Dear Karyn,

Who says spring break is just for kids? If you're looking for the perfect springtime getaway, hop in the car and find your way to Brenham. From bluebonnets to Blue Bell, Texas's favorite small town has everything you need to make your stay worth the while. From food and wine, to farms and a little bit of history, Brenham is must for your spring plans!

PRIME Living
34 Julie Rivers
Sugar Land, TX 77498

When it comes to finding the earliest glimmers of spring, the beginning of April often marks the first appearance of the state flower, the bluebonnet, along Texas's highways. For prime examples, set your GPS for Brenham, the nearly-9-square-mile city about equidistant between Houston and Austin.

While sparse rainfall last year might make the blue-capped flowers less prevalent than in years past, chances are good that you'll catch the roadside flora in bloom as you check out Brenham, the Washington County seat.

You can't visit the home of Blue Bell Ice Cream without stopping by for a 45-minute tour (1101 S. Blue Bell Road) of the facility that touts flavors such as Buttered Pecan and Moo-llennium Crunch, complete with a complimentary dollop of ice cream. Tours run Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Parties of 15 or more must call ahead for reservations.)

For a more adult splurge, discover the aptly named Pleasant Hill Winery (1441 Salem Road) on the weekend for tastings and a tour of the grounds. If you can make it March 31 or April 1, join in the celebrations of the winery's 15th anniversary, adding cake to the tour and tastings.

To indulge your post-sugar/wine coma, end your day at one of the city's historic bed and breakfasts such as the Brenham House (705 Clinton St.), a 1920s house built on the foundation of the area's first German Lutheran Church. Or stay in specialty log cabins—a 19th-century cabin, spa cabin or even a tree-house cottage—at Scenic Hill (7300 FM 332).

Thus relaxed, release your inner child at Horseshoe Junction (2080 Highway 290 West) Friday, Saturday or Sunday for a few hours of outdoor fun, complete with mini-golf, a rock-climbing wall, bumper boats, laser tag, go-carts and more. Be warned that the place can get mobbed during spring break, which runs from March 2-18.

Story | AARON BERMAN

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS
Come face to face with the origins of Texas's independent spirit at the midway's "birthplace of Texas." This 293-acre historic site, where Texas declared its independence from Mexico in 1836, features the Barrington Living History Farm and three other attractions. It's just a 14-mile drive from Brenham down Highway 105 East.
Highway 105 East and FM 912
936-878-2214
tpwd.state.tx.us

GIDDINGS HISTORIC HOUSES
History comes alive at the Giddings Wilkin House Museum, which, built in 1843 by attorney JD Giddings, is thought to be the oldest house in Brenham. Now it's on to the stately Giddings Stone Mansion. The 14-room piece of history dating from 1869 boasts soaring 13-foot ceilings, a servants' wing and nearly $1 million in restorations since 1976.
2203 Century Circle
979-836-1600
giddingsstonemansion.com

MONASTERY MINIATURE HORSES
After 31 years, the Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm will be closing, at May's end, making this your last chance to see the 60 (give or take) miniature horses cared for by the Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns. Get up close to these horses on a self-guided tour or an hourly one starting at $5.00.
93200 Highway 105
979-836-9662
monasteryminiatuerehorses.com