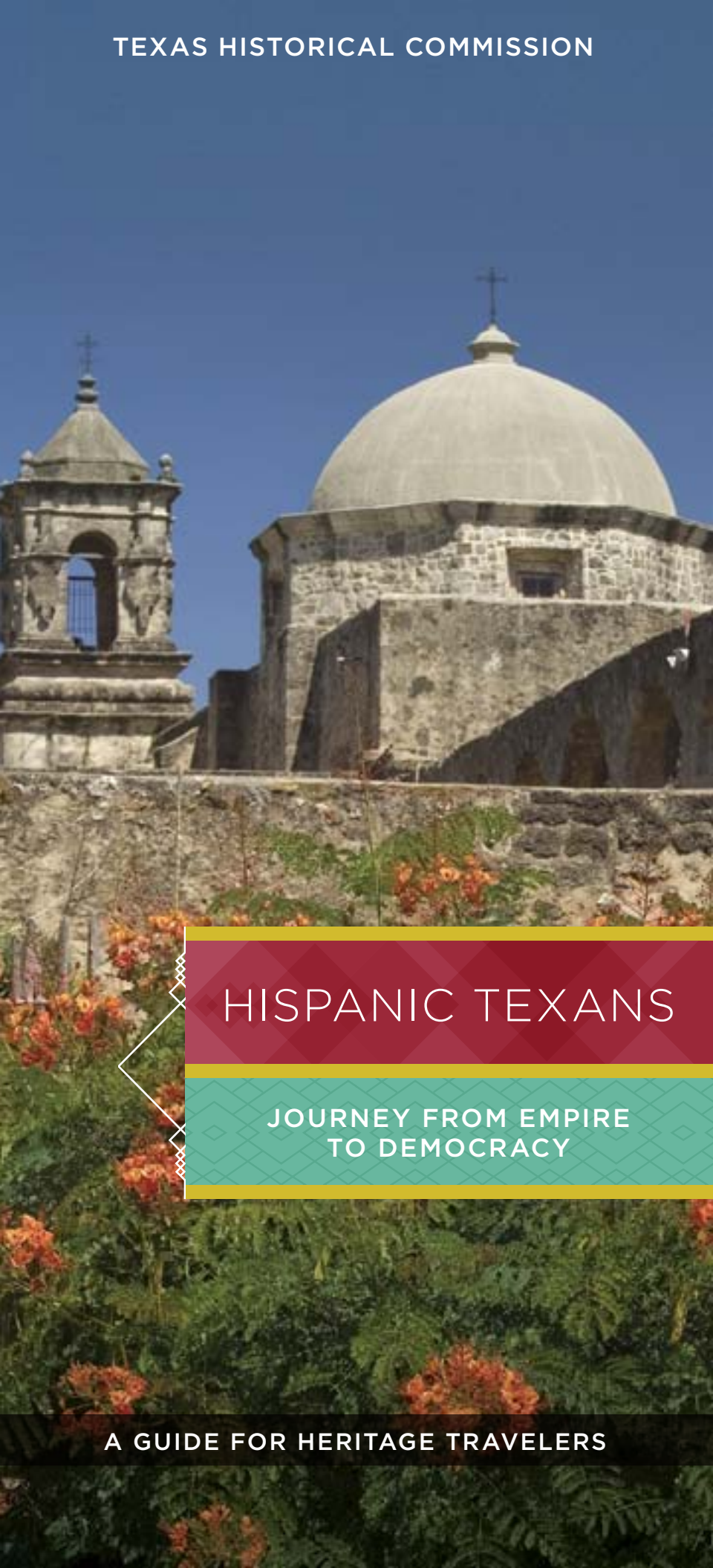
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



HISPANIC TEXANS

JOURNEY FROM EMPIRE TO DEMOCRACY

A GUIDE FOR HERITAGE TRAVELERS

Mexico or New Spain. Made for L'Histoire de L'Amérique by Dr. William Robertson, 1795.
Mexico Collection, Texas General Land Office, Austin

HISPANIC, SPANISH, SPANISH AMERICAN, MEXICAN, MEXICAN AMERICAN, MEXICANO, LATINO, CHICANO, TEJANO—

all have been valid terms for Texans who traced their roots to the Iberian Peninsula or Mexico. In the last 50 years, cultural identity has become even more complicated. The arrival of Cubans in the early 1960s, Puerto Ricans in the 1970s, and Central Americans in the 1980s has made for increasing diversity of the state's Hispanic, or Latino, population. However, the Mexican branch of the Hispanic family, combining Native, European, and African elements, has left the deepest imprint on the Lone Star State.

The state's name—pronounced Tay-hahs in Spanish—derives from the old Spanish spelling of a Caddo word for friend. Since the state was named Tejas by the Spaniards, it's not surprising that many of its most important geographic features and locations also have Spanish names. Major Texas waterways from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande were named, or renamed, by Spanish explorers and Franciscan missionaries.

Although the story of Texas stretches back millennia into prehistory, its history begins with the arrival of Spanish conquistadors in the early 16th century. Cabeza de Vaca and his companions in the 1520s and 1530s were followed by the expeditions of Coronado and De Soto in the early 1540s. In 1598, Juan de Oñate, on his way to conquer the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico, crossed the Rio Grande in the El Paso area. Because a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated for their safe arrival, El Paso claims the first North American Thanksgiving.

In the last 50 years, cultural identity has become even more complicated.

In East Texas, another community with Spanish colonial roots claims to be the state's oldest settlement. Nacogdoches was originally the site of a Caddo Indian community dating to the 13th century. When permanent Spanish occupation of Texas began in 1716, Friar Antonio Margil de Jesús founded Mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches near the Indian village. The mission was officially abandoned in 1773, but six years later the Nacogdoches area became home to a group of Tejanos led by Antonio Gil Ybarbo.

About 300 miles southwest, another Spanish-era settlement stakes a major claim. Two years after the occupation of East Texas, Gov. Martín Alarcón founded a mission-presidio (garrison) complex in 1718 at the headwaters of the San Antonio River. By 1731, the community had grown to five missions and the military post, and was augmented with the arrival of migrants from the Canary Islands who had permission from the Crown to establish their own local government. Thus, with the founding of San Fernando de Béxar—today's San Antonio—Texas gained its first chartered civil government.

Along the Texas coastal plain, a third area of Spanish settlement developed. Originally founded in 1721 at Matagorda Bay on the remains of La Salle's Fort St. Louis, Presidio La Bahía and Mission Espíritu Santo moved twice. A permanent home was later established on the lower San Antonio River in present-day Goliad.

Although the vastness of North America ultimately proved an insurmountable challenge for a Spanish empire spread thin, Spaniards sought to colonize "on the cheap" by relying on missionaries to assimilate Indians into Hispanic society. The Spanish empire also looked to expand in the region through ranching, an economic activity well suited to the immense grasslands. The southern tip—the last part of Texas to be occupied during the Spanish colonial era—was settled by cattle and sheep ranchers. Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí, for whose Catholic-priest son Padre Island is named, was the first "cattle queen" of Texas, at one time controlling more than a million acres in South Texas.

An extensive network of trails and unimproved roads, often built on pre-existing Indian routes, connected all the Spanish settlements and many Indian communities. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in the El Paso area and El Camino Real de los Tejas (which spanned Texas, extending from Mexico City to Robeline, Louisiana) today form part of the national historic trails system.

National Park Service

Map of El Camino Real de los Tejas

José Antonio Navarro cenotaph, Texas State Cemetery, Austin

They provide reminders of centuries-old migration and commerce routes, connecting not only countries and states but peoples and cultures.

In the early 19th century, Texas played an important role in Mexico's war for independence. Fought between royalists and insurgents near El Camino Real south of San Antonio, the Battle of Medina on August 18, 1813, is regarded as the bloodiest fight in the state's history. Pirates, filibusters, and French Napoleonic exiles all challenged Spanish control of Texas in the 1810s.

The history of Texas after Mexican independence in 1821 is a significant Hispanic story. Tejano elites were eager to support Anglo-American settlement following a decade of violence. Leaders such as Erasmo Seguín and José Antonio Saucedo counseled Stephen F. Austin on managing his colony and organizing San Felipe de Austin.

During the Texas Revolution in 1835–36, Tejanos participated on the battlefield and in government. The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed by Francisco Ruiz and José Antonio Navarro, natives of San Antonio who also helped draft the Republic's constitution at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Tejanos participated in every major action of the revolution after Gonzales—most prominent was Juan Seguín, who later directed the burial of the Alamo dead.

Tejanos participated in every major action of the revolution after Gonzales.

The following decades were turbulent for Tejanos. When Texas exercised control of the land between the Nueces

University of Houston Libraries

Postcard of Alamo Plaza, 1917

River and Rio Grande as a result of the U.S.–Mexico War in 1846–48, Mexican residents of the region had to choose between American citizenship and abandoning their homes. These new Tejanos were subjected to discrimination and violence. By the 1850s, Tejanos were chased out of some counties altogether.

Despite circumstances, Tejanos maintained communities, ran farms and ranches, worked on railroads, and operated businesses. After the Civil War, Tejanos and Mexican migrants joined the agricultural labor force in increasing numbers. In the early 20th century, developing urban centers such as Houston and Dallas also welcomed them for manual labor.

This travel guide serves as an introduction to the first 500 years of the rich and colorful Hispanic experience in Texas.

Regarded as cheap labor, Hispanics were subjected to many of the Jim Crow practices that discriminated against African Americans. Tejanos and immigrants from Mexico often went to Mexican schools, were prevented from eating in main dining rooms of restaurants, and were systematically excluded from jury service. Very few had access to higher education, and Tejanos could only attain public office along the overwhelmingly Hispanic border region.

Nevertheless, Mexican Americans absorbed American ideals and worked against the forces of bigotry. League of United Latin American Citizens founders J.T. Canales of Nueces County and Alonso Perales of Alice had to move away from Texas to obtain a graduate education. American GI Forum founder Dr. Hector García graduated from the University of Texas Medical School on the eve of World War II, but no Texas hospital would grant him residency. Emma Tenayuca's working class origins led her to labor activism, particularly in organizing workers in the pecan shelling industry in the early years of the Great Depression.

The struggle for a piece of the American Dream took a major turn during the Civil Rights Era. Organized by Tejanos, Viva Kennedy clubs helped the Kennedy-Johnson ticket win Texas in the 1960 election, a success that led to more political engagement. Educational opportunities increased by the 1970s in response to young Chicano activists, returning Vietnam veterans, and victories stretching back to the 1930s. These included the appearance of Mexican American studies programs in colleges and universities around the state.

In the 1960s, Texas began to experience a significant influx of non-Mexican Hispanic immigrants. Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Central Americans have made important contributions to the state's cultural and economic development. Their story rests largely outside the scope of this guidebook. This travel guide serves as an introduction to the first 500 years of the rich and colorful Hispanic experience in Texas, and a starting point for all Texans to better appreciate the role of Tejanos in the making of the Lone Star State.

TxDOT

Robert Casillas performs at the International Accordion Festival, San Antonio

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The sites featured in this educational travel guide are organized according to the 10 heritage regions in the Texas Historical Commission's nationally award-winning tourism initiative, the Texas Heritage Trails Program. The cultural and historic sites are listed alphabetically within the heritage region in which they are located. There is no recommended sequence in which to visit these sites; city numbers on the map follow the order in which they appear in the guide.

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* Also a part of the Texas Hill Country Region

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55 | San Diego
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57 | San Manuel-Linn
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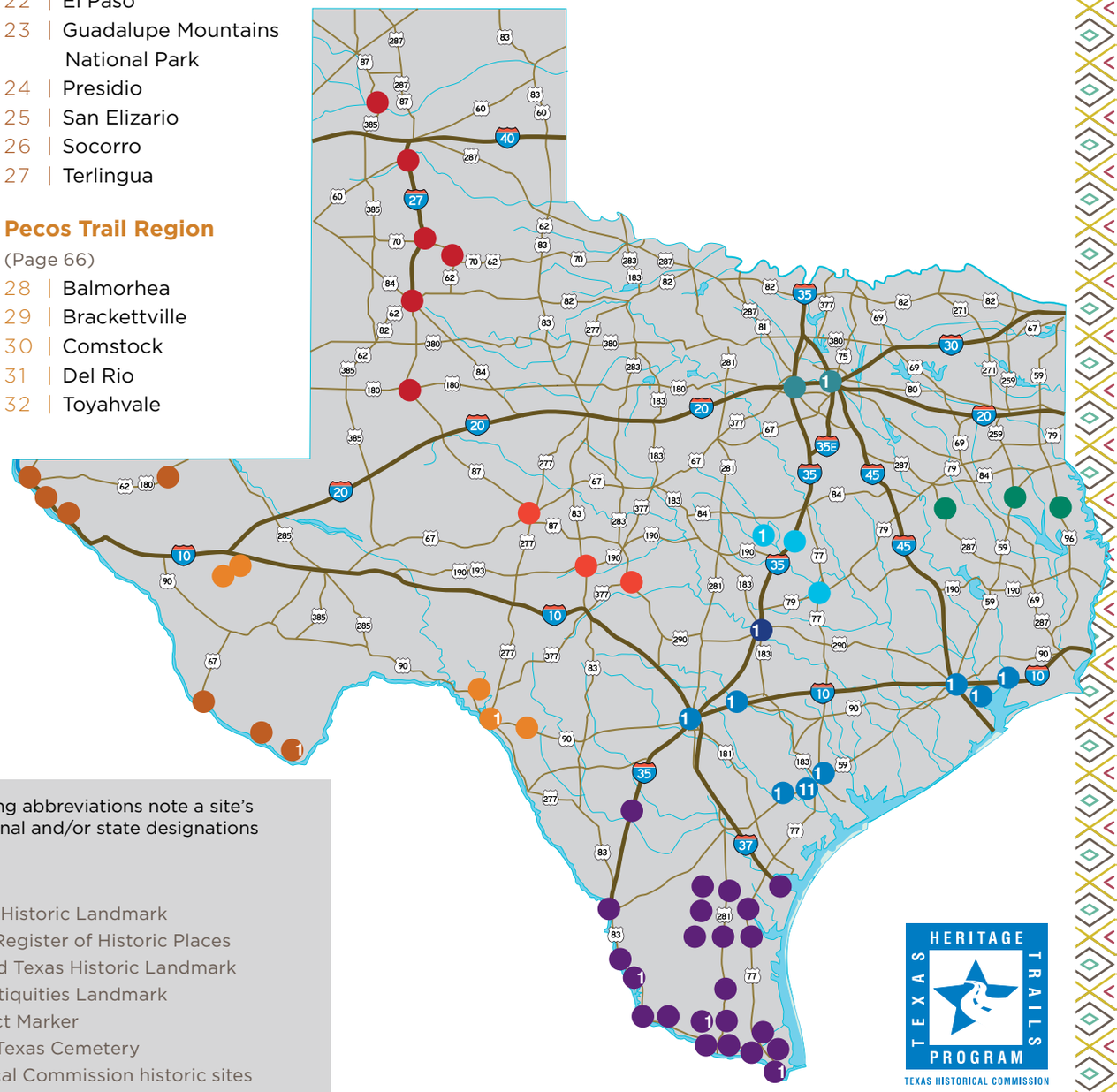


Throughout the text, the following abbreviations note a site's historical significance with national and/or state designations and/or markers.

KEY

NHL	Designated a National Historic Landmark
NR	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
RTHL	Designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
SAL	Designated a State Antiquities Landmark
SM	Texas Historical Subject Marker
HTC	Designated a Historic Texas Cemetery
!	Denotes Texas Historical Commission historic sites

TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TIMELINE: 500 YEARS OF HISPANIC HERITAGE IN TEXAS

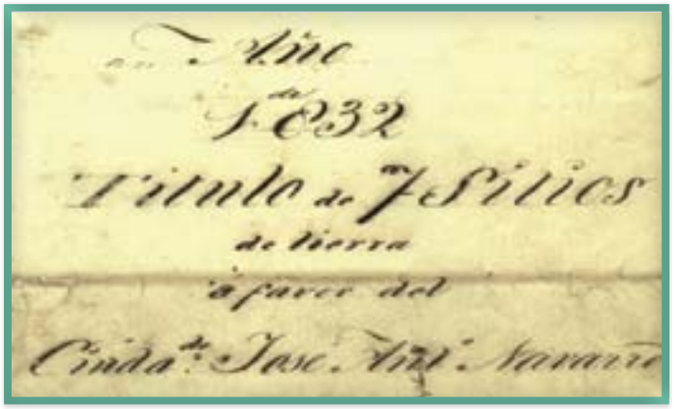
Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca

1510s–1540s

Early Spanish explorations lead to documented accounts of Texas. Álvarez de Pineda creates the first map of the Texas coastline, and Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca writes *La Relacíon*, the first written account of the people and land of Texas.

1680s

Corpus Christi de la Ysleta and Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción del Socorro, near present-day El Paso, are among the earliest occupied missions in what is now Texas.



Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin

Land grant to José Antonio Navarro for parcel in Bastrop County

1821

With the entry of Agustín de Iturbide's Army into Mexico City on September 27, 1821, Mexico's independence from Spain is proclaimed, which includes the three guarantees of independence, exclusivity of the Catholic Church, and equality among all citizens.

1823–24

A series of Mexican laws formally opens Texas to colonization. Empresarios present land grants to individuals and encourage settlement of remote territories. Empresario Martín De León's colony of Victoria primarily recruits Mexican settlers, while others include mostly U.S. settlers.

1500 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800–1860

Ysleta Mission, El Paso

1716–1750s

Mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches is founded near present-day Nacogdoches in 1716, marking the first permanent era of Spanish occupation of Texas. Other communities develop around San Antonio, Goliad, and Laredo.

1758–59

The destruction of Mission San Sabá, near Menard, marks the limits of Spanish advance in Texas.

1790

Rosa Hinojosa de Ballí (1752-1803) inherits land left by her late husband and father. By the time of her death, her ranch lands had grown to more than one million acres in what is now South Texas. She is remembered as the first "cattle queen" of Texas.

1810

On September 16, Father Hidalgo issues his *Grito de Dolores*, a statement for Mexico's independence from Spain. More than a decade of rebellion ensues, with many Tejanos fighting for an independent Texas within a new Republic of Mexico.

1835–36

Tejanos play integral roles in the war for Texas independence. Significant individuals sign the Texas Declaration of Independence, help draft the new constitution, serve in military units, defend the Alamo, help defeat Santa Anna at San Jacinto, and hold important offices in the new government.

1846–48

With the annexation of Texas, the U.S. claims the Rio Grande as Texas' boundary, provoking a dispute with Mexico, which claims it is the Nueces River. A skirmish near Brownsville launches the U.S.-Mexico War. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo establishes the Rio Grande as the southern boundary, impacting the citizenship of Tejanos living in the disputed area, some of whom have lived there for generations.

Laredo Public Library

Col. Santos Benavides

1861–65

Thousands of Tejanos join the ranks of the Confederacy or the Union during the Civil War, including Col. Santos Benavides, the highest ranking Mexican American to serve the Confederacy. He leads the defense of Laredo, his home town, in 1864.

1877
Riots erupt in and around San Elizario over ownership and control of the nearby salt flats, forcing many Mexican American families to flee their homes. With new property laws in effect after annexation, their rights to the previously communal land are challenged, dealing them a serious economic and cultural blow.

1881
Don Pedrito Jaramillo relocates from Mexico to a ranch near present-day Falfurrias. He establishes himself as a trusted *curandero* and becomes the most well-known faith healer in South Texas.

Don Pedrito Jaramillo Shrine, Falfurrias

1897
Trinidad Concha, a shoe cobbler by trade, organizes Concha's Mexican Concert Band in El Paso. Concha's compositions—a synthesis of traditional folk and contemporary orchestra—influence the music of the Southwest through the early 1930s.

In Re Ricardo Rodríguez is decided by a federal judge and grants Rodríguez, a Mexican immigrant living in San Antonio, the rights to citizenship and to vote. This landmark civil rights case sparks legal action to disenfranchise Tejanos.

Japanese Tea Garden, San Antonio

1918
Miguel Martínez, who fled Mexico during the revolution, opens Martínez Café (later El Fenix Restaurant) in Dallas' "Little Mexico," becoming one of the first Hispanic entrepreneurs in the city.

1924
Mexican artisan Dionicio Rodríguez immigrates to Texas. His specialty is *faux bois*, concrete sculptures that imitate the natural forms and textures of rocks and wood. Over the next 30 years, demand for his work leads to commissions across the U.S.

1929
The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is founded in Corpus Christi. It is the first nationwide civil rights organization for Mexican Americans.

1930
Folklorist and historian Jovita González becomes the first Mexican American president of the Texas Folklore Society. She dedicates her life to preserving the culture of South Texas.

1870 | 1880 | 1890 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 | 1930

Library of Congress

Pancho Villa and Mexican fighters

1901
A misinterpretation between Gregorio Cortez and a Karnes County sheriff leaves the sheriff dead and leads to a violent manhunt that includes the Texas Rangers and vigilante posses. The incident, immortalized in a traditional *corrido*, or ballad, symbolizes the racial and cultural tensions prevalent in the border region.

1911–20
Mexican civil war encroaches on U.S. soil with refugees fleeing Mexico and seeking safety in Texas settlements. Raids conducted from both sides of the border incite widespread panic and violent acts of discrimination.

1917–18
Many Tejanos enlist in the U.S. military during World War I. Among them is Laredo native David Cantú Barkley, who is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously in 1919.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Mary and Jeff Bell Library

Jovita González

1931
In the midst of intensifying anti-immigrant sentiment nationally, deportation and repatriation rates peak. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children of Mexican descent—some of them U.S. citizens—leave Texas for Mexico. Efforts escalate to segregate Hispanics in public institutions such as schools, parks, and restaurants.

1934
Lydia Mendoza, "Lark of the Border," records "Mal Hombre" in San Antonio. The hit launches her long and distinguished career as a Spanish-language musician. A Conjunto Musical Hall of Fame inductee, she is awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1999.

1935
Accordionist Narciso Martínez and bajo sexto player Santiago Almeida record "La Chicharronera," and establish a new, modern sound for *conjunto*.

The Arhoolie Foundation, www.arhoolie.org

Martínez and Santiago, 1936

Houston Public Library, HMRC

President Truman awarding Macario García the Medal of Honor

1939
Henry Guerra is the first Mexican American radio announcer to use his own name on a major English-only station in Texas—San Antonio's WOAI. Ten years later, he becomes the city's first Mexican American television announcer.

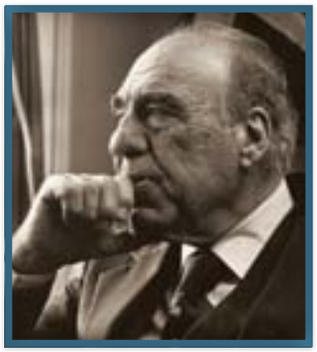
1942
The U.S. and Mexican governments sign the Mexican Farm Labor Program Agreement (commonly known as the Bracero Program), which legalizes and protects Mexican migrant farmworkers. By the time it concludes in 1964, millions of *braceros* have entered the U.S. under the program's contracts.

1945
Macario García is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his U.S. Army service during World War II. A month later, he is denied service at a Richmond-area restaurant because he is Hispanic, and is ultimately arrested. The charges are finally dropped, but the incident galvanizes civil rights organizations.

1961
Henry B. González becomes the first Mexican American from Texas elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1968
The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund is incorporated in San Antonio.

1970
Cisneros v. Corpus Christi Independent School District recognizes Mexican Americans as an identifiable ethnic group entitled to equal protection of the law under the 14th Amendment, ultimately ending the practice of combining Hispanics and blacks to meet integration requirements.



Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

Henry B. González

1971
Born to migrant farm workers in Crystal City, Tomás Rivera is the first recipient of the Quinto Sol Literary Award for his novel *…y no se lo tragó la tierra* (*…and the Earth Did Not Devour Him*), which depicts the experiences of migrant workers in Texas.

1976
Irma Rangel, a Kingsville attorney, is the first Tejana elected to the Texas Legislature.

1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 2010

1948
After witnessing discrimination against Hispanic soldiers being treated at the Veterans Administration in Corpus Christi, Dr. Hector P. García organizes the American GI Forum. The organization becomes influential in the larger civil rights movement, particularly after its involvement in the Longoria Affair.

On behalf of Minerva Delgado and others, LULAC files a lawsuit against Bastrop Independent School District, challenging long-standing practices that segregate Hispanic students at inferior campuses. The court decides in favor of Delgado, but still permits separate classrooms for non-English speaking first graders.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Mary and Jeff Bell Library

Dr. Hector P. García in his GI Forum cap

1954
In *Hernández v. State of Texas* the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes Mexican Americans as an ethnic class whose civil rights have been violated through Jim Crow practices.

1956
State senators Henry B. González and Abraham Kazen mount a 36-hour filibuster, successfully defeating eight of 10 racial segregation bills designed to circumvent the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

1986
Dr. Juliet V. García becomes the first Mexican American woman to become president of a U.S. college or university when she takes the position at Texas Southmost College.

1989
Brownsville native Américo Paredes, a pioneer in the field of Mexican American studies, receives the prestigious Charles Frankel Prize from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

2010
The U.S. Census records nearly 9.5 million people of Hispanic descent living in Texas, representing 38 percent of the state's total population.

2012
The Tejano Monument, a tribute to Tejanos' contributions to Texas history, is dedicated on the south lawn of the State Capitol.

Tejano Monument on the State Capitol grounds, Austin

SPANISH SETTLEMENT OF TEXAS

Mission San José, San Antonio

Texas' recorded history begins in the early 1500s when the Spanish staked claim to it as part of the new empire in North America. But these expeditions didn't lead to permanent occupation until 1716. Evidence of Spanish exploration and colonization endures along routes established by Indians and honed by Spanish travelers, and in Texas cities built upon Spanish villas.

Spain's initial strategy relied heavily on missions, presidios, and the ranchos that supported them. Missionaries sought to convert natives to Catholicism and into loyal subjects who would populate and defend Spain's new territories. The missions' vast land holdings served as ranchos, supporting livestock that made the missions self-sufficient. Nearby presidios provided protection to these communities from threats, especially raids by Apaches and Comanches, who fiercely resisted settlement efforts. The relative stability of presidios and adjoining missions attracted settlers and stimulated economic and population growth in the far reaches of New Spain.

Some of these mission complexes along the caminos reales remain visible on the landscape today, such as Missions San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo), San José, Concepción, San Juan, and Espada, which form the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Others, like Rancho de las Cabras near Floresville, are remnants of the vast ranches they once were. Originally home to fortifications and a chapel, the archeological remains of Rancho de las Cabras illustrate how integral they were to colonization.

The population remained sparse, largely because of harsh frontier conditions. By 1800, the settled population of what is now Texas was about 5,000, with nearly all settlers located in the "urban" centers of San Antonio, Goliad, Nacogdoches, and Laredo. The Hispanic population included mostly American-born Spaniards, Indo-mestizos and Afro-mestizos, and assimilated Indians.

Their existence on the frontier, far from the center of government, instilled in Tejanos a unique spirit of self-reliance and autonomy. Growing dissatisfaction with Spanish rule led some to join the insurgent movements in Texas between 1811 and 1813, briefly liberating the Texas capital of San Antonio from Spanish rule. When Mexico finally gained its independence from Spain in 1821, Texas was in chaos. Its people began to rebuild, now citizens of the new nation of Mexico, but with a Tejano cultural identity.

1st Cavalry Division Museum, Fort Hood

BRAZOS
TRAIL REGION
www.texasbrazostrail.com

1 | Fort Hood

1st Cavalry Division Museum (SM)
Building 2218, Battalion Avenue, Fort Hood, TX 76544
254.287.3626

Activated by the U.S. government in 1921, the 1st Cavalry Division is also known as "The First Team." Initially stationed at El Paso's Fort Bliss, the first assignment of the mounted force was to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border after the Mexican Revolution. In the decades since, cavalry troops, including Hispanic men and women, have served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, and Iraq.

Visit the Martin Leath Visitors Center for a day pass before entering the well-appointed museum that outlines the 1st Cavalry Division's long history, its officers and troopers, and the division's many Medal of Honor recipients. A permanent exhibit details the history of the 1st Cavalry Division, a temporary exhibit changes regularly, and a large outdoor yard features several tanks, helicopters, and other equipment.

2 | Rockdale

Milam County El Camino Real de los Tejas Sites (NR, SM)
Apache Pass, 9112 N. FM 908, Rockdale, TX 76567
Contact the El Camino Real de los Tejas Austin Office
512.850.9073
www.texasbrazostrail.com/milamcounty-elcaminoreal

This lesser-known mission chain along the legendary El Camino Real de los Tejas includes three former mission sites (San Francisco Xavier de Horcasitas, San Ildefonso, and Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria), Apache Pass, and the natural lookout, Sugarloaf Mountain. A presidio (San Francisco Xavier de Gigedo) and an Indian village are also part of the area's history.

THC historical markers and National Park Service signs guide visitors to the general locations of the three missions. The mission lands, as well as the red sandstone Sugarloaf Mountain just north of Gause, are on private property today. Now a popular local venue, Apache Pass was once a river crossing for missionaries, settlers, and soldiers along the 2,500-mile route from Mexico to present-day Louisiana. Modern travelers of the historic trail can catch glimpses of what their 18th-century counterparts might have experienced.

3 | Temple

Little Joe y La Familia Museum
2903 S. General Bruce Dr., Temple, TX 76504
254.773.1775
www.littlejoeylafamilia.com

Fans of Tejano music or Texas music history should visit this museum operated by "la familia." Vintage photos adorn the walls of the Little Joe y La Familia Museum, which documents its subject's life, family (he's one of 13 children), and decades-long career. Born Jose Maria DeLeon Hernandez, Little Joe (and predecessor Beto Villa) turned traditional conjunto music on its head. His music paid homage to his Mexican heritage while embracing a range of Americanized styles, from blues and jazz to country. Little Joe's music was an integral part of the Chicano movement and earned him the nickname "King of the Brown Sound."

In 1992, Little Joe y La Familia won a Grammy Award for the album "Diez y Seis de Septiembre." The gold statue is proudly displayed along with Hernandez's honors from the Tejano Music Awards and the Texas Governor's Award.

Mission Dolores Visitor Center, San Augustine

FOREST
TRAIL REGION
www.texasforesttrail.com

4 | Grapeland

Mission Tejas State Park
120 State Park Rd. 44, Grapeland, TX 75844
936.687.2394
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/mission-tejas

This 660-acre park contains a replica of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, the first Spanish mission in East Texas. The modest mission was originally established in 1690 along El Camino Real de los Tejas by Spanish explorer Alonso de León and four Franciscan priests. It was built in just three days for the purpose of converting Native Americans. Three years later, a priest preempted a rumored Indian attack by burying the cannon, mission bells, and other items before setting fire to the mission. The Spanish abandoned and reestablished it twice before finally closing it in 1730.

Though the original mission is long gone, a replica of the simple, one-room log structure was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s on a secluded hilltop surrounded by towering pines. Inside, contrasting flagstones lead to a petrified-wood fireplace, with log pews for quiet reflection.

Don't miss the park's Rice Family Log Home. Originally located about 16 miles southwest, the house provides a glimpse into life on the Texas frontier. Constructed in 1828 as a single room and expanded later, it was a waypoint for travelers along El Camino Real de los Tejas.

5 | Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Museum (SM, RTHL)
Stephen F. Austin University,
1808 Alumni Dr. N., Nacogdoches, TX 75962
936.468.2408
www.sfasu.edu/stonefort/

When Antonio Gil Ybarbo laid out the town of Nacogdoches on El Camino Real de los Tejas in 1779, he also built a two-story stone structure as his home, storehouse, and trading post. It remained one of the largest buildings in town for nearly a century and was used as a fort, courthouse, and saloon. During the early 1800s, the Stone House was headquarters for two early efforts to proclaim Texas independence from Mexico—one by the Gutierrez-Magee expedition and another by James Long. The house was torn down in 1901, and a replica was constructed for the Texas Centennial in 1936 using the original stones. Located on the Stephen F. Austin University campus, the Old Stone Fort Museum features permanent and rotating exhibits.

6 | San Augustine

Mission Dolores Visitor Center (NR, SM)
701 S. Broadway St., San Augustine, TX 75972
936.275.3815
visit.sanaugustinetx.com/sites/md.html

Established by Franciscans for the native Ais people of the Ayish Bayou, Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais was one of six missions built by Spain in 1716–17 to expand its influence. The French reacted to the expansion with hostility, resulting in closure of the mission two years later before reopening in 1722. Although a handful of priests and soldiers occupied the mission for the next 60 years, the Ais mostly refused to live there. Abandoned in 1773, evidence of the mission slowly disappeared until even its location was in dispute by the mid-20th century.

In the 1970s, excavations uncovered the lost mission, and the museum tells the story revealed through archeological investigations and research. Shards of recovered Native American, Spanish, and French pottery indicate mission occupants traded with the French in nearby Natchitoches, although such trade was forbidden by Spanish law. A short film and diorama of the mission complex bring to life the results of ongoing site research.

LOS CAMINOS REALES

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail route, Milam County
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

The renowned El Camino Real brims with Texas lore and history. Although often thought of as a single road—El Camino Real—there were actually multiple routes with this designation—los caminos reales. Each one consisted of a network of trails with different routes used at different times. These so-called "king's highways" or "royal ways" were integral in facilitating the economic and demographic development of Texas, as well as dispersing a variety of cultural traditions, helping to create a more diverse heritage for the state.

Officially, los caminos reales connected Spanish capital cities or other crown-sponsored locales. The trails often traced long-used Native American trade routes. Several routes in the modern-day U.S. were designated caminos reales, including two in Texas that are now National Historic Trails. The road from Mexico City to Santa Fe, New Mexico, referred to as El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, traversed the far western tip of Texas, near El Paso. Perhaps more recognized, however, is its companion route to the east—what most Texans think of as El Camino Real.

During its earliest years, the 2,500-mile El Camino Real de los Tejas route began in Mexico City, crossed the Rio Grande at several locations near modern-day Guerrero, and ran to Los Adaes (now Robeline, Louisiana), the then-capital of the Texas province. Eventually, the road and its many offshoots connected a series of Spanish missions and posts throughout south, central, and east Texas. Most of Texas' earliest communities were established on or near the trail, and the early travelers became some of the first Tejano settlers.

El Camino Real de los Tejas was also a key route connecting Texas to the rest of the world. The road linked the territory to trade goods, information, and even military protection coming from Mexico. The route acted as a conduit for migration into the state and enabled trade between the Spanish, French, Native Americans, and Americans. As these groups of people traveled the road and exchanged ideas and material goods, Texas quickly became home to a convergence of cultures.

Even after the Spanish colonial era ended and settlement expanded to other parts of Texas, the networks of roads known as El Camino Real de los Tejas continued to be an important transportation corridor. Today, SH 21 roughly follows part of the old royal road, and the National Park Service links many of the sites together on El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.

Presidio de San Sabá, Menard

FORTS
TRAIL REGION
www.texasfortstrail.com

7 | Mason

St. Joseph's Catholic Church (SM)
216 Ave. B, Mason, TX 76856
325.347.6932

This modest church atop a hill in the Central Texas city of Mason has been serving the Catholic community for more than a century. Built in 1876 of red sandstone quarried from the area, St. Joseph's was originally a small, one-room chapel that has since expanded to include a parish hall and classrooms for religious education. A grotto shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of the Americas, greets visitors.

Club Victoria members Rene and Robert Gonzales, Menard

The sky blue ceiling was originally painted by parishioner Manuel López in the early 1900s. For decades, the doves and angels, meant to represent the Holy Spirit in traditional Spanish Baroque style, were covered with acoustic ceiling tiles. They were only discovered after a tornado tore away the church roof in 1989. The ceiling has been carefully restored, adding a touch of elegance commonly found in historic churches throughout Mexico. As the church does not hold regular visitation hours outside its Mass schedule, please call the number provided to schedule a time to view the church.

8 | Menard

Club Victoria
806 Frisco Ave., Menard, TX 76859

Due to its proximity to Fort McKavett, Presidio de San Sabá, and the San Saba River, the Menard area has a rich, multi-generational history of Mexican American families. Club Victoria holds decades of memories for local Tejanos beginning during World War II. As area Tejanos responded to the call to service, an old barracks was put to use when locals, friends, and family members gathered to celebrate the successful return of the Hispanic community from the war and mourn those lost. The club honored groups during a period of segregation when Mexican Americans could not go to other clubs. Now a large events center, the club exhibits the history and fosters the same spirit of community by hosting celebratory gatherings such as reunions and parties.

Presidio de San Sabá (NR, SAL, SM)
191 Presidio Rd., Menard, TX 76859
325.396.4682
www.presidiodesansaba.com

Marking the farthest extent of Spanish penetration into Apache and Comanche territory, this short-lived presidio is strategically located on the San Saba River about two miles west of Menard.

The first structure was a timber fort named Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas. In 1761, it was renamed and replaced by a stone structure.

Native landscaping and the partial walls that once formed the captain's quarters, guardhouse, and chapel provide a glimpse into the original installation. During its operation, the presidio defended the Mission Santa Cruz de San Sabá about four miles downriver, where priests served the community and worked to convert Lipan Apaches.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Menard

Sacred Heart Catholic Church (RTHL)
609 Ellis St. (Highway 83), Menard, TX 76859
325.396.4906
www.menardchamber.com

Now known in Menard as the "old Catholic church," the original Sacred Heart Catholic Church is a few blocks away from its 1955 replacement. Before its construction along the Ditch Walk *acequia*, local Catholics could only celebrate Mass when a traveling priest came through town. But in 1899, Father Baudrillard directed the construction of this church, using limestone quarried by hand and transported via horse and wagon. By 1955, the congregation had outgrown the structure, and the parish was relocated to the New Sacred Heart Church.

The small town of Menard owes its eventual settlement to an early irrigation system, or *acequia*, created by Spanish inhabitants in 1757. The approximately 10-mile canal used gravity to provide water for farming the San Saba River Valley, including the area surrounding the nearby Presidio de San Sabá. Operated by the Menard Irrigation Company since 1905, the canal is still part of a functional irrigation system. The half-mile section of the canal system that runs through downtown is known as the historic Ditch Walk.

9 | San Angelo

Dr. Ralph R. Chase West Texas Collection
Angelo State University, 2601 W. Ave. N, San Angelo, TX 76903
325.942.2164
www.angelo.edu/services/library/wtcoll/

This Angelo State University library houses more than 190 collections chronicling the region's extensive history, including several impressive Hispanic collections with exhibits and materials available in the Elmer Kelton Reading Room on the second floor of the Houston Harte University Center. Tejano materials range from handmade spurs dating to the era of Spanish conquistadors in the Joe and Hope Russell Collection to documents revealing Pancho Villa's Mexican Revolution activities in the Williwood Meador Collection, along with more recent local historical collections. Visitors requesting materials will wait a few moments for staff to get them from the climate-controlled storeroom, and don white gloves to peruse the delicate documents and photographs.

Just a few miles away, downtown San Angelo's El Paseo de Santa Angela, a five-block river walk, connects cultural and historic sites. Visitors on the path can see Spanish Colonial and Mexican religious art exhibits at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, learn about regional railroad history at the Historic Orient-Santa Fe Depot, and conclude at the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark.

West Texas Collection, San Angelo State University

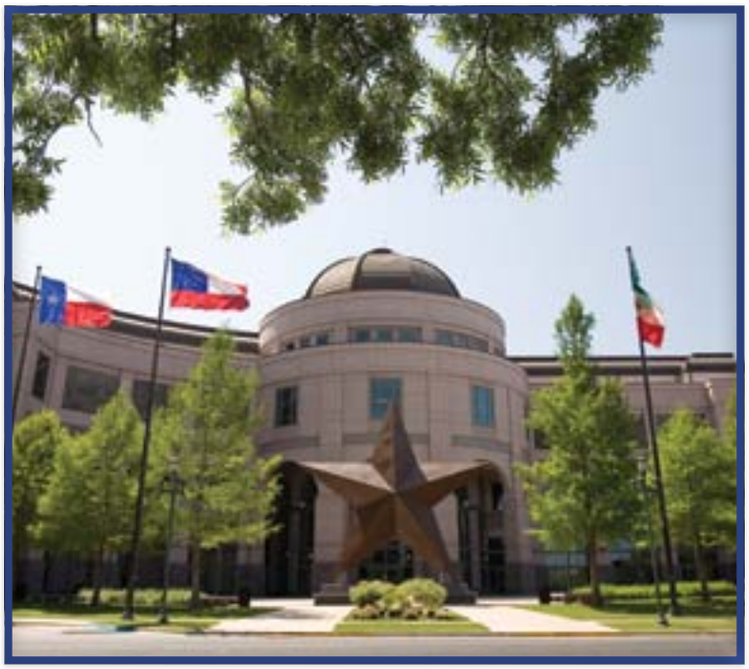
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, Austin

HILL COUNTRY
TRAIL REGION
www.txhillcountrytrail.com

10 | Austin

Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701
512.936.8746
www.thestoryoftexas.com

Located between the University of Texas campus and the State Capitol, the state history museum houses many artifacts telling the story of Texas. The vast scope of subject matter is divided into three themes—land, identity, and opportunity, with each given its own floor of exhibits.



Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin

On the first floor, view the *La Belle* shipwreck exhibit, and then trace the routes of Spanish explorers and early settlement along *los caminos reales* through maps, tools, and personal artifacts. On the second floor, enter the Revolution Theater's Alamo facade to watch the story of the battle for Texas independence from the perspective of Juan Seguín, the Tejano statesman and soldier who witnessed several of the battles. Learn about the Civil War activities of Col. Santos Benavides and others who fought for the Confederacy. The third-floor Sports and Music exhibit features Lydia Mendoza, a Conjunto Music Hall of Fame inductee, who received the National Medal of Arts in 1999. The Ranching Heritage exhibit showcases the *vaquero* legacy and Rosa Hinojosa de Ballí, remembered as the first "cattle queen" of Texas. At the time of her death in 1803, her ranch lands had grown to more than one million acres.

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
600 River St., Austin, TX 78701
512.974.3772
www.austintexas.gov/esbmacc

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center teaches about Hispanic culture and inspires new generations. Two galleries offer free access to exhibits by Latino artists, while a residency program hosts theatrical, dance, and music performances. Visitors can participate in a broad range of free and low-cost activities, including salsa dance classes, traditional craft workshops, music lessons, bilingual arts camps, and fitness classes conducted in Spanish.

The building's stucco exterior recalls traditional Mexican architecture, while a stark white interior provides a modern contrast. An upstairs balcony awards a scenic view of Lady Bird Lake and a path of colored brick arranged in a pattern to form a Mexican Milk Snake. An outdoor courtyard features a sculpture that is part of the Trail of Tejano Music Legends, which partly parallels the Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail.

Tejano Monument, State Capitol, Austin

Tejano Monument
State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701
512.463.0063
www.tspb.state.tx.us/SPB/Gallery/MonuList/19.htm

The 22-acre Capitol lawn offers a respite in downtown Austin and features a monument to the state's early Tejanos. Designed and sculpted by native Texan Armando Hinojosa, a massive slab of granite is topped by bronze figures representing Spanish exploration, pre-Anglo settlement, and the birth of ranching in Texas. The idea for the monument was born in 2000 when South Texas physician Cayetano Barrera realized none of the 18 monuments at the Capitol recognized Hispanic contributions. It took 12 years for the Tejano Monument Committee to get the 10-piece statue created, installed, and unveiled.

Inside the Capitol, portraits of legislators document diversity over time. The complex and monument are free and open to the public seven days a week, with guided and audio tours available.

Tejano Walking Trail
Roughly bounded by Interstate 35, Robert T. Martinez Jr. Street, East 7th Street, and the Colorado River
www.txhillcountrytrail.com/tejanowalkingtrail

Located in the Tejano neighborhoods of East Cesar Chavez and Holly near downtown Austin, this 4.9-mile self-guided trail features 22 culturally significant sites. The area has long been home to Hispanic residents, many of whom were displaced by urban development. The trail highlights places important to locals, and residents have fought hard to preserve these neighborhood treasures and stave off gentrification.

In 2012, the Tejano Walking Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail. It is best toured by foot or bicycle, though many parts can be seen by vehicle. Featured sites along the trail include the Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center, historic neighborhood parks, churches, Hispanic-owned businesses, and historic homes such as the Briones House—the latter is known as "Casa de Sueños" in reference to the homeowner's lifelong endeavor to build his dream home. Genaro Briones built the house over a 14-year period, gracing the structure with plaster flowers, stars, and faux wood textures.

Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry (NR, SAL, SM)
2200 W. 35th St., Austin, TX 78703
512.782.5659
www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org

Home of the Texas Military Forces (Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, and Texas State Guard), Camp Mabry was established in the 1890s and used as a mobilization point for Texas forces during the Spanish-American War. During World War I, it served as a U.S. Army training camp. In World War II, it was headquarters for the Texas Defense Guard.

The museum's exterior exhibits feature dozens of tanks, armored-personnel carriers, artillery pieces, and other military vehicles. Inside, historic flags, maps, and Texas military regalia line the walls of the 45,000-square-foot museum. Battle dioramas, full-scale war-scene mock-ups, weapons, and uniforms shed light on the state's role in conflicts ranging from the Texas Revolution to the U.S.-Mexico War to both World Wars, the Cold War, and contemporary operations. Each April, the museum hosts the family-friendly Military Forces Muster Day, featuring battle reenactments, parachute demonstrations, living history camps, and helicopter fly-bys.

Briones House along the Tejano Walking Trail, Austin

INDEPENDENCE

The San Jacinto Monument at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, La Porte

Texas' independence from Mexico was the result of complex differences resulting from Mexico's brutal war for independence from Spain and political disputes in the newly formed republican government. Concurrently, new laws opened Texas land to U.S. immigration. Ultimately, the war for Texas independence (1835–36) raised complicated questions for Tejanos, not least of which was where they would place their loyalties and destinies.

When Antonio López de Santa Anna declared himself dictator in 1835 and abolished the constitution, he met fierce resistance from not just Texians—newly-arrived immigrants from the U.S. and Europe—but also from Tejanos. This group included Juan Seguín, José Antonio Navarro, José Francisco Ruiz, and Plácido Benavides who fought for a more democratic Mexican government. However, as the fight shifted in early 1836 to a complete break from Mexico, some of these Tejanos—Benavides among them—chose to remain loyal to their mother country and withdrew from the conflict. Others such as Seguín, turned against their country and joined the Texians in a fight for independence. Eight Tejanos died in defense of the Alamo, and many more fought in Seguín's unit at the Battle of San Jacinto, securing Texas' independence.

In the new Republic of Texas, however, many Anglo Texans remained deeply suspicious about the loyalties of most Tejanos, even those such as Benavides. His was one of many Tejano families forced to flee their homes in Texas and seek refuge in other countries. Although they faced severe challenges, Seguín and Navarro were among the few Tejanos to serve in the Republic's new government and try to protect Tejanos' land rights and interests.

Navarro was the only Tejano delegate elected to the Convention of 1845, which voted to accept U.S. annexation. He later helped write the first state constitution and successfully fought to eliminate language denying voting and property rights to Tejanos. However, once the U.S.-Mexico War concluded, establishing the Rio Grande as the international border, Tejanos faced discrimination and violence fueled by intolerance.

Despite this, most Tejanos chose to accept U.S. citizenship and remained in Texas to cultivate vibrant communities that built upon their deeply rooted Mexican heritage.

Presidio La Bahía, Goliad

INDEPENDENCE
TRAIL REGION
www.texasindependencetrail.com

11 | Fannin

! Fannin Battleground State Historic Site (SM)
734 FM 2506, Fannin, TX 77905
979.885.2181
www.visitfanninbattleground.com

This Texas Historical Commission site commemorates the Battle of Coleto Creek, which occurred less than a month after the Battle of the Alamo. On March 19, 1836, 300 Texian volunteers led by Gen. James Fannin retreated from Presidio la Bahía to Coleto Creek. They were tracked by Mexican forces under Gen. José de Urrea, and the Texians fought off repeated attacks during the day. By nightfall, the Texas forces were completely surrounded. With seven Texians dead and 28 wounded, Fannin surrendered. Though Urrea recommended clemency, Fannin's company was marched to Goliad, and then executed by order of Mexican Gen. Santa Anna. Known as the Goliad Massacre, "Remember Goliad!" became a rallying cry for Texas forces.

Today, the site contains a large stone obelisk commemorating Fannin's surrender. An interpretive exhibit with an interactive battle map, outdoor interpretive panels, a group pavilion, and picnic area enable visitors to reflect on the battle's pivotal role in state history.

12 | Goliad

A. Presidio La Bahía (NHL, RTHL, SAL, SM)
217 Loop 71 Hwy. 183, Goliad, TX 77963
361.645.3752
www.presidiolabahia.org

B. Zaragoza Birthplace (NR, SM)
108 Park Rd. 6, Goliad, TX 77963
361.645.3405
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/goliad

C. Mission Espíritu Santo (RTHL, SM)
108 Park Rd. 6, Goliad, TX 77963
361.645.3405
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/goliad

Three sites offer a rare glimpse into the relationship between presidios and missions in the Spanish Colonial period, when Spain expanded its empire through military presence and religious conversion. Presidios, fortified compounds housing Spanish soldiers, provided protection for Catholic missions, which sought to convert native populations into loyal Spanish subjects through religious and cultural assimilation.

Presidio La Bahía and Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga were both relocated in 1749 to opposite sides of the San Antonio River (the church was reconstructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s). The natural topography allowed views from one site to the other and access to a connecting segment of El Camino Real de los Tejas, an important north-south trade route. Located just outside the presidio's walls, Zaragoza Birthplace State Historic Site is representative of the simple adobe houses once surrounding the presidio in the town of La Bahía. Ignacio Zaragoza led Mexican forces in the defeat of an invading French army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, giving rise to the Cinco de Mayo holiday brought to the U.S. by later Mexican immigrants. A Mexican national hero, his story illustrates the interconnectedness of Texas and Mexico beyond the Spanish and Mexican eras.

13 | Houston

Julia Ideson Building (Houston Public Library) Murals
(NR, RTHL, SAL, SM)
550 McKinney St., Houston, TX 77002, 832.393.1662
www.houstonlibrary.org/julia-ideson-building

Graceful and ornate, the 1926 Spanish Renaissance-style Julia Ideson Building reflects the optimistic spirit of the 1920s in an oil boom town. But within a decade of completion, the country's fortunes had

turned and, during the Great Depression, the interior became a canvas for muralists of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A total of eight murals painted by three women make it Houston's largest collection of WPA murals.

Inside, a quick right turn brings visitors to three murals painted by Angela McDonnell between 1934 and 1936 depicting the New World's Spanish influences. The first mural, "Ávila, the Excuses for Conquest," illustrates Spain's 1492 Conquest of Andalusia. The central mural, "La Rábida, Cradle of the New World," features Christopher Columbus and Father Juan Pérez, a monk who helped ensure Queen Isabella's funding of Columbus' historical voyage. "Toledo, Art and Literature in Spain" symbolizes Spain's cultural influence on the west. It depicts El Greco, a prominent figure of the Spanish Renaissance, and Miguel de Cervantes' fictional windmill-slayer Don Quixote.

Julia Ideson Building Murals, Houston

Segundo Barrio and Magnolia Park
Roughly bounded by Clinton Drive, railroad tracks to the west, Leeland Street, Telephone Road, Lawndale Street, and Loop 610

One of Houston's historical political districts, Second Ward—also known as Segundo Barrio or simply Segundo—grew after World War II as many Mexican Americans moved into the area. Still largely populated by Mexican Americans and residents of Hispanic heritage, the neighborhood retains much of its Latino influence. Even modern improvements to the surrounding area continue to reflect Segundo's Hispanic culture.

Talento Bilingüe de Houston is a Latino cultural arts and community center just east of downtown and north of Guadalupe Plaza Park that regularly hosts multicultural performances, educational programming and workshops, and summer arts camps. A variety of stores and restaurants that further represent the community's Latino heritage are within walking distance of the center.

With cultural and social ties to Segundo Barrio, the nearby Magnolia Park neighborhood was constructed in 1890. Lined with nearly 4,000 magnolia trees, it is one of the oldest Hispanic neighborhoods in Houston. It grew as many Mexicans and Mexican Americans fleeing the turmoil of the Mexican Revolution in Mexico and South Texas established roots here, often working at the nearby Houston Ship Channel or laying railroad tracks. By the mid-1920s, Magnolia Park evolved into the city's largest Mexican American community, earning the nickname "Little Mexico."

The working class neighborhood expanded in the 1960s and became a hotbed of activism in the 1970s, particularly with the establishment of *Papel Chicano*, a newspaper covering the Chicano movement. To experience the area's thriving Mexican heritage, enjoy an authentic meal, discover the work of Latino musicians at a local record shop, and visit the historic buildings and a variety of Spanish-language businesses.

14 | La Porte

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site (NHL, SAL, SM)
3523 Independence Pkwy., La Porte, TX 77571
281.479.2431
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/san-jacinto-battleground

This historically rich landmark includes not only the location of the Battle of San Jacinto and the *USS Texas*, but also the San Jacinto Museum of History. Granite markers throughout the battleground recount the 18-minute fight for Texas independence on April 21, 1836. Gen. Sam Houston's small Texian army, which included Juan N. Seguín and Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr., defeated the 1,200-man Mexican army under Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna.

The centerpiece of the park is the 570-foot monument, a lone star-topped obelisk set upon a foundation housing the San Jacinto Museum of History. After perusing the museum's displays, dioramas, and artifacts, including weaponry from both sides, don't miss the 35-minute film "Texas Forever! The Battle of San Jacinto." The observation floor offers panoramic views 489 feet above the site.

Outside the San Jacinto Battleground, stop by Juan Seguín Park at 4407 Independence Pkwy. to read the dramatic panels depicting the events and locations of the Runaway Scrape, including the nearby Lynchburg Ferry landing site.

15 | San Antonio

The Alamo (NHL, RTHL, SAL, SM)
300 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
210.225.1391
www.thealamo.org

Tejano pride runs deep at the Alamo, the most visited and (arguably) revered historic site in Texas. This shrine of Texas liberty is now a beautiful 4.2-acre museum complex drawing millions of visitors annually to experience its rich 300-year history. Displays featuring weaponry, documents, and clothing line the barracks, while a diorama of the Alamo grounds in the 1800s offers visitors a peek into life behind these walls.

The Alamo began as Mission San Antonio de Valero, the first of five Spanish missions established in the San Antonio area. Construction on the iconic church began in 1755. By the time of the seminal 1836

Battle of the Alamo, the complex had served as a convent and hospital for several decades.

Tejanos fought for Texas independence, with some losing their lives in defense of the Alamo. Nearly destroyed after the 1836 battle, the Alamo complex was later converted to a supply depot by the U.S. Army. In 1850, the well-known arched parapet was added. At the turn of the 20th century, due to the efforts of Adina de Zavala and Clara Driscoll, the state purchased the site from private owners and conveyed custody to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. In 2011, the preservation and responsibility of the Alamo on behalf of the State of Texas was given to the Texas General Land Office.

Casa Navarro State Historic Site, San Antonio

! Casa Navarro State Historic Site (NR, RTHL, SAL)
228 S. Laredo St., San Antonio, TX 78207
210.226.4801
www.visitcasanavarro.com

José Antonio Navarro's home, now a Texas Historical Commission site, is located in the heart of old San Antonio, just over a mile from the Alamo. The small compound, composed of three white adobe structures, exhibits the Texas statesman's career as a tireless advocate for Texas independence and Tejano rights in the mid-1800s. It also provides a glimpse into the once-thriving Tejano neighborhood, Laredito. Visitors learn about the legendary owner's considerable political and social accomplishments. Children of all ages are encouraged to interact with educational exhibits.

A successful merchant, rancher, and statesman, Navarro was one of only two native Texans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836. He served as a voice for his community and culture in the Texas legislatures under Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the State of Texas. After retirement, Navarro continued advancing Tejano rights as a writer for the *San Antonio Ledger*.

Dolores-Applewhite Crossing (NR)
In Medina River Natural Area near intersection of Jett and Applewhite roads, San Antonio, TX 78264
210.207.3000
www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/greenway_trails_old_medina.aspx

San Antonio's 511-acre Medina River Natural Area offers a variety of trails on the city's south side, many of which hold historical significance dating to Spanish Colonial times. The property is located on a portion of the approximately 4,400 acres of land granted to eventual Spanish Texas governor Ignacio Pérez in the 1700s, and includes one of the state's oldest family ranches. In recent years, archeological investigations have revealed centuries-old activity in the area, including wheel marks in creek beds at the Dolores Applewhite Crossing that indicate its use as part of the legendary El Camino Real de los Tejas.

To experience the view from the Spanish Colonial period firsthand, hike the seven-mile El Chaparral Trail. From the parking lot off Jett Road, take the sidewalk westward, where subtle swales lead to the historic river crossing, also known as the Paso de Dolores. The hiking trail passes a reconstructed *jacal*, a structure believed to be original to the Perez Ranch, one of the earliest ranches in Texas.

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center
723 S. Brazos St., San Antonio, TX 78207
210.271.3151
www.guadalupeculturalarts.org

Located at Guadalupe Ybarra and Brazos streets, this is one of many cultural institutions serving the Westside community. Along with art and theater classes, concerts, and performing arts events, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center hosts an international Latino film festival and exhibits works by local artists.

Nearby sites of interest include the 1926 Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, a Romanesque Revival sanctuary named for the patron saint of the Americas. This Westside church was established to serve the area's Spanish speakers, many of whom settled here after fleeing the Mexican Revolution. Also worth a visit are the family-owned La Chiquita Bakery; the MujerArtes art cooperative, which empowers Mexican American women through craftwork; and "*En Aquellos Tiempos… Fotohistorias del Westside,*" a street installation of mural-like photo banners with scenes from the 1900s–1950s.

HemisFair Park
434 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78205
210.207.6700
www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/dt_directory_hemisfair_plaza.aspx

This 15-acre downtown park with a vibrant past was originally known as "Barrio de Valero." The neighborhood developed after the closing of Mission Valero in the 1790s, becoming home to a

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CIVIL RIGHTS

LULAC leader Alonso S. Perales with Henry Guerra, 1954
University of Houston Libraries

The civil rights quest has been a journey of racism, struggle, and eventual victories over long-held discriminatory traditions. For Tejanos, the battle for educational, legal, social, and economic equality began with the Texas Revolution, when leaders such as José Antonio Navarro fought to remind Anglos they were Texans, too.

Confronting violence was a way of life for countless Tejanos, as Anglo citizens and authorities used brutality for political and social control. Mexican Texans were also disenfranchised by the same poll-tax laws and literacy tests directed at African Americans. By the early 20th century, a combination of Jim Crow laws, property deed restrictions, and entrenched social customs forced Tejanos into separate residential areas, public facilities, and schools, with segregation practices varying greatly by community or region.

To protect against injustices and improve conditions, Tejanos formed *sociedades mutualistas*, or mutual aid societies. These organizations proliferated after World War I, and many expanded their scope to promote integration and protection of civil rights. Organizations such as *Orden Hijos de America* (Order of Sons of America) were dedicated to civic involvement and equality issues. These societies gave rise to the 1929 formation of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the first national Mexican American civil rights and political advocacy organization.

Labor issues also played an important role in Tejanos' struggle for civil rights. Hispanic women, led by Emma Tenayuca, protested poor working conditions and pay reductions by walking off the job in the 1938 Pecan-Shellers' Strike in San Antonio. Similar protests took place across the state as workers in other industries demanded fair treatment.

Post-World War II, Tejano veteran Dr. Hector P. García founded the American GI Forum to advocate for Mexican American veterans' rights. After gaining high profile exposure for involvement in the Longoria Affair, the organization then fought for voting rights and to desegregate schools. While federal and state legislation in the 1960s removed many barriers to equality, organizations like this continued to advocate for social justice.

Like their counterparts in other states, Texas farmworkers battled for better working conditions and fair pay. The 1966 Starr County Strike, led by a representative of César Chávez's National Farm Workers' Association (later the United Farm Workers), gained national attention. After months of protests, picketing, and arrests, the farmworkers began an arduous march to Austin. Gov. John Connally opted instead to meet them in New Braunfels to announce he would not support their demands. Protests continued, inspiring many younger Tejanos to join the national Chicano movement and establish a new generation of institutions such as La Raza Unida political party, in support of Mexican American empowerment and equality.

mixed population of assimilated Indians, military families, and civilian residents seeking their own homesteads. The neighborhood was condemned by the city for HemisFair '68. This world's fair celebrated the close relationship of nations in North and South America through trade and culture, with a significantly greater representation from Latin American countries than previous events. HemisFair was also distinguished by the adaptive reuse of historic buildings on site, a significant departure from previous world's fairs and urban renewal projects. The fairgrounds captured the attention of the world and spurred San Antonio's now-thriving tourist industry, creating a new civic center with a convention hall, federal courthouse, park space, and River Walk extension.

Renamed Hemisfair Park in 1988, several buildings from HemisFair '68 can still be visited, including the Institute of Texan Cultures (formerly the State of Texas Pavilion), Instituto Cultural de Mexico (formerly the Mexico Pavilion), and the landmark Tower of the Americas. This 622-foot observation tower and restaurant designed by architect O'Neil Ford was built as the signature structure of HemisFair '68. Juan O'Gorman's giant mural, named after the official theme of the fair ("The Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas"), can be seen on the Lila Cockrell Theater at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center.

Spanish Governor's Palace, San Antonio

Main and Military Plazas Historic District (NR)
Bounded by West Houston Street, North Santa Rosa Avenue, West Nueva Street, and North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
210.207.6700
www.sanantonio.gov/historic/Districts/Main_Military_Plaza.aspx

This historic district is the cultural and political epicenter of San Antonio. As one of the oldest permanently settled areas in the state, it also represents the evolution of Spanish-influenced architectural styles. Established in 1722 for Spanish soldiers, Military Plaza is anchored by the Spanish Governor's Palace, a reconstruction of a private home. The structure served as the residence and office of the *comandancia*, or presidio captain. Visitors can see furniture, tools, and accessories representative of the Spanish Colonial period.

Notice the Italian Renaissance Revival architecture of City Hall as you make your way to the Main Plaza (also known as Plaza de Armas), with the restored Romanesque Revival style Bexar County Courthouse and the grand San Fernando Cathedral, one of the nation's oldest active cathedrals. Built in the early 1700s by settlers from the Canary Islands, the church was eventually incorporated as the sanctuary of the Gothic Revival cathedral, which was completed in 1868. Within its limestone walls is a marble tomb said to be the final resting place of William Travis and other Alamo defenders.

About two miles southwest is San Fernando Cemetery No. 1, the burial grounds for San Antonio's Catholic population until 1922. Influential Tejanos interred there include José Antonio Navarro, Capt. José Antonio Manchaca, and José de Jesús Rodriguez.

El Mercado
514 W. Commerce St., San Antonio, TX 78207
210.207.8600
www.marketsquaresa.com

Leaving behind the busy intersection at West Commerce Street and Santa Rosa Avenue, visitors can wander the *papel picado*-lined walkways of bustling El Mercado (Historic Market Square). With

El Mercado, San Antonio

more than 100 shops and stalls in the Market Square, Produce Row, and Farmers Market Plaza, traditional and modern examples of Mexican craft, clothing, and cookery abound. Working artists sponsored by the City of San Antonio set up throughout the square, creating and selling handicrafts.

Traditional Mexican cookware and ingredients, such as *molcajetes* and dried chiles, are easily found in many shops, as is fresh, handmade food. Carrying on the legacy of the "Chili Queens" of the mid-1800s, food stalls and eateries on the plaza serve Mexican street-food delicacies such as *gorditas*, *elotes*, and *aguas frescas*.

Back at the corner of Santa Rosa and West Commerce, the Texas A&M University–San Antonio Educational and Cultural Arts Center provides a series of exhibitions and innovative programming to increase understanding and appreciation of Latino arts and cultures and their influences in the U.S.

Mission Concepción, San Antonio

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (NHL, RTHL, SAL)
6701 San Jose Dr., San Antonio, TX 78214
210.932.1001
www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm

The iconic Alamo is one of five missions built in San Antonio by Spanish missionaries in the 1700s. Originally named Mission San Antonio de Valero when it was founded in 1718 as the first and northernmost mission along the San Antonio River, the beloved mission chapel dates to the 1750s.

The San Antonio Missions' visitors center at Mission San José is a good starting place for today's explorers, who can bike the seven-mile trail connecting the lower four missions. Don't miss little details at each mission, such as the original frescos inside Mission Concepción or the legendary rose window at Mission San José. San José's onsite church, constructed of limestone in 1787, is still in use today.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park also includes Rancho de las Cabras, the site of a ranching operation that supported Mission San Francisco de la Espada during the last half of the 18th century. The ranch sustained large herds of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and oxen, bred and tended by Spanish *vaqueros* and Native Americans. Located along the San Antonio River near Floresville, the National Park Service provides guided tours of the Rancho de las Cabras site the first Saturday of each month. Call the San Antonio Missions visitors center in advance for tour reservations and information.

Trabajo Rústico
Located throughout San Antonio
www.kingwilliamassociation.org/kwa/images/pdfs/trabajo-rustico-map.pdf

From the Brackenridge Park footbridge to the 1927 Alamo Heights streetcar-turned-bus stop, the sculptures of Dionicio Rodríguez and his protégés are an artistic legacy for San Antonio. The *trabajo rústico* (rustic work)—or faux bois (imitation wood) technique used natural elements as inspiration for cement creations.

Born in 1881 in Toluca, Mexico, Rodríguez settled in the San Antonio area in the early 1920s after working in construction and dabbling in art throughout Mexico City, Monterrey, and Laredo. During 30 years in the San Antonio area, Rodríguez and colleagues such as Máximo Cortés crafted bridges, benches, fences, and other functional artwork throughout the city to resemble crosscut logs, tree trunks, and branches with peeling bark. Today, Mexican American artisans continue this traditional Mexican handicraft, including Cortés' grandson Carlos, who runs Studio Cortés. From public art installations to smaller garden sculptures, the third-generation artist keeps the area's *trabajo rústico* tradition alive.

La Villita Historic District (NR)
Bounded by West Market Street, South St. Mary's Street, East Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard, and South Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
210.207.8614
www.lavillita.com

Originally a Payaya Indian settlement, Spanish explorers and missionaries first came to the site of the present-day "Little Village" in 1691. The earliest *jacales*, occupied by Spanish soldiers stationed at the nearby Mission San Antonio de Valero, were washed away in an 1819 flood. They were soon replaced by sturdier adobe houses, many of which still stand today. A wide range of architectural styles and materials, from adobe to rough-cut limestone to Victorian woodwork, are evident in the many shops, restaurants, and galleries that comprise one of the city's oldest neighborhoods.

Despite its architectural treasures and rich history as the site of important battles in the Texas Revolution, La Villita had

deteriorated severely by the early 20th century. Restored and revitalized during the Great Depression by the efforts of the Works Progress Administration and National Youth Administration, the historic area now has a thriving arts community. The district can be easily accessed from the River Walk by way of Rosita's Bridge, named in honor of beloved Tejano music icon Rosita Fernández.

Juan Seguín Monument, Seguin

16 | Seguin

Juan Seguín Burial Site (SM)
789 S. Saunders St., Seguin, TX 78155
www.seguintexas.gov/parks_recreation/detail/juan_seguin_grave_site

Marked with a modest granite slab, the gravesite of 19th-century Texas statesman Juan Nepomuceno Seguín is on a hillside shaded by towering live oaks. A small sign directs visitors to the tranquil spot near the Seguin Activity Center where the brave Tejano now rests. Originally buried in Nuevo Laredo, his remains were reinterred here in a special ceremony on July 4, 1976.

Born in San Antonio in 1806, Seguín spent most of his life in military service, eventually becoming a colonel. He played a part in the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto, and later directed the burial of the Alamo defenders. As a Republic senator, Seguín also collaborated with representative and fellow native Texan José Antonio Navarro to develop and support legislation protecting the rights of Tejanos.

17 | Victoria

De Leon Plaza (NR, SM)
100 N. Main St., Victoria, TX 77901

Founded by Martín de León in 1824 after Mexico gained independence from Spain, the community of Victoria was laid out following Spanish town-planning traditions. When the 1892 Victoria County Courthouse was built, it was located on a corner across from the original public plaza, rather than in the center of the town square as is common in Anglo planning. Today, the central plaza contains a bandstand, benches, walkways, and large shade trees. Renamed De Leon Plaza in the 1940s to honor the town's founder, the plaza serves as a gathering space and summertime concert venue.

Victoria's El Camino Real de los Tejas sites were important stops on the "Royal Road." The second location of Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, known as the Tonkawa Bank site, is found in beautiful Riverside Park on McCright Drive.

De Leon Plaza, Victoria

18 | Wallisville

Wallisville Heritage Park
20136 I-10, Wallisville, TX 77597
409.389.2252
www.chamberswild.com/the-wallisville-heritage-park

Wallisville Heritage Park includes an archeological district surrounding what was once El Orcoquisac, a Spanish outpost of the mid-1700s that included the San Agustín de Ahumada Presidio and the Nuestra Señora de la Luz Mission. Circa-1813 Spanish coins discovered in nearby Anahuac are on permanent display in the onsite museum, along with an exhibit documenting John V. Clay's discovery of El Orcoquisac. The research center and library hold extensive documentation on the Spanish outpost and Fort Anahuac, as well as genealogical records and more than 10,000 photograph negatives from area families.

Vaquero statue in Marine Commercial Historic District, Fort Worth

LAKES
TRAIL REGION
www.texaslakestrail.com

19 | Dallas

Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe
2215 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75201
214.871.1362
www.cathedralguadalupe.org

Dedicated in 1902 as the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, the city's oldest Catholic Church is in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. Spanish language services are held daily, with the cathedral supporting one of the largest Latino congregations in the U.S. In 1977, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in the nearby "Little Mexico" neighborhood joined Sacred Heart to create one parish renamed the Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe, or the Cathedral Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The imposing red brick and sandstone Gothic Revival cathedral's 100 stained glass windows fill the massive nave, while the apse behind the altar holds the shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The cathedral's massive spire remained incomplete until 2005, when the towering 224-foot spire and 49-bell carillon was completed using recently discovered plans of original architect Nicholas J. Clayton.

Latino Cultural Center of Dallas
2600 Live Oak St., Dallas, TX 75204
214.671.0045
www.dallasculture.org/latinoCulturalCenter

This downtown Dallas center hosts rotating photography, painting, and mixed media exhibits, performing arts events, and community workshops. The vibrant pumpkin hue of the building, designed by world-renowned Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta and his son Victor, sets it apart from its surroundings. Centered on a plaza with a fountain, the modern building evokes traditional Mexican settings. Colorful sculptures decorate the grounds and courtyard, while a mural by Celia Álvarez Muñoz titled "Orientations" graces the rotunda.

The multidisciplinary arts center spotlights Latino works, often by local artists. More than 300 events take place annually, some in the gallery or outdoor plaza, and others in the 300-seat theater. Popular annual occasions include the Hecho en Dallas exhibit, celebrating the city's vibrant arts scene, as well as the Posada, a long-standing Latin American tradition taking place just before Christmas.

Latino Cultural Center of Dallas

Pike Park (SM)
2800 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75201
214.670.4100
www.dallasparks.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Pike-622

This urban park in Dallas' Uptown neighborhood was once a hub for some 10,000 residents of "Little Mexico," many of whom had fled the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. First known as Summit Play Park and limited to use by whites only, the city changed the name in 1927 and the policy in 1931, opening the park's pool to Hispanic swimmers. The outdoor space quickly became the heart of

Dallas History and Archive Division, Dallas Public Library

Pike Park, 1928 Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebration

the Mexican American community. As parents worked in factories or on nearby farms, children of "El Barrio" played baseball, basketball, and football, and the community thrived through the 1960s.

This unique and vibrant neighborhood was later split in two by the Dallas North Tollway. More highways and commercial development leave little remaining of the original community. However, Pike Park continues to host Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebrations as new and former residents remember Little Mexico.

20 | Fort Worth

Marine Commercial Historic District (NR)
Runs along North Main Street, roughly bounded by Northside Drive and 23rd Street, Fort Worth, TX 76164

Running from the stockyards to the Trinity River and anchored by the historic Rose Marine Theater on Main Street, Marine Park evolved into a predominantly Hispanic community by the mid-20th century. The facades of the one- and two-story commercial buildings of this historic district exemplify the Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival styles of the period. Many of the storefronts have been rehabilitated and remain in use. The former Rose Marine Theater now houses the Artes de la Rosa Cultural Center for the Arts, which preserves and promotes the art, life, and history of Latino culture.

Across from the theater, artists David Newton and Tomás Bustos installed a bronze statue commemorating *vaqueros*. Precursors to the American cowboys, these Hispanic herdsmen drove cattle through this very area along the Chisholm Trail. The city's National Premier Soccer League team, the Fort Worth Vaqueros, is named for these influential Mexican pioneers.

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum
3400 Mount Vernon Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76103
817.922.9999
www.cowboysofcolor.org

This nonprofit museum celebrates Texas' multicultural heritage. Contributions to western heritage by all types of men and women are celebrated within the brick walls, including Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and European Americans. Information is available about several key figures in Texas history, including José "Pepe" Díaz, a trick roper and founder of the nation's first charro association, and his son, Gerardo, who continues the charro tradition. Historic photographs and mementos, including saddles and spurs, enliven the narrative. Each year, the museum inducts more pioneers of the American West into its Hall of Fame with the intention of providing an accurate historical perspective of the origins of the west.

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum, Fort Worth

ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN

Magoffin Home State Historic Site, El Paso

From the outset, Tejanos have profoundly shaped the Texas landscape. The state's oldest buildings are Spanish mission complexes, while plaza-oriented layouts in many cities reflect Spanish urban planning. By law, the Spanish platted colonial towns on grids with central plazas that hosted political, military, religious, and social activities. This continued in the Mexican era of Texas and beyond, as Anglo settlers combined the plaza concept with traditional U.S. courthouse squares.

Spanish settlers adapted construction techniques to available materials, creating new methods and styles that have endured. For immediate shelter, settlers often built *jacales*, modest dwellings with vertical wooden posts finished with mud plaster. Surviving *jacales* include the Montalvo House in Brackettville, Luna Jacal in Big Bend National Park, and Pérez Rancho in San Antonio. In regions without abundant timber, builders relied on sun-baked adobe bricks, made with mud and binding material such as straw. Many mission chapels, such as Nuestra Señora de la Concepción de Socorro, near El Paso, feature thick adobe walls, as do residences like the Magoffin Home in El Paso.

On South Texas ranches, Tejanos used sandstone in areas near the Rio Grande or caliche blocks in more distant settlements. The Treviño-Uribe Rancho, a multi-room compound in the San Ygnacio Historic District constructed circa 1830–1871, features thick, windowless sandstone walls, *troneras* (gun ports), and a gated entry designed to keep occupants safe in an isolated, hostile location.

As the state's population diversified, *barrios* (neighborhoods) became centers of Tejano life, often growing into cities within cities. Dallas' Little Mexico grew into a thriving business and residential community, but was split by the Dallas North Tollway in the 1960s. Laredito, the barrio that once surrounded Casa Navarro in San Antonio, was razed in the name of urban renewal. In the early 20th century, segregation impacted the layout of many cities. The border town of Weslaco was divided into two distinct communities—El Pueblo Americano south of the railroad tracks and Mexiquito to the north.

Texas architecture reflects the sharing of culture between ethnic groups, including Tejanos. By the 20th century, many Tejanos adopted architectural styles found throughout the U.S., such as Craftsman bungalows. Meanwhile, Anglos have found design inspiration in the missions and adobe homes.

Terlingua Ghost Town Cemetery, Terlingua

MOUNTAIN
TRAIL REGION
www.texasmountaintrail.com

21 | Big Bend National Park

Big Bend National Park
1 Panther Dr., Big Bend National Park, TX 79834
432.477.2251
www.nps.gov/bibe

Along with abundant natural wonders, the 800,000-acre Big Bend National Park—named for the crook of the Rio Grande on which it's situated—is full of Tejano history. An army compound known as Camp Santa Elena provided shelter for U.S. troops in the park's Castolon Historic District during the Mexican Revolution. After the war, this area served as a trading post for settlers from both sides of the border. Many families who fled Mexico during the revolution settled in the Castolon area and farmed the land for generations. Well-kept adobe ruins that once housed these families dot the area; their legacy is honored by weather-worn headstones in two cemeteries.

Visitors may travel by rowboat to Boquillas, in the Mexican state of Coahuila, via the Boquillas River Crossing. Those not interested in crossing the border can enjoy a sweeping view of Mexican ranchland from the Boquillas Canyon overlook.

"Nuestra Herencia" mural at Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso

22 | El Paso

Camino Real Hotel (NR, SM)
101 S. El Paso St., El Paso, Texas 79901
855.534.3068
www.caminoreal.com/elpaso

Formerly known as the Paso del Norte, this historic downtown destination introduced opulence and luxury to the growing border town when it opened in 1912. From the outset, the hotel served many influential patrons—from political figures such as Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa to U.S. presidents and Hollywood stars, including Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable. During the Mexican Revolution, guests witnessed battles taking place just across the border from the hotel terrace.

Today, the hotel remains a bustling attraction and one of El Paso's most notable historic hotels. Renowned architect Henry C. Trost designed the chateau-style hotel to be both beautiful and practical, engineering the first fireproof structure in the city and modeling it after buildings that had survived the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. A massive stained glass dome created by New York's Louis Comfort Tiffany originally adorned the lobby and is now the hotel's Dome Bar centerpiece.

Located about two blocks to the east is the 1909 Caples Building, another Trost-designed property that played a significant role during the Mexican Revolution. The first high-rise in El Paso, it served as the provisional government headquarters during the revolution. Mexican statesman Francisco I. Madero used the top two floors as his headquarters while provisional president of Mexico. Legend has that he met here with his generals, including Pancho Villa, during the revolution.

Chamizal National Memorial (NR)
800 S. San Marcial St., El Paso, TX 79905
915.532.7273
www.nps.gov/cham

Overlooking the Rio Grande and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, the Chamizal National Memorial is the only national park that flies the

flags of both the U.S. and Mexico. These serve as reminders of the 100-year land dispute between the two nations, which was resolved with the Chamizal Convention in 1963.

Since the end of the U.S.-Mexico War in 1848, the Rio Grande has been the recognized border between Mexico and the U.S. Over time, however, massive floods altered the course of the river, putting a 600-acre portion of Mexican-owned land in U.S. territory. After an 1899 attempt to rechannel the river's path, the Chamizal Convention agreement established a permanent concrete channel division. U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz formally opened the river channel in 1967.

Today, museum exhibits celebrate the peaceful resolution with historical displays and memorabilia, but also the merging of the two cultures. Three galleries feature works by local and border artists, and a 500-seat indoor theater hosts musical and dance performances with additional events staged at the outdoor amphitheater throughout the year.

Concordia Cemetery (SM, HTC)
3700 E. Yandell Dr., El Paso, TX 79903
915.842.8200
www.concordiacemetery.org
The 52-acre Concordia Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 60,000 El Paso residents. Weathered tombstones, some dating to 1857, create a somber scene in the shadow of the Franklin Mountains. Divided into religious affiliations and other sections, the expansive grounds hold many locally and regionally important figures.

The graveyard is a small part of the once-sprawling Concordia Ranch, established in 1840 by trader Hugh Stephenson and his wealthy Mexican-born wife, Juana María Ascárate Stephenson. In 1850, the influential family built the Church of San Juan de Concordia el Alto. When Juana died unexpectedly in 1857, she became the first to be buried in the now-historic cemetery.

El Paso Murals
Located throughout El Paso
915.533.0048
www.visitelpaso.com/events/community/18117-experience-the-pass-of-the-north-el-paso-mural-tours
More than 100 vivid murals are scattered throughout El Paso, particularly in the Lincoln Park and El Segundo Barrio districts. Reflecting a rich Mexican storytelling tradition, these pieces of public art depict El Paso's history and community pride.

Painted in 1938 inside the federal courthouse, Tom Lea's "Pass of the North" is the city's oldest mural. The massive 11-foot by 54-foot mural focuses on the foundation of El Paso and its merging cultures, including Apache Indians and settlers. Lea's smaller scale "Southwest Landscape" in the El Paso Public Library at 501 N. Oregon St. touches on the area's physical beauty, particularly the desert flats outlined by the Franklin Mountains.

Other murals depict culture, such as Carlos Rosa's 1976 "Entelequia." Located in the 800 block of Campbell Street, it pays homage to El Paso's youth with a chronological sequence representing growth, development, and independence. Located at 900 E. Father Rahm Ave., "El Chuco y Que," by Antonio Mercado, Carlos Callejo, and Frank Mata, caricatures the cowboy stereotype typically assigned to Hispanics of the El Paso region to make the point that it is not an accurate representation.

Lincoln Park, El Paso

El Paso Museum of History
510 N. Santa Fe St., El Paso, TX 79901
915.351.3588
www.elpasotexas.gov/history
This downtown cultural institution began in 1974 as the El Paso Cavalry Museum to commemorate the impact of Fort Bliss and the 1st Cavalry Division on the city's development. It has since expanded to two stories and five galleries covering the city's 400 years of border life. Permanent exhibits examine Spanish and Mexican influences on the area, from the establishment of El Camino Real in the late 1500s to ranching, mission life, and cultural conflicts. Artifacts featured include rifles, a cannon, and an oxcart used during the Mexican Revolution, as well as the original 18th century cedar doors from nearby Ysleta Mission.

"Neighborhoods and Shared Memories," a revolving exhibit that changes every two years, spotlights the city's historic neighborhoods such as El Segundo Barrio and Chihuahuita. Local history is told through photos, keepsakes, and recorded audio interviews of former and current residents.

! Magoffin Home State Historic Site (NR, RTHL, SAL, SM)
11120 Magoffin Ave., El Paso, TX 79901
915.533.5147
www.visitmagoffinhome.com
Now a Texas Historical Commission site, the home of early pioneers Joseph and Octavia Magoffin epitomizes adobe construction techniques common to the region, as well as the Territorial-style architecture found in the Southwest. What began as a seven-room adobe home expanded to the three-wing hacienda that remains today. The manicured lawn, complete with Italian cypress trees, is

just a small piece of what was once a 1,280-acre property of orchards, gardens, and vegetable beds.

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, to an American trader and Spanish-Mexican mother, Joseph Magoffin and his family settled in El Paso after he attended school in Kentucky and Missouri and served the Confederacy during the U.S. Civil War. He soon became an advocate for the development of El Paso and the surrounding region, using his extensive landholdings to attract railroads, utilities, and new businesses. Along with holding public office, including four terms as mayor, Magoffin engaged in lucrative business ventures, such as real estate and banking, while his wife Octavia did charitable work in the community.

Open Tuesday through Sunday for guided tours, the homestead retains many of the furnishings and arts enjoyed by generations of family members.

Mercado Mayapan at La Mujer Obrera, El Paso

La Mujer Obrera
2000 Texas Ave., El Paso, TX 79901
915.217.1126
www.mujerobrera.org

In the 1970s, one of the most significant labor movements for Mexican American women took place in El Paso: the famous Farah Strike. Since the 1920s, El Paso's garment district employed thousands of female workers, many of them Mexican immigrants, who labored as seamstresses but had no voice in the workplace. In 1972, about 4,000 Farah Manufacturing garment workers—mostly Hispanic women—refused to work until given the right to be represented by a union. This social and cultural shift led to the 1981 founding of La Mujer Obrera, a community center for Hispanic women.

Immigrant women find a support community here and can take advantage of educational programs, vocational training, and cultural events. An onsite marketplace known as Mercado Mayapan helps Mexican American women become entrepreneurs by selling their handmade goods, crafts, and dishes. Peruse the booths; visit the *tortillería*, *panadería*, or food court; and interact with the creative female merchants. Learn more about the area's textile industry and the Tejana movement through photographs, newspaper clippings, and historical exhibits.

El Segundo Barrio
Roughly bounded by CanAm Highway, Cesar E. Chavez Border Highway, South Cotton Street, and South Kansas Street, El Paso, TX 79901
800.351.6024
www.visitelpaso.com/visitors/to_do/7-excursions/sections/45-walking-tours/places/1073-segundo-barrio-murals

One of the oldest neighborhoods in El Paso County, El Segundo Barrio has historically served as the entry community for Mexican immigrants to the U.S. The bustling border culture inspires muralists, writers, and film producers, while drawing people from around the city to their favorite bakeries and street food vendors. Teeming with rich Tejano history, the district is also full of neighborhood pride and services to improve the lives of immigrants and Mexican Americans.

Educational challenges of barrio residents were met in 1887 when a Franciscan priest established the first school for Spanish speakers. Later named Aoy Elementary, its goal was to prepare students for public school where lessons were taught in English. Migrant farmers, a large segment of the barrio population since the 1830s, find food, shelter, and medical care assistance through the Border Farmworker Center, or Centro de Los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos. Young women and families received special care at the Houchen Settlement House, which was established by Methodist missionaries in 1912. In its early days, housing, education, day care, and bilingual preschool were offered. Eventually a clinic, maternity hospital, and Methodist church were added, and the community services complex became known as Friendship Square.

Sunset Heights Neighborhood (NR, SM)
Roughly bounded by West Schuster Avenue, North Oregon Street, and Interstate 10, El Paso, TX 79902

Established before the turn of the 20th century, Sunset Heights became popular amongst wealthy refugees fleeing the 10-year long Mexican Revolution—notable revolutionary general Francisco "Pancho" Villa even resided in the neighborhood for several years.

The El Paso County Historical Society hosts an annual fall tour of neighborhood homes and landmarks. Storied homes

abound, such as the Trost-designed Mission Revival-style home of former mayor Joseph Williams, located at 323 W. Rio Grande Ave. Williams' home hosted a heated meeting between Villa and U.S. Gen. Hugh Scott in 1915. Villa's 1916 attack on Columbus, New Mexico, is said to have been a result of that meeting.

Ysleta Mission (NR, RTHL, SM)
131 S. Zaragoza Rd., El Paso, TX 79907
915.859.9848
www.ysletamission.org

Originally founded in 1680 for Tigua Indians leaving the Santa Fe, New Mexico area during the Pueblo Revolt, this mission is considered the oldest continually operating parish in the state. The present-day church, located in the pueblo of the same name, was built in 1744 after several floods devastated the original location. Following a major fire in 1907, the bell tower and statue of San Antonio, patron saint of Ysleta Pueblo, were repaired. Inside the thin, rectangular church, notice the traditional latilla ceiling and the small shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe set into the wall on the right side.

Also known as Mission de Corpus Christi de San Antonio de la Ysleta del Sur, this location still serves the Tigua people, who observe several ritual days at the site. The largest annual celebration is the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua on June 13, with cultural costumes, dancing, drumming, and chanting.

23 | Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Salt Flats near Guadalupe Mountains National Park (NR)
About 20 miles west of the Pine Springs Visitor Center on US 62/US 180
915.828.3251
www.nps.gov/gumo/index.htm

The salt flats, a shining white expanse of salt-covered earth, stands out from its desert surroundings, surprising visitors heading east from El Paso to the peaks of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. But the beauty of this West Texas landscape doesn't reflect its contentious past.

Beginning in the mid-1600s, the salt flat served as a vital resource for Tigua Indian and Hispanic communities throughout the San Elizario area, who traveled for days across the Trans-Pecos region to harvest the valuable mineral. Disputes over rights and ownership began in the 1860s and came to a head in 1877 when Charles Howard claimed ownership of the salt bed and began charging a fee. The move angered Mexican and Mexican American citizens who considered the resource public property under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The ensuing Salt War involved the murders of U.S. and Mexican politicians and military and law enforcement. Ultimately, a dozen lives were lost and at least 20 were wounded. Witness the breathtaking salt flats that stirred up such controversy, and learn more about the history at the Pine Springs Visitor Center in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

24 | Presidio

Big Bend Ranch State Park (NR)
1900 Sauceda Ranch Rd., Presidio, TX 79845
432.358.4444
tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/big-bend-ranch

The largest state park in Texas offers more than 300,000 acres of Chihuahuan Desert. Outdoor enthusiasts, naturalists, and history buffs can venture through the same canyons, mountains, and rocky trails that explorers, traders, and missionaries of Anglo, Spanish, and Mexican descent walked 150 years ago or more. Remnants of their journeys can be found today in the archeological collections housed at the Barton Warnock Visitor Center at the park's eastern entrance. Visitors may also view the interpretive display "Una Tiera—One Land," a collaborative project produced by natural and cultural resources experts from Texas and Mexico. The display recounts Hispanic and American settlement of the region in both English and Spanish.

Fort Leaton State Historic Site, the 19th-century adobe fortress of frontiersman Ben Leaton, serves as the park's western entrance. Visitors can imagine the existence of West Texas settlers in the late 1800s who lived in an area known to Spanish settlers as "El Despoblado" (The Wilderness).

Living history performance at San Elizario Historic District, San Elizario

25 | San Elizario

San Elizario Historic District (NR)
Roughly bounded by Rio Grande Street, Socorro Road, Convent Road, and the San Elizario Lateral, San Elizario, TX 79849
915.851.0093
www.sanelizariohistoricdistrict.org

Once the grounds of an 18th-century presidio and one of the oldest villages in the U.S., this historic district located on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro features a self-guided walking tour centered on the fort's 1877 San Elizario Chapel. Constructed of whitewashed adobe, with a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the church still holds Mass for San Elizario residents.

This historic district showcases several structures representative of early settlement along the Rio Grande including Casa Ronquillo, built around 1830 by wealthy merchant and village mayor Ignacio Ronquillo. The surviving wing of the 11-room home remains, providing visitors with a sense of the once-grand adobe hacienda via details such as the ceilings' original latillas and round vigas (traditional sticks and beams).

The San Elizario Historic District contains detailed signage for a self-guided walking tour, and also includes an early-1800s gristmill, cemetery, presidio barracks, theater, and old county jail.

26 | Socorro

Casa Ortiz (RTHL)
10167 Socorro Rd., Socorro, TX 79927
915.859.6132
www.visitelpasomissiontrail.com/explore/the-bookery.html

Casa Ortiz, located on the Mission Trail in Socorro, exemplifies the simple structures built with locally available materials on the Spanish Colonial frontier. Reputedly constructed in the late 1700s with adobe walls and roof supports called vigas and latillas, it is now a commercial property.

In the 1840s, the house belonged to José Ortiz, a trader who carted salt from the salt flat at the foot of the Guadalupe Mountains along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and traded knives, serapes, and other goods with Native Americans. Now home to a merchant of a different sort, the casa is filled with books—every available surface is piled high with both Spanish and English texts, the majority of which cater to children.

Mission Socorro, El Paso

Mission Socorro (NR, RTHL)
328 S. Nevarez Rd., Socorro, TX 79927
915.859.7718
www.nps.gov/nr/travel/tx/tx1.htm

The original Mission Socorro, established along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, dates to 1680, after Native Americans fled the Pueblo Revolt in Old Socorro, New Mexico. Earlier buildings were destroyed by extensive flooding of the Rio Grande in 1740 and 1829, and construction of the current building began in 1840.

The beams seen today, with elaborate designs indicative of the area's Native American influence, are the original cottonwood and cypress vigas from the earlier construction, salvaged after the flood. Don't miss the mission's revered statue of Saint Michael, to the left of the altar. In 1845, while in transit from Mexico City to Santa Fe, an oxcart carrying the archangel became stuck in the mud at this site, leaving the statue for the mission parishioners.

Rio Vista Farm Historic District (NR)
901 N. Rio Vista Rd., Socorro, TX 79927
915.860.8615
www.visitelpasomissiontrail.com/history/rio-vista-farm.html

Beginning in the early 1900s, counties across Texas established poor farms to provide housing, healthcare, and other services to those in need. The Rio Vista Farm, established in 1915, served homeless adults and orphaned children, most of Hispanic descent. The life-saving camp became a close-knit community where children learned skills such as gardening and canning, and earned money picking cotton in the neighboring fields that still surround the historic district. In the 1950s and 1960s, the farm served as a reception and processing center for the Bracero Program, a U.S.-Mexican government collaboration that brought temporary laborers from Mexico to work on U.S. farms.

At the height of its use, the 14-acre camp had 21 buildings in the Prairie School and Mission Revival styles. Seventeen remain, including the main building, which was constructed in 1915 and now serves as the Rio Vista Community Center.

27 | Terlingua

Terlingua (NR)
Terlingua, TX 79852
432.371.2320
bigbendchamber.homestead.com

This tiny West Texas ghost town began at the turn of the 20th century with the discovery of cinnabar, the ore of mercury. The Chisos Mining Company, partially composed of Mexican mine workers, established this small, segregated company town that grew to a population of nearly 1,000 by the mid-1910s.

The mines boomed during World War I and peaked in following years, with about 40 percent of the nation's mercury derived from the Terlingua mines. By the 1940s, the mines had closed and inhabitants migrated elsewhere. A small cemetery serves as the final resting place for miners who died of mercury poisoning and related illnesses while working. The cemetery hosts a celebration for Day of the Dead, when graves are decorated with colorful flowers, candles, and streamers.

Today, visitors to Big Bend Ranch State Park and Big Bend National Park, both neighbors of the ghost town, relax on the expansive front porch of the old mining company store for a splendid view of the Chisos Mountains.

IMMIGRATION

Braceros cross the bridge connecting Reynosa, Mexico and Hidalgo, Texas
Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Some Tejanos can trace their roots back 10-plus generations to the earliest Spanish and indigenous people who settled the land we call Texas. Others are direct descendants of the Tejanos who first declared independence for Texas during Mexico's struggle to shed Spanish rule, decades before the Battle of the Alamo. Still more hail from the generation of Tejanos who became citizens of three independent nations in a quarter century—first Mexicans, then Texans, then Americans. Their citizenship changed not because they immigrated to another country—the borders of these nations enveloped them.

But like countless other Texans, many Hispanics trace their lineage back to immigrants who came to the U.S. in search of better economic prospects or to escape poverty, war, or oppression. Some immigrated to become U.S. citizens; others sought temporary Texas residency until it was safe to return home; and many migrated between countries to pursue economic opportunities.

Turmoil created by the Mexican Revolution of 1910–1920 and agricultural and industrial expansion throughout the Southwest led more people to cross the Rio Grande. By World War I, Hispanic workers were crucial to meeting the ever-growing U.S. labor demand. Though they played a vital economic role, these immigrants remained vulnerable in society. When jobs disappeared during the Great Depression, many Hispanic Texans who were legal U.S. residents were forced to leave the country. This exodus lasted from 1929 to 1939.

Labor shortages during World War II led to the Bracero Program, in which the Mexican and U.S. governments brought Mexican laborers into the U.S. for agricultural work. Although Texas was prevented from participating in the program until after the war because of its poor discrimination record, the program had a significant positive impact on the state's agricultural economy. Over two decades, an estimated 4 million *braceros* entered the U.S. through program contracts. Rio Vista Farm, originally called the El Paso Poor Farm, was a reception and processing center from 1951–1964.

More recently, non-Mexican Hispanic immigrants from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Central America have made Texas their home while significantly contributing to the state's economy and cultural diversity. Today, many local organizations celebrate these contributions, including the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio and the Latino Cultural Center of Dallas.

Calera Chapel, Toyahvale

PECOS
TRAIL REGION
www.texaspecostrail.com

28 | Balmorhea
Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe
Southbound Highway 17, Balmorhea, TX 79718

Don't miss this small yet powerful shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe along southbound Highway 17 in Balmorhea. Cared for by the nearby Christ the King Catholic Church, the modest shrine features an approximately three-foot-tall statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe within a semicircle of cemented creek rock from the surrounding area.

A group of tall, thin poplar trees is a visual marker for passersby, including those traveling through West Texas en route to Mexico (about 120 miles southwest) who stop to pray for a safe journey. Many light a candle or adorn the Virgin with jewelry, flowers, or personal tokens. Rosaries and necklaces grace the statue, while artificial flowers in a rainbow of colors rest at her feet.

29 | Brackettville
Montalvo House (RTHL)
103 E. Thomas St., Brackettville, TX 78832
830.563.3443
www.themontalvohouse.org

The Montalvo House was constructed in 1887 by Yldefonso Montalvo, the son of an English mother and Mexican father, and his wife Guadalupe Reischman Montalvo. It was built during a peak in Brackettville's prosperity that coincided with the growth of nearby Fort Clark. Montalvo worked as a payroll clerk and was known for his skill in counting gold coins. Constructed using cedar posts, lath, and caliche, this modest two-room home is a good example of a folk-style hall-and-parlor residence built with local materials. Montalvo and his wife raised nine children in the house, and an orchard and water well on their property served the larger community.

The Montalvo House nonprofit organization was established in 2010 to restore the property and educate the community in sustainable living practices. The onsite weekend market brings certified organic produce to a community with limited fresh food options. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit organization and its restoration efforts.

30 | Comstock
Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site (NR)
On Highway 90, about 10 miles west of Comstock, TX
432.292.4464
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/seminole-canyon

Named in honor of the U.S. Army's Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, Seminole Canyon State Park borders the Rio Grande and has campsites and trails for hiking, biking, and nature viewing. The visitors center has sweeping views of the canyons below, a landscape that has been essentially unchanged since Spanish explorer Gaspar Castaño de Sosa first encountered the area in the 16th century. Interpretive display boards allow visitors to follow a chronological history of the occupation of the region, including Native Americans, Spanish explorers, and ranchers. A connected exhibit space explores the story of the prehistoric peoples whose painted images can still be seen on canyon walls. Although access to pictograph sites is restricted to guided tours, visitors can take self-guided hikes of up to eight miles and varying difficulties (including an ADA-accessible route). Check the park website for tour dates and times, as well as opportunities to access other nearby pictograph sites on tours sponsored by the Rock Art Foundation.

31 | Del Rio

Brown Plaza and Casa de la Cultura (SM)
302 Cantu St., Del Rio, TX 78840
830.768.2287
www.lacasadelacultura.org

Nestled in a bend of San Felipe Creek, the area surrounding Brown Plaza has been a gathering place for hundreds of years, as Native Americans and Spanish settlers were drawn to the San Felipe Springs. Del Rio residents and visitors now gather here for concerts, rallies, and celebrations. Dedicated on Cinco de Mayo in 1908, the plaza has provided a central location to celebrate this holiday.

The plaza and its bandstand were restored in 1969, and several historic buildings remain on the square and surrounding blocks. A mural between the 1891 Amado Gutierrez Building and 1910 Santos S. Garcia Building depicts memories of students growing up on the Texas-Mexico border.

On the square at Brown Plaza, Casa de la Cultura has promoted Mexican American heritage through diverse classes and events since the late 1970s. Classes include Latino aerobics, piñata-making, guitar, and English language, while traditional Mexican celebrations such as Día de los Muertos and the Christmastime Posada y Tamalada share the schedule with musical events and revolving art exhibits.

Del Rio Cemeteries Historic District (NR)
Roughly bounded by West 2nd Street, Johnson Boulevard, and St. Peter's Street, Del Rio, TX 78840

Italian cypress trees towering over an otherwise sparse landscape connect the four cemeteries of the Del Rio Cemeteries Historic District. Established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the cemeteries illustrate the fusion of diverse cultures and the social and ethnic divisions in Del Rio.

The largest is Westlawn, which was originally known as the Public Cemetery. Several notable figures in Del Rio and Val Verde County history are buried here, including the city's first mayor. An African American section is in the western part of the cemetery, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternal organization has a section near the center.

The Masonic fraternal lodge purchased 10 acres adjacent to Westlawn in 1905; burials in the Masonic Cemetery are primarily grouped in family plots delineated with cement curbing. The southernmost entrance gate leads to the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, where colorful ceramic tiles depicting religious imagery grace many of the Hispanic gravestones. Look for star and leaning cross icons, which label birth and death dates.

Although it has no formal entrance or internal pathways, Saint Joseph's Cemetery can be accessed from Sacred Heart Cemetery. It features modest, handmade grave markers, many of which are undated.

Balmorhea State Park, Toyahvale

32 | Toyahvale

Balmorhea State Park (SM)
9207 Texas 17, Toyahvale, TX 79786
432.375.2370
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/balmorhea

Located near the Davis Mountains, Balmorhea State Park marries historical significance and natural wonder. The park's featured attraction, San Solomon Springs, claims to be the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool and provides a cool, 72–76-degree respite for visitors year-round. The V-shaped swimming pool covers 1.75 acres around the San Solomon Springs, the largest of five springs in the surrounding Toyah Basin.

Mexican farmers who first settled the area named the waters San Solomon Springs and hand-dug irrigation canals to nearby crops. Today, those late-19th-century irrigation canals are part of a larger system that supplies water to about 12,900 acres of farmland.

While at Balmorhea State Park, visitors can explore the San Solomon Cienega, a three-acre wetland refuge, and stay at San Solomon Springs Courts, a modest motel built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Calera Chapel (RTHL)
A few miles west of Toyahvale on FM 3078
432.448.2430
www.caleratexas.org/images/calera_foundation.htm

Established at the turn of the 20th century by Father Nicolas Brocardus, a young Dutch priest, Calera Chapel first began as Mission Mary. Though the mission's official founding date is unknown, records of Brocardus' first baptism and marriage date to 1902, with the last entry recorded in 1931. The modest one-room chapel was originally built of adobe and rock in 1925. It served Hispanic families, many of whom farmed surrounding land or worked nearby.

Forsaken after the 1940s, Calera Chapel fell into disrepair until its restoration by the local nonprofit Calera Foundation in 2003. White plaster covers the original adobe rock walls and the floor features a mosaic of large concrete pieces salvaged from abandoned irrigation ditches. The windows are original, and light pours in through newly added skylights, which illuminate the altar.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon

PLAINS
TRAIL REGION
www.texasplainstrail.com

33 | Boys Ranch

Tascosa at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch (RTHL, SM)
US 385, 36 miles northwest of Amarillo,
91 Cir Dr., Boys Ranch, TX 79010
806.372.2341
www.calfarley.org/visitors/Pages/TourismHistory.aspx

Settled in the late 1800s on the north bank of the Canadian River, the small community of Atascosa was named by Hispanic settlers. Sheepherder Casimiro Romero of New Mexico was among the first to settle here in 1876, later joined by migrant crews of sheep shearers and ranchers such as Andrew Gonzales in Lubbock County. Romero and another early settler, Agrapito Sandoval, built a permanent home that served as a chapel for both Catholic and Episcopal services—perhaps the first in the area.

Known later as Tascosa, the town served as the hub of West Texas ranching operations, as large open-range ranches were established nearby such as LIT and Frying Pan. However, as railroad transportation in Amarillo drew business away and small herders moved elsewhere, Tascosa became a virtual ghost town.

By 1938, Panhandle rancher Julian Bivins donated land to Amarillo philanthropist Cal Farley, who created a family-like residence for at-risk children called Boys Ranch. Several original buildings from the one-time county seat remain in the community, including a stone courthouse, which serves as the Julian Bivins Museum. Inside, visitors will find not only memorabilia recounting the history of Boys Ranch, but also exhibits on Tascosa's ranching days.

34 | Canyon

Palo Duro Canyon State Park
11450 Park Rd. 5, Canyon, TX 79015
806.488.2227
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/palo-duro-canyon

"The Grand Canyon of Texas" is simply breathtaking. Named after the area's hardwood juniper and mesquite trees, the mesmerizing geology of Palo Duro Canyon has been appreciated for centuries. It was stumbled upon by the Coronado expedition in 1542 during a quest for gold and silver. As the second largest canyon in the nation at about 120 miles long and 800 feet deep, Palo Duro provided a significant obstacle, as well as useful resources such as wood, water, game, and shelter.

The canyon's multi-colored walls and oddly shaped rock abutments set the scene for robust trading nearly two centuries later, as Comancheros, or Hispanic traders, exchanged goods with Comanche Indians in the area. In the late 1800s, the canyon was home to the area's first ranch, established by veteran cattleman Charles Goodnight.

The visitors center showcases archeological finds from throughout the canyon, some dating back centuries. A horseback ride or hike into the canyon offers a full Palo Duro experience.

Julian Bivins Museum, Boys Ranch

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (RTHL, SAL)
2503 4th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015
806.651.2244
www.panhandleplains.org

Since 1933, this ever-expanding museum on the West Texas A&M University campus has maintained exhibits with the sole intent of recording the broad history of this region and its inhabitants. On display are several artifacts from the days of Spanish exploration and settlement, including revolvers used on the Texas frontier during both the Texas and Mexican revolutions. Five small art galleries feature revolving exhibits showcasing photographs, textiles, pottery, artwork, and other items spanning the cultures of the Panhandle-Plains region. Permanent exhibits cover the petroleum industry, automobiles, and the area's geological evolution, while highlighting the people of the region. Artifacts abound, including a silver-mounted saddle from famed cattle rancher Charles Goodnight and a headdress, lance, and other items from Comanche chief Quanah Parker.

35 | Floydada

Floyd County Museum
105 E. Missouri St., Floydada, TX 79235
806.983.2415
www.floydcountymuseum.com

Few who pass this history museum housed in a century-old hardware store expect to find priceless artifacts from famed Spanish conquistador Coronado's conquest of the Americas. A chain mail gauntlet used for protection during sword fights, a copper crossbow point, a horse bridle, and 15th-century Spanish coins are several items discovered in nearby Blanco Canyon. Archeologists say the site is a possible encampment of Coronado's 1540 expedition to find the legendary seven cities of gold. The link to Coronado has not been verified, but the artifacts provide evidence of early Spanish presence in Texas.

The museum also helps visitors imagine life on an early-20th-century West Texas ranch with a scale reproduction of the T-M Bar House from a Blanco Canyon sheep and cattle ranch. Genealogical research enthusiasts will want to visit the History and Genealogy Center next door.

36 | Los Ybañez

Lamesa Farm Workers Community (SM, NR)
One mile south of Lamesa on Highway 87, Los Ybañez, TX 79331

Once a well-established community organized under a 1930s New Deal program, Lamesa Farm Workers Community is now little more than a couple dozen homes, mostly battered and uninhabitable, amid well-worn dirt roads. Despite the desolation, it's easy to envision the once-tight-knit community of Mexican migrant workers who raised families here while working in the surrounding cotton fields.

Created by the nation's Farm Security Administration to protect Mexican immigrants and prevent their exploitation, the Lamesa labor camp was unique thanks to its accommodations, including a community center that provided a place for play, and educational opportunities for children and adults.

As tractors and other modernized farm equipment emerged, the reduced need for manual labor gutted the camp. In 1980, the 50-acre property was sold to the Ybañez family, and the small community was renamed Los Ybañez. The new owners retained the general purpose of community, renting the homes to Hispanic families.

Aztlan Park, Lubbock

37 | Lubbock

Aztlan Park (SM)
Near 1st Street and Avenue K, Lubbock, TX 79401
806.775.2673

Today, Aztlan Park teems with picnicking families, children laughing on the playground, and basketball games. But in the first half of the 20th century, the setting was one of the area's largest migrant labor camps, known as both "Mexican Town" and the "Chihuahua District."

Thousands of Mexican migrants and *braceros* slept in tents or ramshackle row houses at night and worked the nearby cotton fields or railroad lines by day. A strong, yet impoverished community developed. Conditions at the overcrowded camp worsened during

the Great Depression, as did the discrimination and segregation experienced by residents outside the camp.

Though a tornado destroyed the majority of the neighborhood in 1970, the park remains a tribute to Lubbock's Tejano roots and the large Hispanic population. A vibrant mural, painted by Emanuel Martínez in 1994, reminds visitors of Aztlan Park's historical significance.

National Ranching Heritage Center (SM)
3121 4th St., Lubbock, TX 79409
806.742.2498
www.nrhc.ttu.edu

Early Tejano culture is steeped in ranching, an industry and lifestyle visitors can fully explore at the National Ranching Heritage Center. Forty-eight ranch structures from across the state have been carefully recreated or relocated to the 27-acre park, located on the Texas Tech campus.

Experience the origins of ranching along the border at Los Corralitos, a replica of one of the oldest known ranch buildings in Texas. The original, believed to date to the 1780s, is located on Los Corralitos Ranch outside San Ygnacio in Zapata County. The one-room stone and mud-fortified home has no windows, only tiny gun ports. The museum's exhibit, "Across Time and Territory" expands on ranching's continued impact on Texas and the nation.

Texas Tech University, Lubbock

Texas Tech University Campus Architecture (NR)
2500 Broadway St., Lubbock, TX 79409
www.ttu.edu

Texas Tech University has been named one of the nation's most beautiful college campuses. William Ward Watkin, founder of Rice University's School of Architecture, planned the campus in 1923, with Spanish Renaissance style representing Spanish influence on the region. Spanish design characteristics pervade the grounds, with most buildings including red tile roofs, arches, and ornately carved limestone detailing.

Modeled after La Universidad de Alcalá in Alcalá de Henares, northeast of Madrid, Spain, the Administration Building was the first structure built on campus and anchors Memorial Circle. Limestone columns and pilasters frame arched openings along the two wings, while twin bell towers rise above the mission-clay tiled roof. Immediately to the west, the Chemistry Building has dozens of ornately carved limestone columns along the east walkway, while arched windows and cornice caps decorate all facades.

Llano Estacado Museum, Plainview

38 | Plainview

Llano Estacado Museum
1900 W. 7th St., Plainview, TX 79072
806.291.1000
www.wbu.edu/about_wayland/campus_attractions/llano_estacado_museum

Located on the Wayland Baptist University campus, this museum opened in 1976 in conjunction with the nation's bicentennial celebration to showcase the varied history of the Llano Estacado region. Centuries-old helmets, swords, and spurs date to Spanish explorations throughout the Llano Estacado. Beginning with Coronado's search for the seven cities of gold in the mid-1500s, this exhibit continues with the many subsequent attempts to shorten the trade route between Santa Fe and San Antonio. Trade items discovered in this region from Comancheros, or Hispanic traders who worked with area tribes, are also on display.

Along with man-made artifacts, the museum also displays a full-size teepee, detailed replicas of turn-of-the-20th-century storefronts, and the skull of an imperial mammoth found in 1988 near Easter, Texas. Known as the Easter Elephant, the skull and tusks weigh about 4,000 pounds. Estimated to be between 11,500 and 25,000 years old, the rare remains have attracted thousands of visitors since arriving in 2004.

INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

Dr. Clotilde P. García at her medical office, Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Mary and Jeff Bell Library

Throughout Texas history, generations of Tejanos have helped fuel the state's economy. From *vaqueros* to merchants, business owners, and those who built the state's network of railroad lines, Hispanic Texans have long played an integral role in driving the state's economy forward.

Introduced in the 18th century by Spanish settlers, ranching was the first major industry of Texas and remains important today. In fact, many South Texas ranches predate the American Revolution. Later, Anglo-American cattlemen began breeding their cattle with Spanish stock to create the state's iconic longhorn. Today, Texas ranching is a multi-billion-dollar industry.

Cotton also has strong roots in Texas, with San Antonio missions producing tons each year in the mid-1700s. Cotton farming grew more important to the Texas economy during the 19th and 20th centuries. By the 1920s, migrant pickers were crucial to the cotton harvest. Workers picking cotton and other harvests made the "big swing" through Texas, starting early in the season in South Texas and moving steadily north toward the Panhandle for fall harvests and even beyond Texas for other crops. Demand for these workers prompted the U.S. and Mexico to formalize the Bracero Program in the 1940s for bringing guest workers to American farms.

Migrant workers also supplied construction for Texas railroad lines, a building boom in the 1920s driven by oil discoveries, and the later post-World War II prosperity boom. Hispanic workers, many of them migrants from Mexico, supplied much of the labor for these projects.

In early-20th-century urban centers—where Hispanics resided and conducted business in segregated sections of the city—Tejanos and immigrants operated small businesses such as restaurants, barbershops, groceries, and theaters. In places like El Paso and Laredo, some worked as lawyers, doctors, and other middle-class professions. Later, civil and labor rights victories, and access to higher education, enabled more Hispanic Texans to pursue a wide variety of employment.

Texas' modern industries would not be what they are today if not for Hispanic migrant workers, agriculturalists, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders paving the way.

Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame Museum, Alice

TROPICAL
TRAIL REGION
www.texastropicaltrail.com

39 | Alice
Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame Museum
213 N. Wright St., Alice, TX 78332
361.765.3523

Dedicated to "Remembering Our Own Tejano Stars" (R.O.O.T.S), this museum celebrates a unique musical style with South Texas origins. Combining classical mariachi and corrido music with accordion-based polkas of German and Czech origin, and later incorporating American music styles such as blues and rock and roll, Tejano music reflects the cultural mix of the Lone Star State. Since 1999, hundreds of artists have been inducted into the Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame, including Flaco Jimenez, Ventura Alonzo, Selena, and Freddy Fender.

The museum is packed with Tejano treasures from the last 60 years, including portraits, album covers, concert posters, and tickets, which create the feeling of a local-music-shop-turned-shrine. Accordions, guitars, and costumes from inductees are on display, including items from singer Linda Escobar, an Alice native and one of the original *reinas*, or queens, of Tejano.

Stillman House, Brownsville

The museum is open on Saturdays from mid-morning to afternoon and staffed by devotees of the genre who are eager to share their knowledge and love of the music and its history.

40 | Benavides
Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church and Plaza
203 E. Santa Rosa de Lima St., Benavides, TX 78341
361.256.3427
www.diocesecc.org

Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church serves an active and devoted congregation in this South Texas community and holds a place in the area's Tejano history. Originally established as St. Paul's in 1887 by Father Jean Pierre Bard, the then-chapel served a largely Hispanic community that was founded when former Confederate Army soldier Plácido Benavides donated 80 acres of his massive Rancho Palo Alto to establish it along the Texas-Mexican Railroad.

Today, visitors and parishioners can appreciate the charming California Mission Revival style, no doubt inspired by Bard's San Diego roots. Traditional Tejano celebrations are held at the adjacent plaza, which features a bandstand, walkways, and park benches.

41 | Brownsville
Brownsville Heritage Complex (NR, RTHL, SM)
1325 E. Washington St., Brownsville, TX 78520
956.541.5560
www.brownsvillehistory.org/Locations.html

The Brownsville Heritage Complex, comprised of the Greek Revival Stillman House and the Brownsville Heritage Museum, showcases the evolution of the Brownsville-Matamoros region through historic-buildings-turned-museums. The 1850 Stillman House was the home of Brownsville founder Charles Stillman, and then-Mexican-consul Manuel Treviño de los Santos Coy. Along with décor dating to the mid-1800s, the house holds the 500-volume Yolanda González Memorial Genealogy Archives, which are available by appointment.

A museum exhibit features the plot to overthrow Mexican President Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada. Manuel Treviño hosted Porfirio Díaz in the home to develop these plans, which succeeded. Next door, Brownsville Heritage Museum exhibits explore the region's past through a wealth of historic photographs, objects, and artwork. Special exhibits allow children to try on clothes worn in the 1800s and weigh groceries such as beans and flour in a mock store.

Historic Brownsville Museum, Brownsville

Historic Brownsville Museum (NR, RTHL)
641 E. Madison St., Brownsville, TX 78520
956.548.1313
www.historicbrownsvillemuseum.com

Housed in the restored 1928 Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, a pristine example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, this museum follows the evolution of Brownsville as shaped by politics and events beginning with the establishment of Fort Brown in 1846.

Exhibits include weapons used in historic border skirmishes and compelling photographs of Mexico's female revolutionary fighters, the *soldaderas*. Railroad history includes the beautifully restored Engine No. 1, a Baldwin wood-burning, narrow gauge railroad locomotive. Starting in 1872, the engine hauled freight and passengers more than 20 miles each way between Brownsville and Port Isabel.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral and Cemetery (NR, RTHL)
1218 E. Jefferson St., Brownsville, TX 78520
956.546.3178
www.immaculateconceptioncathedral.org

On December 4, 1849, four fathers of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate arrived in Brownsville on horseback to establish a local parish. Seven years later, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was completed, using 250,000 bricks made as tithes by parishioners. Designed by Father Pierre Y. Kerralum, who studied architecture in France before entering the seminary, the church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style. Serving as the first Oblate seminary in Texas, it housed priests fleeing revolution in Mexico. The site became a cathedral in 1874 when the Vicariate Apostolic of Brownsville was established.

On the grounds are two memorials: one dedicated to the Oblate missionaries, and a vault belonging to the family of Simon Celaya, a Spanish immigrant and organizer of the Rio Grande Railroad. Stained glass lancet windows lining the nave and apse illuminate the sanctuary. Much of the interior has been restored, including the unique blue canvas lining the vaulted ceiling.

Market Square Research Center (RTHL)
1150 Market Square St., Brownsville, TX 78520
956.546.4242
www.brownsvillehistory.org/Research_Center.html

Since its opening in 1852, residents gathered daily at Brownsville's Market Square to purchase fruits, vegetables, meats, and sweets. The market closed in the 1940s and became city offices, but recent restoration of the open archways that were once merchant stalls has created gallery and public programming space.

The historic market is home to the Brownsville Historical Association's collections, which include classic Mexican cinema posters, historic costumes, artifacts, and one of the largest collections of regional photographs. The facility also holds research archives, including the recently added chamber of commerce records. Viewings of the collection are available by appointment through the Brownsville Historical Association.

Old City Cemetery Center and Historic City Cemetery (NR, SM)
600 E. Jackson St., Brownsville, TX 78520
956.541.1167
www.brownsvillehistory.org/Cemetery_Center.html

With roots dating to 1853, this cemetery is the final resting place for many veterans, including combatants of every U.S. conflict since the War of 1812. Soldiers from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico War and Mexican Revolution are buried on these grounds, as are members of most of the founding families of Brownsville.

Old City Cemetery, Brownsville

Located in a residential neighborhood just north of downtown, the cemetery stretches three blocks along the banks of a *resaca* (former channel of the Rio Grande). Above-ground crypts and family plots with iron fences extend off the single path in each direction, with interpretive plaques providing insight for self-guided tours. Although the vast majority of surnames are Spanish, including descendants of all the original land-grant families in the area, inscriptions in French, Hebrew, and German reflect the city's ethnic mix.

One block south, the Old City Cemetery Center offers a wealth of information about individual burials, iconography, and cemetery history. Call ahead for a guided tour.

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (NHL, SM)
7200 Paredes Line Rd., Brownsville, TX 78526
956.541.2785 x333
www.nps.gov/paal

The site of the first major engagement of the U.S.-Mexico War remains relatively unchanged, though more than a century and a half has passed since the Battle of Palo Alto was fought on May 8, 1846. Cannons and flags mark the front lines of the U.S. and Mexican armies who faced off in this open field. The U.S. victory on the Palo Alto Battlefield is attributed to the strength and agility of its artillery. Cannons, firearms, and other wartime artifacts, including examples of Mexican and U.S. military uniforms worn during the battle, are on display at the visitors center. Interactive exhibits and a 15-minute film in both English and Spanish reveal even more about this event, along with the tensions that mounted on both sides prior to the conflict.

From the visitors center, walk the half-mile trail for an overview of the battlefield, and then head down the additional trails leading to the battle front. The park offers guided, self-guided, and cell phone tours, as well as monthly living history events between September and May.

42 | Corpus Christi

Galvan Ballroom
1632 Agnes St., Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361.654.2582

This two-story Art Moderne building was built by musician and civic leader Rafael Galvan, Sr. in 1950 as a permanent venue for his 15-piece orchestra, the largest big-band in Corpus Christi at the time. From its grand opening performance by Tommy Dorsey, the Galvan Ballroom became the place to see the highest-quality swing, jazz, big-band, and conjunto performers.

Shows featured a mix of Spanish and English-language performances with black, white, and Hispanic musicians regularly playing to mixed-race audiences at a time when segregation was still the norm. Beyond music, Galvan advanced the cause of integration as the city's first Mexican American police officer and a founding member of LULAC.

Opened in the 1960s, the family-run Galvan Music Store still sells instruments and sheet music in the first-story store, itself a fascinating shrine to the performers who graced the ballroom's stage. The upstairs ballroom can be reserved for private events, but if you ask in the store, you might get to see the historic recessed stage featuring a gold Galvan Orchestra logo.

Galvan Ballroom, Corpus Christi

García Plaza at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412
361.825.5894
www.tamucc.edu/community/drhector/

On the seaside campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, the plaza commemorates one of the city's most accomplished citizens—Dr. Hector Pérez García. Born in Tamaulipas, Mexico, García's family fled the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. After impressive academic and military careers, García became a physician and surgeon, eventually opening a clinic that provided healthcare to predominately low-income Hispanic families.

García also worked within the political system for greater equality. In 1948, he founded the American GI Forum, a veteran's organization that defended the rights of Hispanics and other minorities. He served on the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity and as part of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, among other appointments. In 1984, García received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Ronald Reagan. In 1996, the city of Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi immortalized García with a statue in this plaza. An exhibit in the campus' Mary and Jeff Bell Library presents the life and work of García.

Heritage Park
1581 N. Chaparral St.,
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361.826.3410
www.cctexas.com

The Galvan House is the centerpiece of the city's collection of 12 historic homes in Heritage Park near the bay. It was once home to Rafael Galvan, Sr., a community leader, founding member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and owner of the Galvan Ballroom. Built in 1908, the Colonial Revival home was in the Galvan family from 1942 to 1982. Today, it houses the city's Multicultural Center and hosts special events throughout the year.

Next door, the Grande-Grossman Home hosts the Tejano Civil Rights Museum, which opened in May 2014 in partnership with LULAC. Also called La Casa Tejana, the museum focuses on the area's rich Hispanic civil rights era with rotating exhibits and events. In the northeastern corner of the park in the Victorian-era Lichtenstein House, the Museum of Hispanic Culture displays folk art representing varied cultures of Latin America. Together, the homes help people commemorate Corpus Christi's distinctive Hispanic heritage.

Selena Museum
5410 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, TX 78408
361.289.9013
www.q-productions.com/museum.html

A cultural trip to Corpus Christi isn't complete without a visit to this museum honoring the "Queen of Tejano Music." Selena Quintanilla Perez, known simply as Selena, earned 14 Top 10 singles, including seven No. 1 hits, as well as a Grammy for Best Mexican-American Album, before her tragic death in 1995 at age 24. She remains one of the best-selling Latin artists of all time.

Selena's family operates the museum that is full of the glamour of celebrity—her Grammys, sequined stage outfits, red carpet gowns, Fabergé egg collection, and red Porsche are on display. The museum and recording studio, which is in the same building, are still family-run, with Selena's father or sister often giving tours.

After perusing the museum, head to North Shoreline Boulevard and Peoples Street to visit the city's official Selena memorial, Mirador de la Flor, which features a life-size statue of the performer.

Selena Museum, Corpus Christi

Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg

43 | Cotulla

Brush Country Museum
201 S. Stewart St., Cotulla, TX 78014
www.historicdistrict.com/museum/museum.htm

Housed in a one-room historic schoolhouse, this museum includes exhibits on La Salle County development and the period when a 20-year-old Lyndon Baines Johnson taught elementary students at the nearby Welhausen School. Then called "The Mexican School," it was primarily attended by area children from impoverished families of Mexican migrant workers. Inspired by his firsthand experience in Cotulla, Johnson placed a significant focus on education and poverty during his presidency with his "Great Society" legislation. Almost four decades after his time as a South Texas teacher, President Johnson returned to Cotulla, greeting many of his former students.

For a view of the one-story brick schoolhouse where Johnson taught, head west from the museum to the Welhausen School building across from Plaza Florita Park.

44 | Edinburg

Museum of South Texas History
200 N. Closner Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78541
956.383.6911
www.mosthistory.org

Immersive and interactive displays transport visitors through the history of the Rio Grande at this museum. Greeted by massive mammoth bones representing the area's prehistory, visitors experience elements of early Spanish exploration, the era of

steamships and cattle ranching, and the arrival of the railroad, irrigation, and large-scale farming. Sound effects ranging from a clicking telegraph signal to Tejano music are incorporated into the exhibits. The narrative is further brought to life by scale replicas, such as the theater housed in the bow of a steamboat.

Next to the museum is the Old Hidalgo County Jail (RTHL), a two-story Mission Revival building complete with a hanging tower designed by famed San Antonio architect Atlee Ayres.

45 | Falfurrias

Don Pedrito Jaramillo Shrine (SM)
1936 FM 1418, Falfurrias, TX 78355

Pay your respects to this legendary South Texas *curandero*, or faith healer, at his final resting place on the Los Olmos Ranch. Legend has it that as a poor laborer in Mexico, young Pedro Jaramillo heard his calling directly from God after healing himself of a painful ailment. In 1881, he settled near present-day Falfurrias where he treated the ill at no cost.

Jaramillo's reputation grew with reports of successful treatments. Visitors from afar arrived on his doorstep for blessings and remedies. When making healing visits to those who could not travel to him, he went disguised as a Mexican peasant. While he didn't accept payment, many people sent Jaramillo small tributes, which he used to feed the poor or donated to local churches.

Jaramillo passed away in 1907, but his reputation lives on. The indoor shrine surrounding his grave is a simple concrete facade constantly decorated by those enlisting his healing powers from beyond with mementos, flowers, tributes, gifts, and offerings.

46 | Harlingen

History of Mexico and Mankind Mural
Centennial Park, 101 S. West St., Harlingen, TX 78550
956.216.4910
www.downtownharlingen.com/murals

Created by Mexican artist Raúl Esparza Sánchez, the elaborate ceramic panels that compose this mural arrived in South Texas by way of California. Commissioned by the California Museum of Science and Industry, the mural was originally installed there in 1975.

When the Los Angeles museum was demolished in 1984 for a new facility, the mural was placed in storage. By late 2000, a coalition of civic groups had convinced the museum that Harlingen was a fitting home for the mural. It was installed in the newly christened Centennial Park in 2010, marking 100 years since Harlingen was established.

Beginning with the "Origins of Ideas, Life and the Universe," the panels depict pre-Hispanic cultures, the Mayan calendar, the arrival of the Spanish, and Mexico's independence from Spain.

47 | Hebbronville

Scotus College and Garza House (RTHL)
504 E. Santa Clara St., Hebbronville, TX 78361
361.527.3865
www.dioceseoflaredo.org/?i=54&/Hebbronville

Next to the pink stone Our Lady of Guadalupe church at the northeast corner of Hebbronville Plaza is a notable example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Completed in 1944 as Scotus College, the building is now part of the neighboring church and houses priests and students. Scotus College was a Roman Catholic seminary founded in 1926 by Franciscan priests who fled persecution in Mexico. Construction on the building began in 1940, but the order returned to Mexico before it was completed in 1944.

Across Hickory Avenue is Hebbronville's oldest structure, the 1897 Garza House. Owned by the Hebbronville Museum Foundation and awaiting restoration, the building has housed several important families over the years, an order of nuns during the Mexican Revolution, and a teacher at the former Colegio Altamirano.

Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Museum, Hidalgo

48 | Hidalgo

Old Hidalgo Pumphouse (NR, RTHL, SM)
902 South 2nd St., Hidalgo, TX 78557
956.843.8686
www.theworldbirdingcenter.com/Hidalgo.html

A fascinating piece of industrial architecture, the restored Hidalgo Pumphouse is evidence of the engineering that transformed the Rio Grande Valley into a year-round farming paradise. Built from 1910-1953, the pumphouse drew water from the Rio Grande for distribution to small fruit and vegetable farms, which quickly replaced the large ranches that had operated in the area for more than a century. The museum is the starting point for a monthly trolley tour, or visitors can take a self-guided tour by heading north on Bridge Street, originally one of the main north-south routes between the U.S. and Mexico.

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MILITARY SERVICE

Statue of Medal of Honor recipient David Cantú Barkley, Laredo

Tejano soldiers and officers have distinguished themselves in service to their homeland throughout Texas' history. Many served in the province's presidios in the 18th century, as well as during the Mexican War of Independence, Texas Revolution, Civil War, both World Wars, Korean War, Vietnam War, and more recent conflicts.

The Texas Revolution and U.S.-Mexico War led to intense anti-Mexican sentiment, resulting in Tejanos suffering widespread denial of voting and property rights, while enduring other acts of harassment and injustice. Despite this backlash, Tejanos continued to serve in the military. Their service became an important way to assert their patriotism and seek inclusion in American society.

Texans of Hispanic descent participated in every major U.S. conflict of the 20th century, and several received the country's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. They include David Cantú Barkley, who received the award posthumously after perishing in a World War I reconnaissance mission. Barkley was one of only three Texans to receive the award in World War I. After his death, he lay in state at the Alamo as only the second person to be honored in this manner. Today, a memorial in Laredo named for Barkley honors Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients.

Hispanic soldiers weren't always honored alongside their Anglo compatriots. Private Felix Longoria was killed in action during World War II, but the funeral home in Three Rivers refused to provide services. The newly organized American GI Forum stepped in to assist the family and brought international attention to the discriminatory treatment of minority servicemen. Soon, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson arranged Longoria's burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The Longoria Affair attracted attention well beyond Texas and provided fuel for the post-war civil rights movement by sparking a national conversation about race, politics, and patriotism.

Although the process has spanned many years, military service has been a way for Hispanic Americans and other minorities to achieve economic advancement, access to higher education, and integration into American society.

One block away at 1st and East Flora streets is a group of historic buildings known as Hidalgo Viejo, including the Hidalgo County Courthouse and Jail, both built in 1886 of handmade brick from Mexico. Once a two-story building with a cupola, the courthouse lost its second story in a fire, and later served as an immigration and customs house. A few blocks farther on Bridge Street is the Crisoforo Vela two-story brick home with an iron balcony. Vela owned and operated the ferry connecting Hidalgo and Reynosa from 1910 until a (now-gone) bridge was built in 1926.

49 | Kingsville

King Ranch (NHL, RTHL, SM)
2205 Hwy. 141 W., Kingsville, TX 78364
361.592.8055
www.king-ranch.com

Founded as a small cattle camp in 1852 by Richard King and Gideon K. Lewis, this massive ranch developed into one of the largest and most influential cattle and horse ranches in the world, with 825,000 acres spread across four counties. The ranch hands, known as Kineños, or "King's men," are featured prominently in the lore of this historic ranch. King hired many skilled cowboys from Mexico, and even relocated the entire population of the drought-stricken village of Cruillas, Tamaulipas, to his ranch. Many descendants from that period still work on the land today.

Visitors can see the one-time home of the Kineños and get a first-hand look at the working ranch on a 90-minute bus tour. The tour includes King Ranch quarter horses, the longhorn herd, massive modern ranching equipment, the ranch commissary, and the 1912 home built by Henrietta, Richard's widow.

Paso del Indio crossing, Laredo

50 | Laredo

Paso del Indio (SM)
Laredo Community College,
1 W. End Washington St., Laredo, TX 78040
956.721.5140
www.laredo.edu

Accessed through the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, visitors can view the Rio Grande crossing known as Paso del Indio or Paso de Jacinto. Used by American Indians for centuries, it saw heavy use by soldiers and settlers since Spanish explorer Jacinto de León discovered the ford in 1746. Growing into a major business and military route along El Camino Real de los Tejas, the location inspired rancher Don Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera to found the Laredo settlement adjacent to the crossing.

Strategically located on a bluff above the river crossing, the star-shaped earthwork of Fort McIntosh was formally established in 1849 to monitor the border in the aftermath of the U.S.-Mexico War. The fort expanded during the Spanish-American War and both World Wars. Later, Fort McIntosh was decommissioned and transferred to the City of Laredo, becoming home to Laredo Community College. Identified by markers, the historic buildings house classrooms and offices. The chapel is named after David Cantú Barkley, a Laredoan who posthumously earned a Medal of Honor in World War I. The Environmental Science Center features exhibits on native plants and animals, and interpretive talks along the mile-long Paso del Indio trail.

Republic of the Rio Grande Museum, Laredo

Republic of the Rio Grande Museum (RTHL, SM)
1005 Zaragoza St., Laredo, TX 78040
956.727.3480
www.webbheritage.org

Most Texas students can name the six flags that have flown over the state, but this museum flies seven in honor of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande. Three stars on the black, white, and red flag represent Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila—the states that declared independence from Mexico on January 17, 1840. Laredo was named capital of the fledgling republic, and this house on the plaza built between 1830 and 1872 served as its capitol. After battles along the Rio Grande, including a disastrous loss in Coahuila, the independent republic folded in less than a year.

The home hosted leaders of the republic as they developed their political and military strategies. Exhibits display period weaponry, historic newspapers, photographs, and artistic representations of the period.

San Agustín de Laredo Historic District (NR)
Bounded by Iturbide Street, Santa Ursula Avenue, Convent Avenue, and Water Street, Laredo, TX 78040
956.795.2200
www.visitlaredo.com

Founded by Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera y Garza in 1755, Laredo was granted *villa* (city) status in 1767 when lands were partitioned for farming and ranching, and the city was laid out according to Spanish Laws of the Indies. Buildings surrounding San Agustín Plaza exemplify and maintain a record of this early planning code that dictated an elevated site, rectangular plaza, a church, government building, and house lots for important families facing the plaza.

The Gothic Revival style San Agustín Cathedral (1872) is the third church built on the plaza. La Posada Hotel is on the site of the original *casa judicial*, or town hall. The early structure was repurposed as Laredo High School in 1886 and later as Tarver Elementary.

Near the plaza, Casa Ortiz (915 Zaragoza St.) is a fine example of a residence in the Spanish Colonial tradition. While many similar houses in downtown Laredo were converted for commercial use, it retains its residential character. Another Spanish Colonial or Mexican design featured flat roofs on one-story houses built up to the sidewalk; examples include the 1874 Benavides Vidaurri House (202 Flores Ave.), 1870 Leyendecker House (204 Flores Ave.), and 1880 Rodriguez House (1012 Grant St.). The 1901 Mullally House (1016 Grant St.) represents the major shift to Victorian-style architecture, which occurred when the arrival of the railroad brought new people, ideas, and materials.

San Agustín Cathedral, Laredo

Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum
810 Zaragoza St., Laredo, TX 78040
956.727.0977
www.webbheritage.org

At the southeastern edge of the San Agustín de Laredo Historic District (NR), the Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum is an evolving showcase of Laredo's cultural history and character. Housed in a restored brick Italianate-style residence, the museum hosts a changing series of exhibits highlighting the history, culture, industry, and populations on both sides of the border. Laredo residents gather at this cultural meeting place for classes, workshops, and special events.

The elegant house was the residence of two influential merchant families. Abandoned for many years, the structure survived fires and neglect before being renovated under the guidance of the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

Washington's Birthday Celebration Museum (SM)
La Posada Hotel, 1000 Zaragoza St., Suite 100, Laredo, TX 78040
956.825.0796
www.visitlaredo.com

Every winter, Laredo has a month-long fiesta celebrating George Washington's birthday and cross-border friendship. The birthday tradition originated in 1898 with a fraternal organization composed of prominent locals of both Mexican and Anglo descent. The patriotic event honors the origins of a nation in which the many cultures of Laredo have been welcomed. The celebration typically begins in late January and features pageants and balls, parades, concerts, fireworks, and a carnival.

Located on the La Posada Hotel grounds, the museum showcases the ornate debut dresses worn by women in the Society of Martha Washington and the Princess Pocahontas Council. Decades of fashion trends are reflected in the collection, allowing visitors insight into the unique annual party.

51 | Mission

La Lomita Historic District (NR)
About five miles south of Mission on FM 1016
956.580.8760

This historic district encompasses two structures and 122 acres of land along the Rio Grande, all that remain of a once-massive ranching district run by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Known as the "Cavalry of Christ," the Oblate priests reached the dispersed community of ranchers on horseback.

La Lomita Chapel was completed in 1899 to replace an 1865 chapel destroyed by flooding. Built of stones quarried from the nearby "little hill" for which it is named, the single-room whitewashed chapel remains much the way it was over a century ago. Shrines and tributes cover the altar wall, and a network of wood beams line the ceiling.

By the turn of the century, rail lines and irrigation systems had altered the Rio Grande Valley and, in 1909, the order sold all but 400 acres of its land to John Conway and J.W. Holt. They founded the city of Mission, which was named in honor of the Oblates.

In 1912, the Oblate priests built St. Peter's Novitiate less than a mile from the chapel. The two-story brick Spanish Colonial Revival building housed priests and novices for more than 50 years before being nearly destroyed by fire in 2009. Only the impressive facade remains today.

52 | Rio Grande City

Downtown Historic District (NR)
Roughly bounded by Corpus, Second, Wimpy, Mirasoles, and Avasolo streets. Rio Grande City, TX 78582
956.487.0672
www.cityofrgc.com

This downtown district began in 1846 when Kentuckian Henry Clay Davis married Hilaria de la Garza, daughter of the owner of Carnestolendas Ranch, an 18th-century Spanish land grant. The couple settled on family land north of the Rio Grande where Davis built a house, store, and river dock. During the U.S.-Mexico War, Gen. Zachary Taylor brought troops to Davis' landing for forays into Mexico and leased land nearby for the establishment of Fort Ringgold. Following the war, Davis formally laid out Rio Grande City, which evolved into a river port town of surprising diversity.

The influence of French and Germans who arrived via Mexico is evident in the architecture, from delicate cast iron balconies to the many brick buildings of master mason Heinrich "Enrique" Portscheller. Additionally, the 1886 Silverio de la Peña Drugstore and Post Office at Main and Lopez streets is a good example of the Border Brick style. A block from the drugstore is the restored 1897 La Borde House. Francois La Borde's home eventually became a hotel and remains such today.

Call the city tourism office to book a trolley tour or a *vaquero* or dance performance at the Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard.

53 | Roma

Roma National Historic Landmark District (NHL)
200 Lincoln Ave., Roma, TX 78584
956.849.1411

Roma's remarkably intact historic district shares architectural features with northern Mexican towns such as nearby Mier, but is set apart by an exceptional collection of Heinrich Portscheller buildings. A trained mason and native of Prussia, Portscheller fled to Mexico to avoid compulsory military service, only to be conscripted into Emperor Maximillian's Imperial army. Portscheller reputedly deserted, settling in Camargo, where he perfected his trade before moving to Roma and establishing a partnership with Ruperto Margo. Excellent examples of Portscheller's work

La Borde House, Rio Grande City

line the Main Plaza, including the 1884 Manuel Guerra Store, where refugees from the Mexican Revolution sought safe haven. Portscheller's masterful technique can be seen in the pilasters and molding surrounding the door executed in brick, and the corbelled brick cornice of the Saenz-Salinas complex across the street.

The long, narrow Main Plaza of this 19th-century port town extends from the Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church to the bluff overlooking the river. Shaded seating and interpretive panels at Water Street and Lincoln Avenue provide a scenic view across to Cuidad Miguel Aleman. Other sites of interest include the Roma Historical Museum housed in a circa 1840 chapel and Roma Cemetery located east of downtown on Highway 83, with burials dating to 1885 and brick tombs designed by Portscheller.

54 | San Benito

Museums of San Benito
210 E. Heywood St., San Benito, TX 78586
956.399.9991
www.cityofsanbenito.com/249/Cultural-Heritage

The Museums of San Benito offers three distinct museums under one roof. The Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame and Museum chronicles the evolution of the genre, derived from the mixing of Mexican and European cultures when German settlers arrived in the border region with accordions and polka music. Local musicians blended them with traditional Mexican rancheras, giving rise to the modern conjunto sound by the 1930s. The Freddy Fender Museum commemorates the Tejano legend and native son (born Baldemar Huerta), and features memorabilia from his career, including two gold records and his prized Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The San Benito History Museum preserves the history of the region and documents its cultural changes.

From the 1950s–1970s, San Benito's La Villita Dance Hall was the hottest weekend spot in the entire Rio Grande Valley. People made pilgrimages for the weekend dances and to see legends like Narciso Martínez and Fender, who rose to national prominence in the 1970s, and performed there until his death in 2006. Since 1996, the annual Conjunto Festival has been held on the grounds of the nearby Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center.

55 | San Diego

Padre Pedro Plaza (SM)
252 E. St. Peters Ave., San Diego, TX 78384

Long before the community of San Diego was established, its location was a watering hole on the route from Mier, Mexico, to Goliad. Hence the name Mier Street, which runs north and south just west of the Padre Pedro Plaza.

Exemplifying Spanish town planning traditions, St. Francis de Paula Catholic Church is located on the plaza. Visitors are invited to say a quiet prayer, join a service, or simply admire the sanctuary of the 1908 white-brick Gothic Revival church. The parish dates to 1867 when Father Claude Jaillet raised money to build a chapel. It served as the only public place of worship between Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley.

On the south side of the plaza, the Duval County Museum occupies a Colonial Revival stucco house with a two-story balcony. The museum provides an introduction to local history with displays of Catholic garments and artifacts. An extensive collection of church records from Mier is held, including information on births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths dating to the 1700s.

56 | San Juan

Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle
400 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589
956.787.0033
www.olsjbasilica.org

A world-renowned pilgrimage site, the stunning modern Basilica de San Juan is a shrine to the Virgen de San Juan del Valle, a three-foot tall wooden statue of the Virgin Mary. The replica of the legendary Virgen de San Juan in the Mexican state of Jalisco was commissioned in 1949 and immediately gained a reputation as an object of veneration. Within five years, crowds numbered in the hundreds, and a larger sanctuary was built to accommodate devotees. The shrine became a popular stop with migrant workers on their travels far from home. It gained further credibility when, in 1970, a small plane crashed into the roof of the main building. It destroyed the surrounding structure, but left the assembled congregation and beloved statue unharmed. Pope John Paul II designated it a minor Basilica in 1999.

57 | San Manuel-Linn

La Sal del Rey (NR, SM)
Highway 186 between Linn and Raymondville, about four miles east of Highway 281
956.784.7500
www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Rio_Grande_Valley/visit/la_sal_del_rey.html

This lake's seemingly endless supply of salt—estimated at four million tons—has been harvested for centuries by Native Americans and later by Spanish explorers and settlers, who utilized it for personal use and trade. Traveled by traders and harvesters, a well-worn route known as the salt trail crossed the Rio Grande at an ancient ford at the present-day site of Los Ebanos Ferry.

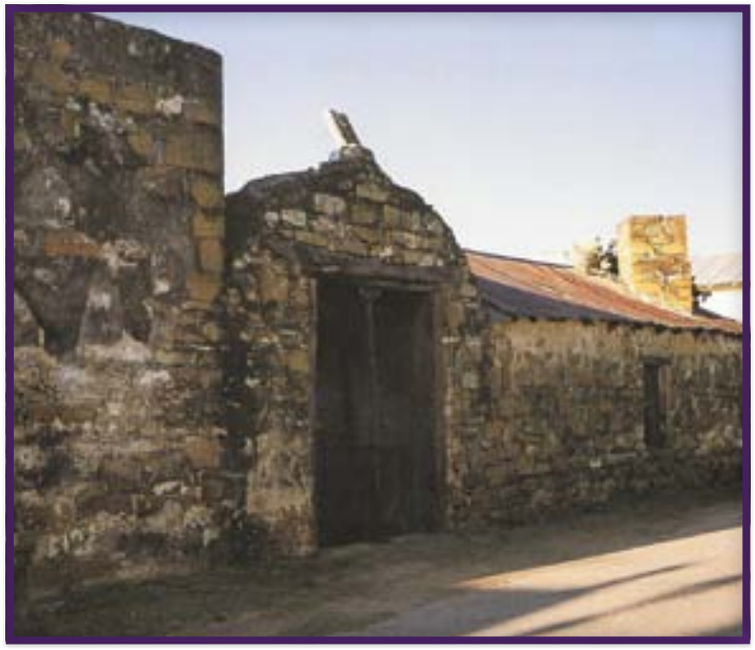
In 1798, La Sal del Rey and nearby La Sal Vieja were granted to Spanish army Capt. Juan José Ballí, father of Rosa Hinojosa de Ballí, who became known as the first "cattle queen" of Texas. The lake was named La Sal del Rey, or "the King's Salt," to honor the King of Spain, who held the mineral rights and received a 20 percent tax on all harvests. In 1866, disputes over rights to the salt deposit spurred a Texas constitutional amendment that granted mineral rights to the landowner instead of the government.

To access the lake, follow the mile-long trail from the small parking lot off US 186. La Sal del Rey is open for hiking and wildlife viewing from sunrise to sunset, and guided tours can be requested through the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce.

58 | San Ygnacio

San Ygnacio Historic District (NR)
Bounded by the Rio Grande, US 83, and Mina and Matamoros streets in San Ygnacio, TX 78067
956.765.5784

Thirty miles southeast of Laredo, the oldest town in Zapata County bustled with trade and commerce throughout most of the 19th century. San Ygnacio Historic District retains that century's character with several of the state's oldest examples of vernacular architecture. Spanish and Mexican influences are visible throughout the district's remaining 36 sandstone structures, including the block-long Treviño-Uribe Fort, a national historic landmark. Originally built for protection in 1830 by town founder Jesús Treviño, the compound



Christopher Rincón, The River Pierce Foundation

Treviño-Uribe Fort, San Ygnacio Historic District, San Ygnacio

Zapata County Museum of History, Zapata

was enlarged by his heirs until 1871 with additional rooms, decorative beams, and gated entry. Nuestra Señora del Refugio Church is located on Uribe Plaza in accordance with Spanish planning regulations. The church has continuously served as the starting point for the annual Via Dolorosa procession on Good Friday. When visiting the district, classic movie buffs may recognize the setting: the town was used in the filming of "Viva Zapata" in 1951.

Outside the San Ygnacio Historic District, follow El Camino Real de los Tejas signs north on US 83 to Los Corralitos Ranch house, which is part of the National Historic Trail. The fortified one-room structure dates to 1786 and may be the oldest secular structure in Texas.

59 | Sarita

Kenedy Ranch Museum of South Texas
200 E. La Parra Ave., Sarita, TX 78385
361.294.5751
www.kenedymuseum.org

Mifflin Kenedy's involvement in ranching, railroads, oil, and land development shaped the small town of Sarita, which originally stood as the headquarters for the Kenedy Pasture Company. Kenedy got his start as a riverboat captain in the mid-1800s, ferrying U.S. troops and supplies up and down the Rio Grande during the war with Mexico. After the war, he saw opportunity and stayed, becoming a successful businessman who married Petra Vela de Vidal, the young widow of a Mexican soldier. He founded Kenedy Ranch in the 1860s in what was then known as the Wild Horse Desert.

The Kenedy Ranch Museum tells the story of three generations of the Kenedy family. With a mix of artifacts, murals, and statues, exhibits reveal the culture of the Mexican cowboy, or *vaquero*, and how the ranch location was instrumental in establishing nearby communities.

60 | Weslaco

Weslaco Museum
500 S. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596
956.968.9142
www.weslacomuseum.org

This museum encapsulates the changes brought by the arrival of the railroad and widespread agriculture in the 20th century, which reshaped the landscape and population of South Texas. From Spanish colonization through the 1904 arrival of the rail and beyond, this cultural museum touches on several pivotal periods, including the role *troqueros*, or labor contractors, played in the development of the Rio Grande Valley.

Weslaco was officially founded in 1919, after the railway arrived and several interests combined to create a farming area. The agricultural business that grew from the city's founding attracted workers and entrepreneurs from both sides of the nearby border. Landowners and farmers needed laborers to harvest crops, and enterprising Mexicans with trucks began transporting their countrymen to work in the fields. *Troqueros* created the system that would enable widespread migration into the rest of the U.S.

61 | Zapata

Zapata County Museum of History
805 N. Main St., Zapata, TX 78076
956.765.8983
www.zapatamuseum.org

Explore the significant events, from the Spanish Colonial period to the modern, that have shaped regional culture and industry at this modern and well-organized museum. Visits begin with an eight-minute film on the story of Zapata County.

The film and several exhibits tell the story of the formation of nearby Falcon International Reservoir and its impact on area residents. Dedicated in October 1953 by then Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines and U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Falcon Dam created the international reservoir shared by Mexican and American citizens.

Other galleries with displays in both English and Spanish begin with the native people, flora, and fauna of the region, as well as its geology, which is important in understanding the discovery of oil in the area. The Spanish Colonial period and the lasting impact of Catholicism is explained and illustrated through religious artifacts. A special permanent exhibit highlights the military service of area residents, displaying original uniforms, insignia, medals, and documentation from the Spanish Colonial era through today.

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Texas Department of Transportation

TEXAS
It's like a WHOLE OTHER COUNTRY

This guide is made possible through the Texas Historical Commission's partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, Office of the Governor-Economic Development and Tourism, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas Commission on the Arts. The Texas Historical Commission, the state agency for historic preservation, administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical, and cultural resources of Texas.

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