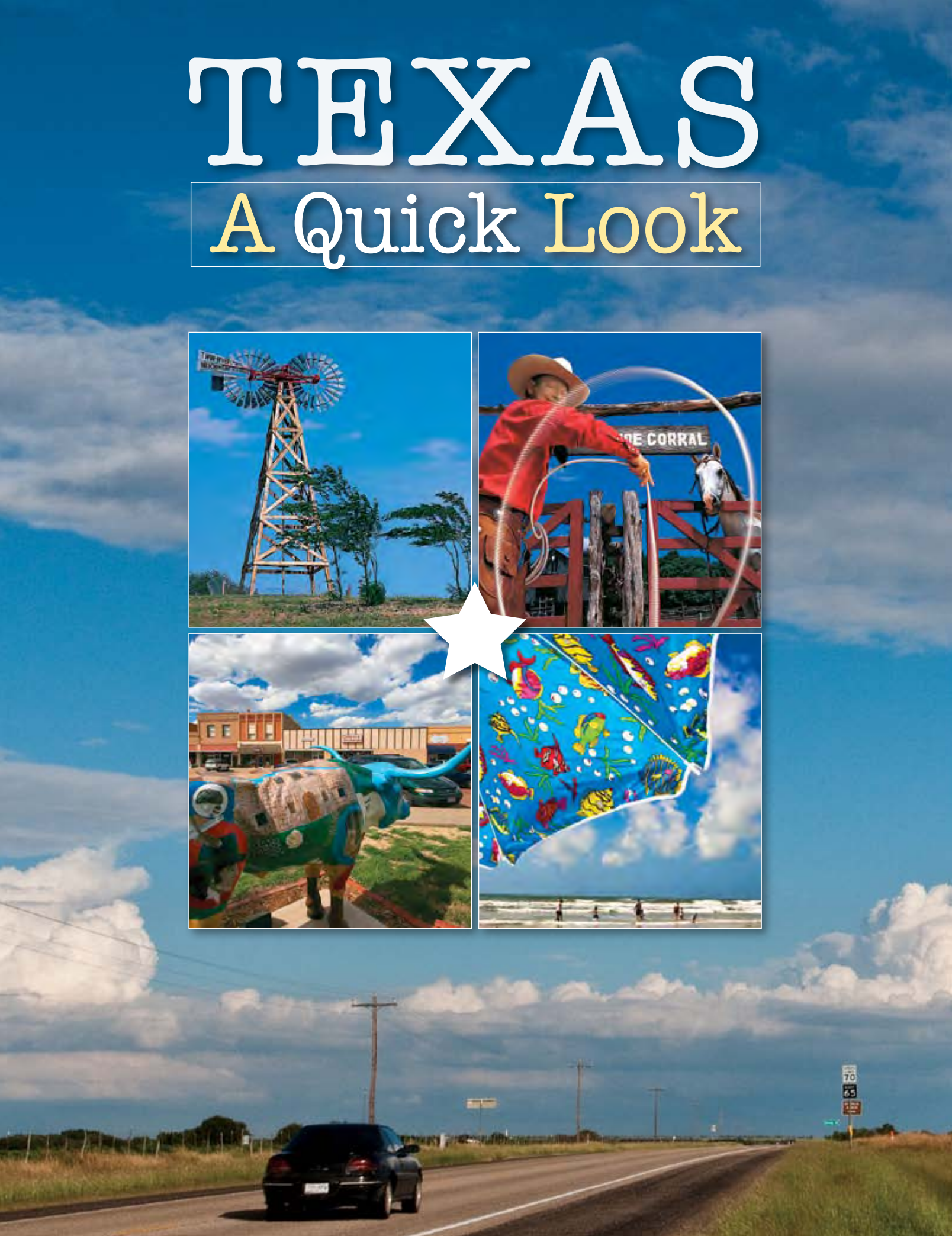
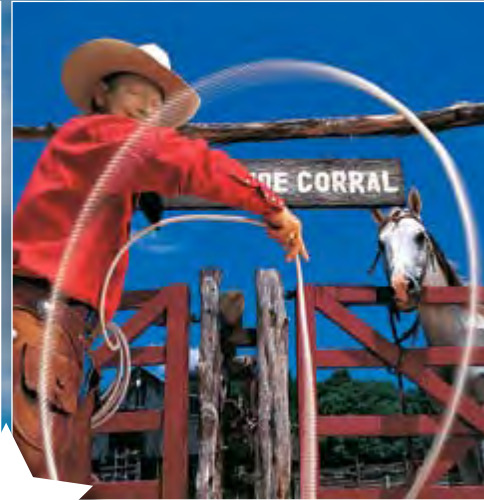


TEXAS

A Quick Look





Welcome

to the country that's **TEXAS.**

YOU MAY HAVE heard a tall tale or two about Texas.

A few of them are even true. But it's not so exaggerated to think of Texas as a whole other country. Covering 268,581 square miles, Texas stretches 801 straight-line miles from north to south and 773 miles from east to west.

A few things about Texas might surprise you. Like the rocky mountains looming a mile high in Big Bend Country. The deep forests that blanket millions of acres in the East Texas Piney Woods. Humid swamps where wild orchids grow. Dramatic volcanic landscapes. More than 600 miles of sunny Gulf coastline. Twenty-five modern cities with populations of 100,000 or more. And thousands of square miles of grassy, rolling prairies where ranches and Texas cowboys still thrive.

This isn't a detailed guide—it's a *quick look* at the colorful and distinctive land called Texas. In these pages, you can discover for yourself the truth about the Texas mystique.

Enjoy!



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TEXAS' Past

THE STORY OF TEXAS is filled with chapters of fascinating people, places, struggles and victories. Historians and teachers enjoy sharing the story with new generations and newcomers, because it explains why Texans are so proud and why this state is like a whole other country.

SPANISH EXPLORERS

More than 100 years before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, Alonso Alvarez de Pineda was busily mapping the Gulf Coast from Florida to Yucatán, claiming the land—including what's now Texas—for the government of Spain.

Spain's obsession with gold, encouraged by the successes of Cortez in Mexico, led to subsequent expeditions. Colonization came slowly, following the establishment of missions. The first settlement that could be called a town was Ysleta, established in 1681 in present-day El Paso.

FRENCH COLONIES

The short-lived Fort St. Louis, established by France in 1685, was abandoned before the Spanish arrived to challenge it. The Spanish, however, recognizing the threat of colonization by other European powers, moved up the Neches River and established the first East Texas mission, San Francisco de los Tejas, near present-day Weches.

The French mounted another colonization effort in the 1700s, and the Spanish

again moved to strengthen their claim by establishing missions. Settlements around the missions grew to become the towns of San Antonio, Goliad and Nacogdoches.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S COLONISTS

After Mexico achieved independence from Spain in 1821, colonization was encouraged. Land grants were offered to settlers, and empresarios brought groups to take advantage of the generous grants. Best known, perhaps, were the 300 families brought by Stephen F. Austin. Families today proudly trace their ties to the "Old Three Hundred."

Settlers came in droves, and soon friction between the settlers and Mexico grew into rebellion. Conventions were called in 1832 and 1833, and the colonists petitioned Mexico for civil rights. Austin took the demands to Mexico City where he was denied an audience with Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna and was imprisoned for nearly two years on a charge of treason. For the Texian colonists, the last straw came when Santa Anna scrapped the Mexican federal constitution and became a dictator.

THE TEXIAN REBELLION

Meanwhile, Sam Houston had come to Texas. As a former congressman and governor of Tennessee, he had the political background to become a leader of the restless settlers, who now outnumbered the Mexican nationals in Texas by four to one.

The first shots of the Texas Revolution were fired on September 1, 1835, off Velasco at the mouth of the Brazos River, when the armed schooner *San Felipe* engaged the revenue cutter *Correo de Mejico*. On October 2, the first land shot of the Revolution was fired in Gonzales (near the present-day community of Cost) when Mexican troops demanded the return of a cannon they had loaned the settlers. Their reply of "Come and Take It" became a rallying cry. On October 12, the Texians overran the fort at Goliad, and less than two months later took the city of San Antonio.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

Determined to regain the city, the Mexican dictator Santa Anna and his army held the Alamo under siege for more than a week. On March 6, 1836,



San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

Santa Anna ordered about 1,800 of his troops to attack the Alamo, which was defended by less than 200 men. Hundreds of the Mexican troops died before the defenders were killed.

A few weeks later, Santa Anna ordered the massacre of Col. James W. Fannin Jr. and his men at Goliad. He then sent his troops in pursuit of Gen. Sam Houston's forces, which had retreated to the bayou country near present-day Houston. The Texians surprised the Mexicans on April 21, 1836, and triumphed in the Battle of San Jacinto, which won independence for Texas.

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

The Texas Declaration of Independence had been drafted on March 2, 1836, and that independence lasted until December 29, 1845, when Texas became the 28th U.S. state.

Sam Houston, hero of San Jacinto, was the republic's first president. The new government was troubled by a shortage of funds. The Mexican army made an abortive attempt to recapture San Antonio. Texas independence was recognized by the United States in 1837, by France in 1839, and by England and Holland in 1840.

TEXAS: THE 28TH STATE

Although the Republic of Texas was an independent nation, most of its citizens favored statehood. Reluctance of the U.S. Congress to admit another "slave" state delayed acceptance of Texas as a state, but a compromise was reached, and on December 29, 1845, the state was legally annexed by the United States.

This annexation of Texas was considered a declaration of war by Mexico, and although federal troops under Gen. Zachary Taylor firmly established the right of Texas to be a state, boundaries were ill-defined and remained a source of disputes for years to come.

CIVIL WAR

In February 1861, Texas voted to side with the Confederate States of America. During the course of the

Civil War, Texas provided both men and supplies to the Confederacy. The last battle of the war was in Texas at Palmito Ranch. A month after Lee had officially surrendered, the Confederates claimed the war's final victory.

CATTLE, OIL AND BEYOND

Texas recovered from the devastation of war more quickly than other Confederate states. Thousands of Longhorn cattle were running free on Texas lands, and there was a demand for beef in northern markets. The legendary trail drives met that demand and brought much-needed cash to Texas. Then, at 10 a.m. on January 10, 1901, the Lucas oil well blew in at Spindletop, and Texas entered the modern era. When NASA established its presence near Houston in the 1960s, Texans took part in the exploration of yet another frontier.



This historical re-enactment commemorates the Battle of Goliad of the Texas Revolution.

For more information about almost any topic in Texas history — A to Z — visit the Handbook of Texas Online: www.tshaonline.org.

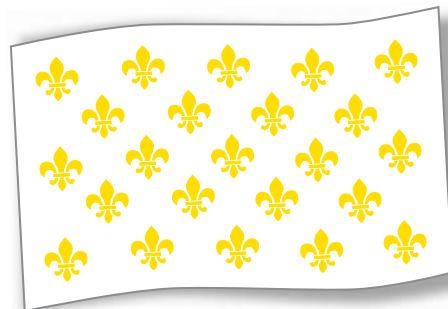
THE Six Flags OF TEXAS



TEXAS UNDER SPAIN

1519–1685; 1690–1821

- ★ Spain was the first European nation to claim what is now Texas, beginning in 1519 when Cortez was establishing a Spanish presence in Mexico and Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda was mapping the Texas coastline.
- ★ A few shipwrecked Spaniards, like Alvar Núñez and Cabeza de Vaca, and explorers such as Coronado, occasionally probed the vast wilderness, but more than 100 years passed before Spain planted its first settlement in Texas: Ysleta Mission in present-day El Paso, established in 1681.
- ★ Gradually expanding from Mexico, other Spanish missions, forts and civil settlements followed for nearly a century and-a-half until Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821.
- ★ The red-and-yellow-striped Spanish flag of this historic period depicts a lion of Leon and a castle of Castile on a shield surmounted by a crown.



TEXAS UNDER FRANCE

1685–1690

- ★ Planning to expand its base from French Louisiana, France took a bold step in 1685, planting its flag in eastern Texas near the Gulf Coast. Although Spain had claimed Texas, most of the territory had no Spanish presence at all. The nearest Spanish settlements were hundreds of miles away.
- ★ French nobleman René Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, founded a colony called Fort St. Louis. But the effort was doomed by a series of calamities—shipwreck, disease, famine, hostile Indians and internal strife resulting in La Salle’s murder by one of his own company.
- ★ By 1690, France’s claim to Texas had failed.
- ★ The French flag—actually the French royal ensign for ships and forts—features golden fleurs-de-lis on a field of white.



TEXAS UNDER MEXICO

1821–1836

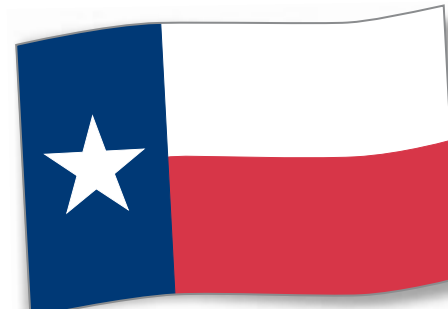
- ★ For more than a decade after Mexico won independence from Spain, pioneers from the Hispanic south and the Anglo north flowed into Texas.
- ★ It was a frontier region for both. Anglo Texans became Mexican citizens.
- ★ But divergent social and political attitudes began to alienate the two cultures.
- ★ The last straw: Mexican Gen. Santa Anna scrapped the Mexican federal constitution and declared himself dictator.
- ★ Texans revolted and won their independence April 21, 1836, on the battleground of San Jacinto near Houston.
- ★ Mexico’s flag depicts an eagle, a snake (a symbol from pre-Columbian mythology) and a cactus on bars of green, white and red.

HISTORIANS NOTE that during more than four centuries of recorded history in the area that became Texas, many more than six flags have flown at significant times and places. One banner was associated with the opening shots of the Texas Revolution at Gonzales in 1835.

Several flags of the revolutionary period featured a “lone star,” as on Capt. William Scott’s flag, the Georgia Battalion Flag and the Texas Naval Flag.

Northeast Texas flew flags of the Long Republic and the Fredonian Republic. South Texas unfurled a flag of the Republic of the Rio Grande. At San Jacinto, where Texas won independence, the charging Texans carried a white silk banner centered with the figure of a woman symbolizing liberty.

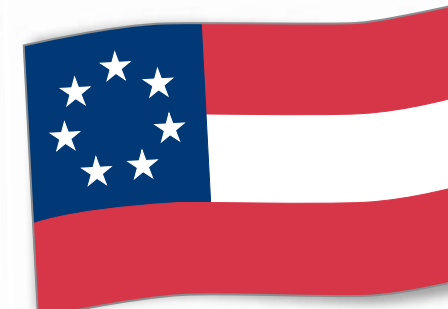
On these pages are the six flags of nations that exercised actual dominion over or staked major claims to Texas.



TEXAS AS A REPUBLIC

1836–1845

- ★ During nearly 10 years of independence, the Republic of Texas endured epidemics, financial crises and volatile clashes with Mexico.
- ★ But during this period, many Texas icons and legends took shape:
 - Texas became the birthplace of the American cowboy.
 - Texas’ Navy was the first to use Sam Colt’s remarkable revolver.
 - Sam Houston became an American ideal of rugged individualism.
- ★ The republic ended when Texas joined the United States on December 29, 1845.
- ★ The red, white and blue Texas state flag with its lone star is the same flag the republic adopted in 1839.



TEXAS IN THE CONFEDERACY

1861–1865

- ★ Sixteen years after Texas became part of the United States, the Civil War broke out.
- ★ Gov. Sam Houston, who urged Texans to stay aloof or re-establish a neutral republic, was driven from office.
- ★ Texas joined the doomed Confederacy, and like all Confederate states, it faced devastation and economic collapse.
- ★ The first national flag of the Confederate States of America (shown above) is known as the Stars and Bars. You may be more familiar with the later X-crossed Confederate battle flag, also known as the Starry Cross.



TEXAS IN THE UNITED STATES

1845–1861; 1865–PRESENT

- ★ On joining the union, Texas became the 28th star on the U.S. flag.
- ★ Shrugging aside defeat and bitter reconstruction after the Civil War, the offspring of Texas pioneers marshaled their strengths to secure a future based on determined self-reliance.
- ★ The fabled Texas Longhorn provided beef for a burgeoning nation.
- ★ Newly turned topsoil on vast farm acres yielded bountiful crops.
- ★ The 20th century dawned with the discovery of fabulous resources—oil gushers roaring in at a place called Spindletop near Beaumont.
- ★ By mid-century, modern Texas industries were sprouting in a fertile climate of advanced technology.
- ★ This historic version of the Stars and Stripes features only 28 stars, as it would have when Texas first became part of the United States.

For more information, see the “Flags of Texas” entry at www.tshaonline.org or see www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/sixflags.html.

TEXAS' Capitol



Capitol rotunda

AUSTIN BECAME the capital city in 1839. The capital was later moved to Houston in 1842, then Washington-on-the-Brazos before returning to Austin in 1845. The Texas Constitution, adopted February 15, 1876, authorized the sale of public land to finance a new state capitol in Austin.

- ★ The builders accepted as payment 3 million acres of land in 10 counties of the Texas Panhandle. This land became the famed XIT Ranch.
- ★ Original plans called for construction with Texas limestone. After the cornerstone was laid on March 2, 1885, concerns arose about the uniform quality of limestone from then-available quarries.
- ★ Owners of Granite Mountain at Marble Falls in Burnet County offered building stone, free of charge, to the state. The structure was completed with the Sunset Red Texas Granite that makes the Capitol so distinctive.



- ★ It was dedicated on May 16, 1888, and occupied in September of that year.
- ★ Covering 2.25 acres of ground with some 8.5 acres of floor space, the Capitol was said to be the seventh-largest building in the world at the time of its construction.
- ★ A four-story, 650,000-square-foot underground extension was added in 1993. Major renovation of the Capitol was completed in 1995.
- ★ The building stands 302.64 feet tall, measured from the oval walk at the south entrance to the tip of the star in the Goddess of Liberty's hand at the top of the dome. It is taller than the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

For more information, see www.tspb.state.tx.us.



House Chamber

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

- ★ The Texas Legislature meets every two years.
- ★ It convenes in January of every odd-numbered year for a session lasting no more than 140 days.
- ★ In addition, the governor may call a special session at any time.
- ★ The Legislature has two chambers — the Senate and the House.
- ★ The Senate has 31 members who serve four-year terms.
- ★ The House has 150 members who serve two-year terms.

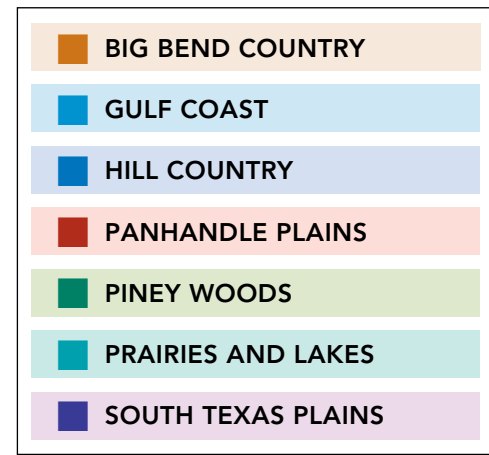
For more information, see www.capitol.state.tx.us.



TEXAS Map

THIS IS AN OVERVIEW of the state showing interstate and major highways. It is not intended for use as a travel map. Colors indicate the seven Texas travel regions—shown at right. The next 14 pages feature photos and descriptions of each region.

THE SEVEN REGIONS OF TEXAS



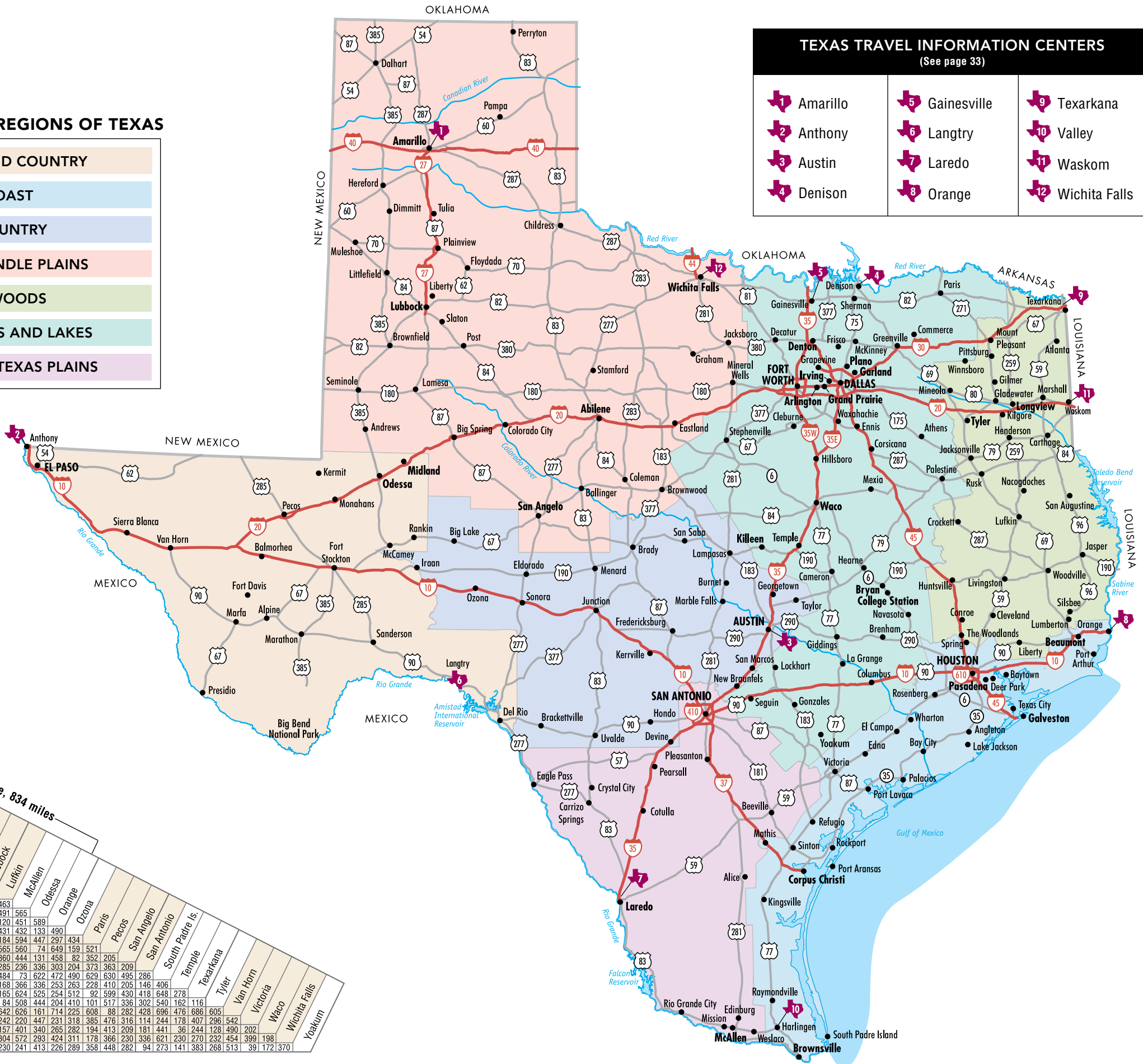
TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS (See page 33)					
1	Amarillo	5	Gainesville	9	Texarkana
2	Anthony	6	Langtry	10	Valley
3	Austin	7	Laredo	11	Waskom
4	Denison	8	Orange	12	Wichita Falls

MILEAGE CHART

Use this chart to see how far it is between two Texas cities. Traveling on I-10, it is 834 miles from El Paso to Orange!

Abilene	Amarillo	Austin	Beaumont	Big Bend	Big Spring	Brownsville	Bryan	Childress	Corpus Christi	Dalhart	Dallas	Del Rio	Denison	Eagle Pass	El Paso	Fort Stockton	Fort Worth	Gainesville	Garland	Houston	Huntsville	Junction	Kingsville	Laredo	Langtry	Lubbock	Lufkin	McAllen	Odessa	Orange	Ozona	Paris	Pecos	San Angelo	San Antonio	South Padre Is.	Temple	Texarkana	Tyler	Van Horn	Victoria	Waco	Wichita Falls	Yoakum																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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Example: El Paso to Orange, 834 miles



Big Bend Country



VISITORS TO THIS BEAUTIFUL natural region find high-country adventure after adventure because the Big Bend Country is chockfull of outdoor opportunities like hiking, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, jeep touring, river rafting and more. The landscapes in this tallest region of the state are straight out of an old Hollywood western, with thorny, sun-bleached and jagged terrain. Ancient rock strata lie exposed in rocky mountains more than a mile high. Survival became a way of life for those who settled in this rough, remote area. Although early explorers couldn't tame the land, they made it more accessible. Today, excellent highways span the wilderness, leading to sites where the great Comanche War Trail swept across two nations, conquistadors and cavalry troopers scanned the horizon for danger, and cowboys made their home on the range.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The River Road in Big Bend Ranch State Park. A collection of pumping units are on display outside the Petroleum Museum in Midland. Fort Stockton's Paisano Pete is the world's largest roadrunner.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Texas' oldest mission, Corpus Christi de la Ysleta in El Paso, was established in 1682. The Presidential Museum in Odessa is dedicated to the leaders who have shaped this country. Visitors can peek through a telescope at the University of Texas McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis. Hiking trails lead to enchanting scenery in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Gulf Coast



BETWEEN THE MOSS-DRAPED bayous of Louisiana and the sunny shores of Mexico, you'll discover the 624-mile stretch of the Texas Gulf Coast. Here, you'll find a wealth of natural harbors, historic fishing villages, busy ports, offshore islands, sheltered bays and recreational areas sprinkled along the seashore. Campers and anglers enjoy superb oceanfront parks, while nature-lovers delight in some of the best opportunities for bird-watching in the Western Hemisphere. The seaside playground, South Padre Island, draws tourists from across the globe and enjoys acclaim as one of the best beaches in the world.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Public beaches and piers can be found at many points along the 624-mile Texas Gulf Coast. An adventure into the past, present and future of NASA's space flight program awaits visitors at Space Center Houston. Climb aboard a World War II-era aircraft carrier at the USS *Lexington* Museum in Corpus Christi.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The pyramids at Galveston's Moody Gardens house an aquarium, a rain forest and IMAX 3-D and 4-D theaters. The Brownsville Heritage Complex offers history of the lower Rio Grande Valley. The Lucas Gusher Monument in Beaumont commemorates the beginning of the petroleum industry. The skyline of Houston—Texas' largest city—stands tall.

Hill Country



LUSH GREEN SLOPES, ROCKY landscapes and bubbling springs are just part of the wonderment that makes up the Texas Hill Country. You'll also be amazed by rolling hills and river valleys that were shaped by ancient seas, enormous geological forces and millennia of erosion. Today, skyscrapers stand in cities just miles away from open space teeming with native wildlife. Visitors explore cliff-edged lakes, dude ranches, deep canyons and state parks that offer historic treasures and natural beauty. It's a land to cherish — rich with Texas' handsome capital city, charming small towns, aquatic playgrounds, highland vistas and more.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Swim, fish and paddle at Guadalupe River State Park near Boerne. The National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg tells the story of World War II in the Pacific. There are lots of riding opportunities at dude ranches around Bandera.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The state-of-the-art Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin tells the story of Texas. The drive along Texas 71, between Llano and Brady, is a great place to view spring wildflowers. Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels is one of America's most popular water parks. There are lots of opportunities to see cave formations at the Caverns of Sonora.



Panhandle Plains



WHAT BETTER WAY
to understand the frontier
and the people who settled



it than to browse the fascinating museums and experience the rugged grandeur of the Texas Panhandle Plains? Resilient men and women shaped the heritage of this region. The Panhandle Plains slice through what residents call the “Golden Spread,” which refers to this immensely rich agricultural, mineral and industrial area.

Those who travel these wide-open spaces find abundant opportunities for camping amid scenic vistas, nature photography and exploring the paths of the ancient people who once roamed this land.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Learn about prehistory and geology at the Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument near Fritch. Windmills provided the West with important access to underground water. “Texas” outdoor drama in Palo Duro Canyon.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: These formations in Palo Duro Canyon prove that the Panhandle isn't all flat. Ten Cadillacs are buried nose down at the Cadillac Ranch near Amarillo. The International Water Lily Collection can be found in Civic League Park in San Angelo. Plainview celebrates Cowboy Days in September.

Piney Woods



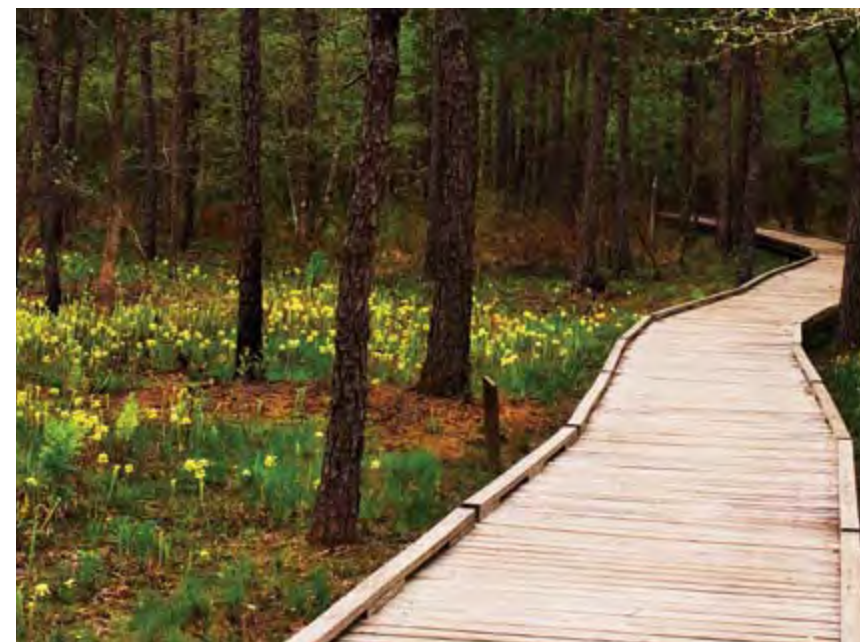
TO APPRECIATE THE VAST East Texas Piney Woods — with acreage almost equaling that of



the combined forests of New England — get out and explore on a walk or a drive. This isn't the open prairie that often comes to mind when you picture Texas. The Piney Woods were the first part of Texas to be settled by Anglo-American pioneers. Steamboats plied rivers and bayous, including Caddo Lake, the only natural lake in Texas. Plantation homes embodied the Old-South lifestyle. Today's travelers savor outdoor recreation in verdant landscapes and enjoy historic structures in delightfully comfortable small towns.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Fishing and boating are popular on Caddo Lake near Uncertain. A dancer at Alabama-Coushatta Reservation near Livingston. A carriage ride is a great way to see Jefferson.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The General Sam Houston Folk Festival, held each spring in Huntsville, showcases 19th-century skills and crafts. The Ace of Clubs House in Texarkana is one of many historic homes in the Piney Woods. The Old Nacogdoches University Building is the oldest university building in Texas. Big Thicket National Preserve encompasses more than 97,000 acres of dense woods, swamps and streams.



Prairies and Lakes



MAKING A GIANT SWEEP from the Texas-Oklahoma state line through Dallas and



Fort Worth, south to the dark, rich central prairies is the Prairies and Lakes region. Here, Stephen F. Austin and Sterling Robertson settled their original Texas colonists. In this region, you can find adventure in the big city or recreation at the lake.

Ballet, symphonies, museums, sporting events, outdoor activities and a calendar full of fairs and festivals assure plenty of options for entertainment and fun.

This region is also home to dozens of major lakes where anglers take hefty stringers of black and sand bass, crappie and catfish.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Take in a view of the Dallas skyline from Pioneer Plaza. In Arlington, watch the Texas Rangers in action. Check out the decorated oil well pump jacks in Luling.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Fayette county is known for its painted churches like this one in Dubina. Cattle drives are held daily at the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District. LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park, near Bastrop, includes horseback trails. Whitney is a gateway to recreational areas at Lakes Whitney and Aquilla.

South Texas Plains

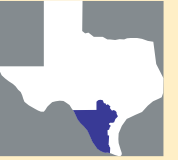


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Alamo, in San Antonio, is Texas' most famous shrine. Washington's Birthday Celebration in Laredo is a 16-day fiesta honoring the nation's first president. A bird-watching paradise, the Lower Rio Grande Valley is home to nine sites of the World Birding Center.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Mission Espiritu Santo, in Goliad, has been reconstructed to look like it did in the 1780s. Just miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, eclectic shopping opportunities abound in Weslaco. South Texas puts on a wildflower display in springtime. Hidalgo's Borderfest features parades and entertainment.

WELCOME TO THE REGION where conquistadors planted fortresses for Imperial Spain, where huge ranches flourished, and where Franciscan padres founded graceful missions a half-century before the United States was born.



The South Texas Plains, stretching from San Antonio to the Mexican border, offers a delightful bicultural experience, complete with mariachi music and the tangy taste of Mexican cuisine. There's a definite Latino flavor made even more exotic by glossy green citrus groves, rustling palms and blazing bougainvilleas that supply the backdrop for the Lower Rio Grande Valley at the southern tip of the state.



TEXAS State Parks



Lost Maples State Natural Area

THE TEXAS PARKS AND Wildlife Department offers more than 90 state parks, with features ranging from natural landscapes to outdoor recreational areas to historic sites. Park visitors find abundant camping facilities, hiking and nature trails, close-up views of colorful birds and wildlife, flora from shady forests to desert cacti, and frequent opportunities for fishing, swimming and boating. Fishing is allowed in all water-access state parks, and fishing licenses are available at most.

In the Texas state park system, you'll find eerie subterranean chambers, primeval wetlands, mile-high mountain vistas, spectacular canyons and sandy seashores.

The Texas Historical Commission oversees certain state historical sites, which accent Texas' heritage, where centuries-old Spanish missions, rough-hewn frontier army forts and dignified mansions from bygone days are preserved.

Most parks charge an admission fee, plus a range of additional fees for camping and other accommodations.



Lake Corpus Christi State Park



Balmorhea State Park

For information on state parks, hunting and fishing, call **Texas Parks and Wildlife** at 800/792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us. For information on state historic sites, call **Texas Historical Commission** at 512/463-7948 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.



Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

IN THE HUMID MARSHLANDS of the East Texas Piney Woods, carnivorous pitcher plants trap unwary insects. Far across the state, rare, red Mexican silenes seek the seclusion of cool canyons. On the sun-swept Gulf Coast, beach morning glories race across lonely dunes. Such is the variety of Texas' 5,000 wildflower species—products of the state's diverse environment. Bluebonnets, buttercups and Indian paintbrushes crop up statewide, making colorful displays along the highways each spring.

While spring is the most spectacular season, other times offer their own specialties. The sun-drenched western desert doesn't follow the calendar. In almost any month, "spring" follows each rare, welcome rain, when yucca, ocotillo and cacti erupt in a brief display of blooms.

Throughout the year in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, towering palms stand guard over bougainvillea-draped boulevards. In winter, citrus orchards are heady with the scent of orange blossoms, and giant poinsettias, a major floriculture crop, decorate homes for the holiday season.

Wildflowers of Texas, a brochure published by the Texas Department of Transportation, is available free from all Texas Travel Information Centers and by writing to *Wildflowers of Texas*, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249. Or call 800/452-9292.

For information about Texas wildflowers, see www.wildflower.org.

Flowers OF TEXAS



Springtime wildflowers in the Hill Country



Bluebonnet, the official state flower



Dogwood



Strawberry Cactus



Coreopsis

Birds OF TEXAS

WITH THREE-FOURTHS of all known American birds represented in Texas, anywhere in the state, anytime of the year, there are birds for the watching.

No other state offers the birding variety (or challenge) that Texas does. It's no wonder Texas is one of the nation's leaders in nature tourism. Varied vegetation, altitudes from sea level to more than 8,000 feet, rainfall from less than ten inches to more than 55 inches annually, and a strategic position on the North American continent combine to provide a diversity of bird life unrivaled by any other state. In addition, Texas' large resident bird population is augmented by migrating species.

The Panhandle Plains, is home to horned larks, kites and prairie chickens. Its lakes attract mallard, wigeon and pintail migrants.

Rare Colima warblers, eagles, canyon wrens, desert-dwelling flycatchers and tiny verdins make their nests out west.

The Hill Country hosts flocks of wild turkeys and almost countless resident and migrant species—including rare golden-cheeked warblers. Open terrain is habitat for fleet-footed roadrunners.

The East Texas Piney Woods is home to several eastern species, including the wood thrush, Acadian flycatcher and Kentucky warbler. A few swallow-tailed kites may live

here and so might the ivory-billed woodpecker, which was once thought to be extinct.

Out of more than 600 bird species identified in Texas, most have been sighted along the Texas coastline. Numerous



Anhinga

shorebirds populate the region — gulls, pelicans, egrets and roseate spoonbills, plus the world's few remaining whooping cranes, which winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The Lower Rio Grande Valley hosts tropical birds and is the only place in the nation where such species as white-tipped doves, chachalacas and green jays may be observed.

Texas is home to the Great Texas Wildlife Trails — Heart of Texas, Coastal Birding, Mountains and Basins, Panhandle Plains, and Prairies and Pineywoods trails. These driving trails across the state help birders and wildlife enthusiasts find the best viewing spots. To learn more about the trails or for information on trail maps, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/birdingtrails.



Green Jay

For more information about birds and wildlife in Texas, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild.



Northern Mockingbird

... AND BUTTERFLIES, TOO

With its many ecological regions and diverse geological and biological features, Texas is also the most butterfly-diverse state in the nation.

Of the 772 species recorded in North America (north of Mexico), about 432 have been recorded in Texas. Nearly 300 of those species are found only in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where the winters are mild and the plants are diverse.

Butterfly watchers from across the globe can spot a multitude of species including swallowtails, whites and sulphurs, gossamer-winged, metalmarks, Heliconians, monarch, true brush-foots, emperors, leafwings and skippers.

For information and images of Texas butterflies, visit www.butterfliesandmoths.org.



Zebra Heliconian

TEXAS Symbols

TEXAS HAS DOZENS OF official state symbols and “capitals”—all designated by the state Legislature.

OFFICIAL TEXAS SYMBOLS

Below are a few of Texas' state symbols. Some are well known, but did you know that Texas has an official state dinosaur? For a complete list of official Texas symbols, see www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/symbols.html.



Prickly Pear Cactus

Nickname: **LONE STAR STATE**

Motto: **FRIENDSHIP**

Bird: **MOCKINGBIRD**

Tree: **PECAN**

Flower: **BLUEBONNET**

Reptile: **HORNED LIZARD**

Large Mammal: **TEXAS LONGHORN**

Small Mammal: **ARMADILLO**

Flying Mammal: **MEXICAN**

FREE-TAILED BAT

Dinosaur: **BRACHIOSAUR**

SAUROPOD, PLEUROCOELUS

Plant: **PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS**

Fruit: **TEXAS RED GRAPEFRUIT**

Pepper: **JALAPEÑO**

Seashell: **LIGHTNING WHELK**

Sport: **RODEO**

Dish: **CHILI**

OFFICIAL CAPITAL DESIGNATIONS

The Texas Legislature has designated many symbolic capitals all over the state.

To see the complete list, go to www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/capitals.html. Here are a few examples:

Alligator Capital: **ANAHUAC**

Barbecue Capital: **LOCKHART**

Bluebird Capital: **WILLS POINT**

Cactus Capital: **SANDERSON**

Catfish Capital: **WEST TAWAKONI**

Citrus Capital: **WESLACO**

Crawfish Capital: **MAURICEVILLE**

Danish Capital: **DANEVANG**

Kolache Capital: **CALDWELL**

Pancake Capital: **HAWKINS**

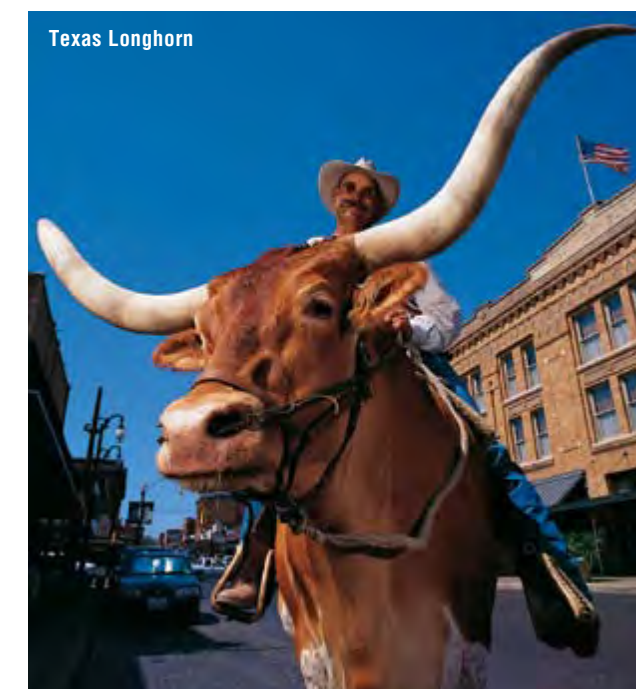
Polka Capital: **FREDERICKSBURG**

Pump Jack Capital: **ELECTRA**

Rodeo Capital: **MESQUITE**

Sausage Capital: **ELGIN**

Sunflower Capital: **HEARNE**



Texas Longhorn



STATE SEAL: Since the earliest days of Texas, a five-pointed “lone star” has been prominent among Texas symbols. The state seal, adopted as part of the 1845 state constitution, features the lone star encircled by olive and live oak branches. The Congress of the Republic of Texas adopted the lone star as its seal in December 1836 and added the olive and live oak branches in January 1839. The state seal is identical to the 1839 seal except that the word “State” has replaced “Republic.”



Lightning Whelk

TEXAS Facts



Ranching and farming are an important part of Texas' economy.

AREA

Texas covers 268,581 square miles (land and water) according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States.

- ★ Texas is as large as the following 10 states combined: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina.
- ★ Texas extends 801 straight-line miles from north to south and 773 miles from east to west.
- ★ Brewster County, in West Texas, is the largest of the state's 254 counties with 6,193 square miles, an area larger than the state of Connecticut.
- ★ The smallest county is Rockwall, east of Dallas which is 149 square miles.

BOUNDARY

Texas' boundary extends 3,822 miles with Louisiana on the east, Arkansas on the northeast, Oklahoma on the north, New Mexico on the west, and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The tide-water coastline extends 624 miles.

POPULATION

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Texas had an estimated 24,782,302 residents in 2009, ranking second among the 50 states.

- ★ Nearly 85 percent of Texans live in urban areas.
 - ★ The six largest Texas cities and their populations based on 2009 estimates are:
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Houston | 2,257,926 |
| San Antonio | 1,373,668 |
| Dallas | 1,299,542 |
| Austin | 786,386 |
| Fort Worth | 727,577 |
| El Paso | 620,456 |
- ★ Texas has 25 cities with a population of 100,000 or more.

WEATHER

Texas enjoys generally mild winters, but the summers are hot! In July, the average daytime high statewide is almost 96 degrees. Average annual rainfall varies from less than 9 inches in far West Texas to about 58 inches in parts of East Texas.

TERRAIN

The state's surface ranges from sea level to mountains more than a mile high. There are sun-baked deserts; rich, black farmlands; humid swamps; and dramatic volcanic landscapes of basalt and granite.

- ★ The table-flat Great Plains fills much of the Texas Panhandle.
- ★ Nearly as flat are vast coastal plains along the Gulf of Mexico.
- ★ Deep forests blanket East Texas.
- ★ In the Texas Hill Country, limestone hills give way to green river valleys.

MOUNTAINS

Texas has 91 mountains a mile or more high (one mile = 5,280 feet), all of them in West Texas.

- ★ The state's highest mountain, Guadalupe Peak, stands at 8,749 feet. That makes it more than 2,000 feet higher than North Carolina's Mount Mitchell, which marks the greatest elevation east of the Mississippi River.

FORESTS

Trees cover about 13 percent of Texas' total land area. Of the state's 22 million acres of forests and woodlands, 12 million acres are in the East Texas Piney Woods area, which extends over all or parts of 43 counties. The area includes four national forests totaling more than 637,000 acres and five state forests covering more than 7,500 acres.

The \$30.6-billion Texas forest products industry used its timber harvest in the production of 1.7 billion board feet of lumber, 2.2 billion square feet of structural panel, and 2.3 million tons of pulp and paper products.

RIVERS

The longest river in the state is the Rio Grande, which forms the international boundary between Texas and Mexico and extends 1,254 miles along Texas. Other principal rivers are the Red River, Brazos, Colorado, Trinity, Sabine, Nueces, Neches, Pecos and Guadalupe.

LAKES

Texas — second only to Alaska in total area of inland water—has more than 4,959 square miles of lakes and streams.

- ★ Toledo Bend Reservoir, between Texas and Louisiana, is the largest reservoir in Texas or on its borders with more than 180,000 acres of surface area.
- ★ The largest body of water wholly within the state is Sam Rayburn Reservoir, which has a normal surface area of 114,500 acres.
- ★ Texas has thousands of lakes and reservoirs, but Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state. It was dammed in the 1900s, increasing its size to 26,800 acres.

TRAVEL

Cash receipts are enormous for Texas' travel industry, ranked third in the nation. According to the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism, travelers spend \$51.8 billion in Texas in 2009. That travel spending directly supported 525,700 jobs.

PETROLEUM

- ★ The first successful oil well in Texas was drilled in 1866 near Nacogdoches.
- ★ Production in 2009 amounted to almost 350 million barrels of crude oil and

more than 7.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

- ★ In 2009, Texas had 253,090 producing wells, including 152,807 oil wells and 101,097 gas wells.

FARMING

Texas' 247,500 farms and ranches cover about 76 percent of the state's land area with approximately 130.5 million acres.

- ★ Agricultural production and related items totaled an estimated \$18.9 billion in 2009.
- ★ Major crops include cotton, corn, wheat, hay, greenhouse/nursery, citrus, pecans and rice.
- ★ Texas ranks first nationally in cotton production.

RANCHING

Both in number and diversity, Texas leads the nation in livestock with 13.8 million cattle and calves, more than twice as much as the next largest producer.

BRAIN POWER

Texas is home to many universities and research institutions that are leaders in electronics, medical, biotechnology, aerospace, advanced materials and energy-related research. The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office shows that in 2009, 5,934 patents were issued to Texas residents. Another 17,339 patent applications were filed. That places Texas second in the nation, behind California, in both categories.

TRANSPORTATION

- ★ By land, sea or air, Texas is tops in moving people and products.
- ★ Texas has more than 305,000 miles of public roads, which is more than any other

state. On this system are more than a million signs and markers, as well as 842 rest areas and picnic areas maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation for the convenience and safety of the traveling public. The state's railroad system is tops in the nation with 44 railroads operating on 10,608 rail miles, carrying 395.2 million rail tons.

The state offers 13 deep water ports with channels at least 30 feet deep along the Gulf Coast.

There are 285 public-use airports, three public-use heliports and more than 1,300 private airstrips on farms and ranches. The state's two largest airports — Dallas-Fort Worth International and George Bush Intercontinental in Houston — serve as major hubs for connecting flights within the domestic air system.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT

The Texas gross state product by the third quarter of 2010 was \$1,295 billion. If Texas were a nation, its economy would rank as the eighth largest in the world.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Texas is consistently ranked as the number one state for export revenues, which totaled \$163 billion in 2009. The state's top exports in 2008 were computer/electronic products, chemicals, machinery (not electrical), transportation equipment, and petroleum and coal products.

In 2009, Port Level imports — mostly energy, machinery and telecom/high technology equipment — totaled more than \$236.4 billion. Energy imports, including petroleum, gas, coal and power-generating machinery, accounted for \$78.5 billion or 33 percent of 2009 Texas Port Level imports.

People OF TEXAS

THE LONE STAR STATE gets much of its uniqueness from its beautiful mix of people. Indeed it is this great blend of cultures that give Texas its lively personality.

You can hear it in the music, taste it in the food, sample it at the festivals and see it in the architecture — Texans are a colorful bunch. Here are just a few:

NATIVE AMERICANS: Texas' earliest inhabitants, the Native Americans, were not a single culture. There were many tribes, including the Apache, Caddo, Comanche, Cherokee, Kiowa, Tonkawa, Wichita, Hueco and Karankawa. Today, there are three federally recognized Native American tribes that live in Texas. They are the Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas.

HISPANIC: European Spaniards changed the New World more than any other people. They came to Texas as soldiers, settlers and priests. But they also changed, as much as they changed the land. They encouraged mixed marriages with European, Native American and African, and those blends — mestizos — became known by many names — Mexicans, Tejanos, Texas Mexicans, Hispanics, Latinos, Mexican Texans, Mexicanos, Mexican Americans, la Raza and Chicanos.

GERMAN: German Texans are a predominant cultural group in Texas and their traditions, food and music can be found in many festivals and events throughout the year. The Germans made their way to Texas in about 1844 where they bought land and settled in New Braunfels. After a considerable amount of growth, they later founded the town of Fredericksburg.

CZECH: Farming, food and music were a



way of life for the Czech immigrants, and today, there are Czech museums and festivals you can attend to get a feel for (and taste of) this culture.

POLISH: Father Leopold Moczygemba, a Polish Franciscan missionary, gets credit for developing Polish settlements in Texas like Cestohowa, Kosciuszko, Polonia, Chappel Hill and Bryan. He helped bring 100 families from Upper Silesia to Texas and founded the town Panna Maria, which is now the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States and the location of the first Polish Catholic church and school.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN: Spain declared in 1803 that any African-American slave that crossed the Sabine into Texas would be automatically free. Seeking that promise of freedom, many slaves headed for the border and become teachers, merchants, miners, landowners and more. When Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836, slavery became legal again. But on June 19, 1865, slaves received word — the

Emancipation Proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln — that they were freed. The event, which occurred in Galveston, is now celebrated in several states as Juneteenth.

FRENCH: The French Alsatians founded Castroville, near San Antonio, and after the Texas Revolution, French missionaries helped to rebuild the Catholic Church in Texas and set up schools, churches and hospitals across the state.

ASIAN: Around 1880, many Chinese came to Texas to help build the railroads, now one of the best systems in the nation. In 1902, Japanese migrated from their overpopulated country to the Gulf Coast where they started rice farms, which allowed Texas to viably compete with Louisiana in rice production. Today, Asians — also including East Indian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Laotian, and Cambodian Texans — continue to add their languages, religions and cultures to the Texas mix. Houston, in fact, has the third highest Asian population in the nation.

The most fun way to celebrate the different cultures of Texas is to attend any of a number of festivals, like the Czech Heritage Fest, Kolache Fest, Greek Food Fest, African-American Heritage Festival, Germanfest, Oktoberfest, Festa Italiana, Celtic Heritage Festival, Fiesta in San Antonio, Polka Fest, numerous Native American powwows, the Wendish Fest and more. For more event information, visit the *Texas Events Calendar* at www.texashighways.com or www.traveltex.com.

Official State Song

"TEXAS, OUR TEXAS"

Texas, our Texas!
All hail the mighty state!
Texas, our Texas!
So wonderful, so great!
Boldest and grandest,
withstanding ev'ry test;
O empire wide and glorious,
you stand supremely blest.

Refrain

God bless you, Texas, and
keep you brave and strong
That you may grow
in power and worth
thro'out the ages long.
Texas, O Texas!
Your freeborn single star
Sends out its radiance
to nations near and far.
Emblem of freedom,
it sets our hearts aglow
With thoughts of San Jacinto
and glorious Alamo.

Texas, dear Texas!
From tyrant grip now free,
Shines forth in splendor
your star of destiny!
Mother of heroes!
We come, your children true,
Proclaiming our allegiance,
our faith, our love for you.

Quick Facts

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS AN OFFICIAL SALUTE TO THE TEXAS STATE FLAG?

Honor the Texas Flag.

I pledge allegiance to thee,
Texas, one state under God,
one and indivisible.



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A TEXIAN?

The term "Texian" is used to describe early Anglo-American settlers in Texas and citizens of the Republic of Texas, which dated from 1836 to 1845. The word "Texian" was used back in that period, but after Texas joined the United States in 1845, "Texan" became much more common.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE LAST BATTLE OF THE U.S. CIVIL WAR WAS FOUGHT IN TEXAS?

Believe it or not, more than a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered, officially ending the Civil War, a battle was fought at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville. The Confederate soldiers had heard the news of Lee's surrender, but they were determined to fight on. On May 13, 1865, the Southerners defeated the Union troops at Palmito Ranch. At the same time, the Confederate governors of Texas and several other nearby states were holding meetings that would disband the Confederate armies and bring the war to a close.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.tshaonline.org (The Handbook of Texas Online)
www.texasalmanac.com (Texas Almanac)
www.traveltex.com (Official Site of Texas Tourism)
www.txdot.gov (Texas Department of Transportation)
www.tpwd.state.tx.us (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
www.artonart.com (Texas Commission on the Arts)
www.thc.state.tx.us (Texas Historical Commission)
www.texashighways.com (Texas Highways magazine)
www.tsl.state.tx.us (Texas State Library)
www.txdps.state.tx.us (Texas Department of Public Safety)

Driving

TEXAS HIGHWAYS



HIGHWAY SAFETY relies on the willingness of drivers to act responsibly, whether making a quick trip to the store or a cross-country excursion. Please be aware of the following Texas highway laws:

- ★ Motor-vehicle operators must maintain current liability insurance and be able to show proof if requested by law enforcement.
- ★ All occupants of cars and light trucks, regardless of age or seating position, must wear seat belts.
- ★ Car seats are required for children up to eight years old or who are less than four feet, nine inches in height.
- ★ It is illegal (with certain exceptions such as parades and emergencies) to operate an open-bed pickup truck, an open flatbed truck or an open flatbed trailer when children under the age of 18 are occupying the bed of the truck or trailer, regardless of the vehicle's speed.
- ★ Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in the passenger area of a motor vehicle.
- ★ Motorcycle operators and passengers must wear protective headgear that

meets adopted standards. Exemptions are allowed for persons over age 21 with certain health insurance and training requirements.

KEEPING THE ROADWAYS BEAUTIFUL

While some rules of the road keep people safe, others exist to keep roads free of litter. That is where Texas Department of Transportation's Don't Mess With Texas® litter prevention campaign comes in. The campaign has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. In that time, hundreds of tons of trash have been collected on Texas roadways and littering has been reduced by 33 percent, which saves taxpayers millions of dollars in reduced litter pickup costs.

That's great progress, but the effort to get the message out continues — Real Texans don't litter. Today, TxDOT is issuing a challenge for all Texans to keep a litterbag

in every car, and they are offering free vehicle litterbags to make it easy, including a limited-edition new line of bags designed to appeal especially to Texans ages 16 to 24.

Don't Mess With Texas also introduces a superhero team, the Litter Force. This program, designed for elementary school children, includes Litter Force outreach team visits to designated school districts. They perform interactive plays and give out litter prevention materials, including an activity book and litterbags. An interactive Litter Force website — www.dontmesswithtexas.org/litterforce — features games, downloadable coloring pages and desktop wallpapers, as well as a section for parents and teachers.

So, what's litter? Litter is trash that is not in a garbage can or recycle bin, where it belongs.

So, what's the big deal? Littering is against the law. You could be fined up to \$500 for an offense. Do it again, and you could face a fine of up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail. If you toss out anything that weighs more than five pounds, that's considered illegal dumping and the fines are much higher. Did you know you could also be fined if your pickup truckload isn't covered? It's a \$200 fine for the first offense and \$500 for repeat offenders.

TxDOT's litter prevention programs include Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful.

To find out more or to order your own Don't Mess With Texas litterbag or other Don't Mess With Texas merchandise, visit www.DontMessWithTexas.org.



THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT of Transportation operates 12 Texas Travel Information Centers for the convenience of the traveling public. Uniformed, professional counselors welcome visitors and provide detailed information on travel within the state.

Working with the *Texas State Travel Guide* and the *Texas Official Travel Map*, counselors expertly chart routes to any area of Texas, pointing out the most convenient short-line directions or leisurely scenic drives to your destination. They supply comprehensive statewide travel publications, plus detailed brochures about towns, attractions and points of interest along the way.

The Texas Travel Information Centers served 2,897,922 customers in 2008. Travelers stopping at the travel information centers had access to more than six and a half million pieces of literature in 2008, making them the largest outlets of travel literature in the state and some of the largest in the nation.

The centers are open daily except New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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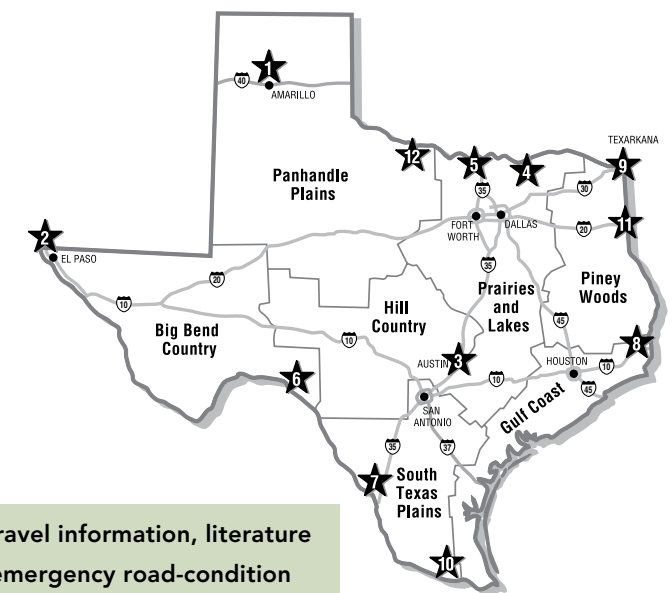
www.texashighways.com

TRAVEL Information



★ TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS

1	Amarillo	I-40	806/335-1441
2	Anthony	I-10	915/886-3468
3	Austin	Capitol Visitor Center	512/463-8586
4	Denison	U.S. 69/75	903/463-2860
5	Gainesville	I-35	940/665-2301
6	Langtry	U.S. 90/Loop 25	432/291-3340
7	Laredo	I-35 at U.S. 83	956/417-4728
8	Orange	I-10	409/883-9416
9	Texarkana	I-30	903/794-2114
10	Valley	U.S. 77 at U.S. 83 (Harlingen)	956/428-4477
11	Waskom	I-20	903/687-2547
12	Wichita Falls	I-44/U.S. 287, Exit 1C	940/723-7931



For travel information, literature and emergency road-condition information, call 800/452-9292.

