. The Crim Theater was opened in 1939 and though it is no longer a running theater it remains an icon photo op for downtown pedestrians. The Texan Theater was built in 1931, later burned down and re-opened in 1941, this historic building was restored to its original look and is used as an event venue. This district also holds the Old Post Office which is also now used as an event center.

Sports District: Historic Driller Park, was constructed in 1947 for the Kilgore Drillers the East Texas minor league baseball team. The park was later refurbished in 2008 for the East Texas Pump Jacks of the Texas Collegiate League. It remains a baseball park teams will travel all over from to play in. Kilgore is also home to the Whataburger Sports Complex. This multi-million dollar six-field baseball complex is an exciting collaboration between the City of Kilgore, Red Dirt Baseball, and the naming rights sponsor Whataburger. Red Dirt Baseball operates and maintains the Whataburger Sports Complex. Any inquires (e.g. booking a tournament) should be directed to David Upchurch at coachupchurch@gmail.com or (903) 985-8891. This district also holds Tennis Courts and Pickle Ball Courts for any sports enthusiast to enjoy. The Football Stadium in town is R.E. St. John, named after a local world war two hero, is used by Kilgore ISD and Kilgore College. It had renovations done in 2022 and remains one of the busiest places during the Fall season. Beyond this district the city maintains softball and soccer on of HWY 135 North.

Residential District: Kilgore is home to many residents who love their community. Within its borders, Kilgore has a wide variety of architecture, some highlighted homes are the Crim House (located at Highway 259 South) built in 1939 it was the first home to have air conditioning in Kilgore, featured a three car garage, and an intercom system. The Dean-Keener-Crim House (101 E. Lantrip St.) is the oldest home still standing in Kilgore and is currently being restored. Finally, the homes within the Meadowbrook Historic Neighborhood includes beautiful older homes with signs with their original owner/year built.

**Lodging:** Kilgore currently has 8 hotels for lodging, ranging from motels, to comfy and reassuring brand hotels. There is also a number of Airbnb's within the area. Learn more at [www.visitkilgore.com/hotels](http://www.visitkilgore.com/hotels)

**Meetings:** Kilgore have stunning and accommodating meeting space for events, corporate meetings, board retreats, and collaborative events from the Historic Texan Theatre downtown to the lush setting at Meadowbrook Golf Course. If planning an event call or email Megan Payne (903-218-6896 /megan.payne@cityofkilgore.com)

**Vision Statement:** Kilgore strives to be a safe, clean, well-maintained and affordable City. We value strong moral character, solid family values, and our rich history and culture. We

embrace innovation, well-planned growth, and a strong business-friendly environment in which opportunities abound for employment, education, culture, entertainment, tourism, and recreational enjoyment.

**Assets:** Kilgore is the home of a major office of the Texas Railroad Commission Oil and Gas Division, Region VII Education Service Center and East Texas Council of Governments. It is the headquarters for Skeeter Boats, CPI (Communications & Power Industries), Astronics Kilgore, Closure Systems International, Command Texas, Martin Midstream Partners, and Orgill distribution center located in beautiful Synergy Park.

**Social:** Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest

**Web:** [www.visitkilgore.com](http://www.visitkilgore.com)

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