

**INSIGHT GUIDES**

# TEXAS



# INSIGHT GUIDES

INSPIRING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

## TEXAS



# How To Use This E-Book

## Getting around the e-book

This **Insight Guide** e-book is designed to give you inspiration for your visit to Texas, as well as comprehensive planning advice to make sure you have the best travel experience. The guide begins with our selection of Top Attractions, as well as our Editor's Choice categories of activities and experiences. Detailed features on history, people and culture paint a vivid portrait of contemporary life in Texas. The extensive Places chapters give a complete guide to all the sights and areas worth visiting. The Travel Tips provide full information on getting around, activities from culture to shopping to sport, plus a wealth of practical information to help you plan your trip.

In the Table of Contents and throughout this e-book you will see hyperlinked references. Just tap a hyperlink once to skip to the section you would like to read. Practical information and listings are also hyperlinked, so as long as you have an external connection to the internet, you can tap a link to go directly to the website for more information.

## Maps

All key attractions and sights in Texas are numbered and cross-referenced to high-quality maps. Wherever you see the reference [map] just tap this to go straight to the related map. You can also double-tap any map for a zoom view.

## Images

You'll find hundreds of beautiful high-resolution images that capture the essence of Texas. Simply double-tap on an image to see it full-screen.

## About Insight Guides

**Insight Guides** have more than 40 years' experience of publishing high-quality, visual travel guides. We produce 400 full-colour titles, in both print and digital form, covering more than 200 destinations across the globe, in a variety of formats to meet your different needs.

**Insight Guides** are written by local authors, whose expertise is evident in the extensive historical and cultural background features. Each destination is carefully researched by regional experts to ensure our guides provide the very latest information. All the reviews in **Insight Guides** are independent; we strive to maintain an impartial view. Our reviews are carefully selected to guide you to the best places to eat, go out and shop, so you can be confident that when we say a place is special, we really mean it.

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and cheek area. The person has traditional body paint applied to their face. The paint consists of several horizontal lines: a thick black line above the eye, a thinner black line below it, a large, textured yellow patch on the cheek, and two parallel lines below the yellow patch, one black and one red. The person's eye is dark and looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a white garment.

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The new travel website from Insight



# Map Legend

## City

	Freeway/Highway/Motorway
	Divided Highway
	Main Roads
	
	Minor Roads
	
	Pedestrian Roads
	Pedestrian Area
	Steps
	Footpath
	Railway
	Funicular Railway
	Tunnel
	Important Building
	Transport Hub
	Park
	Bus Station
	Tourist Information
	Main Post Office
	Cathedral/Church
	Mosque
	Synagogue
	Beach
	Statue/Monument
	Airport

## Regional

	Freeway/Highway/Motorway (with junction)
	Freeway (under construction)
	Divided Highway
	Main Road
	Secondary Road
	Minor Road
	Track
	Footpath
	International Boundary
	State/Province Boundary
	National Park/Reserve
	Ferry Route
	Marshland/Swamp
	Glacier
	Salt Lake
	Airport/Airfield
	Church (ruins)
	Monastery
	Castle/Castle Ruins
	Chateau/Stately Home
	Cave
	Place of Interest
	Viewpoint
	Beach
	Windmill
	Cable Car
	Crater
	Ancient Site
	Border Control

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# TEXAS'S TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

From historic monuments and world-class art collections to unmissable sights like NASA's Johnson Space Center, this vast state is home to an impressive variety of sights and attractions.

## Top Attraction 1



**The Alamo, San Antonio.** The birthplace of the revolution that led to the nine-year Texas Republic in 1836, this somber Spanish mission chapel is the heart of Texas pride in exuberant San Antonio. For more information, [click here](#).

*iStock*

## Top Attraction 2



**The River Walk, San Antonio.** Stroll or take a boat tour along an enchanting European-style riverside promenade in downtown San Antonio that captures the lights, color, and history of the largest Hispanic city in Texas. For more information, [click here](#).

*Carol M. Highsmith/Library of Congress*

## Top Attraction 3



**Nacogdoches, East Texas.** Its Caddo Indian name betrays the ancient origins of this attractive historic town, home to a state university, nature trails, museums, antique stores, and nearby Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. For more information, [click here](#).

*AP/Press Association Images*

## Top Attraction 4



**The Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel, Houston.** Passionate art collectors the Menils' personal collection of art is displayed in an intimate setting in a stunning building by Renzo Piano. The interfaith chapel contains a collection of paintings by Mark Rothko. For more information, [click here](#)

*Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau*

## Top Attraction 5



**Padre Island National Seashore, the Gulf Coast.** Texas's favorite beach destination beckons vacationers with its warm Gulf Coast waters, soft white sand, sea shells, and vivid sunsets. There are also whooping crane and sea turtle populations. For more information, [click here](#).

*Getty Images*

## Top Attraction 6



**State Capitol, Austin.** Brasher, taller, and more conservative than its Washington replica, Texas's State Capitol offers tours, political spectacle and granite beauty, plus excellent history and art museums on the adjoining UT campus. For more information, [click here](#).

## Top Attraction 7



**Palo Duro Canyon State Park, West Texas.** West Texas's Grand Canyon rivals Arizona's top attraction for sheer beauty and its rugged desert canyon features, colorful rocks, historic cabins, and links to famed painter Georgia O'Keeffe. For more information, [click here](#).

*iStock*



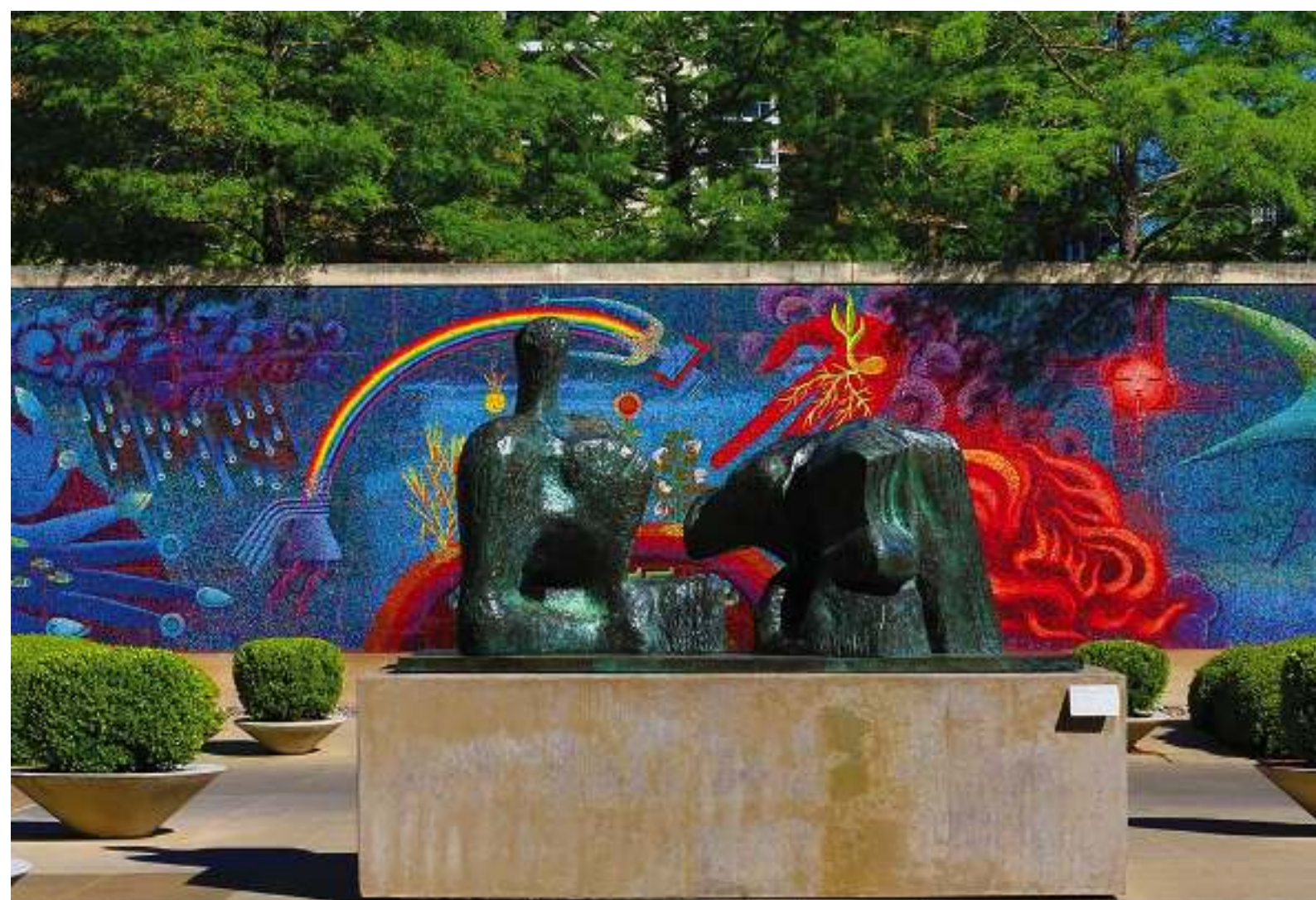
## Top Attraction 8



**NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston.** Mission Control for the program that trained astronauts for moon landings and space shuttle travel, the still glamorous space center explores the space race, its achievements, and today's emphasis on medical research. For more information, [click here](#).

*Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau*

## Top Attraction 9



**Dallas Arts District, North Texas.** The largest arts district in the US takes up nine blocks of downtown Dallas, a sensory experience that includes world-class museums, galleries, and performing arts, restaurants, and unique pocket parks. For more information, [click here](#).

DVCB

## Top Attraction 10



**Big Bend National Park, West Texas.** This huge, remote park in far West Texas's Big Bend Country protects teeming wildlife, shadowed canyons, and Wild West historic sites along the Rio Grande bordering the US and Mexico. For more information, [click here](#).

*Carol M. Highsmith/Library of Congress*

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

Here at a glance are our recommendations – from music festivals to quirky museums and galleries, plus the pick of the state parks and where to find the best eats.

# Best Museums and Galleries

**Cadillac Ranch (Amarillo).** Visit this humorous art installation featuring four partially-buried Cadillacs beside the interstate and add some graffiti of your own. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Orange Show Center for Visionary Art (Houston).** This folk art museum is dedicated to the orange and is a community arts center supported by the likes of ZZ Top. For more information, [click here](#).

**Amon Carter Museum (Fort Worth).** Artworks by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, who specialized in depicting life on the range, are the highlights here. For more information, [click here](#).

**Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas).** This lovely outdoor setting in the Dallas Arts District displays artworks by Giacometti, Matisse, Miro, and other world-class sculptors. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Menil Collection and the Rothko Chapel (Houston).** A world-class art collection combining Medieval and Byzantine art and contemporary works by Rothko, whose paintings have their own building. For more information, [click here](#).

**Museum of the Gulf Coast (Port Arthur).** This museum interprets the Gulf Coast and its famed native sons and daughters, including Janis Joplin and Clarence Frogman Henry. For more information, [click here](#)

**Bullock Texas State History Museum (Austin).** Texas's colorful history – from American Indians to six different flags – comes alive in this three-story museum next to the State Capitol. For more information, [click here](#)



Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo.  
*Carol M. Highsmith/Library of Congress*

# Best Wildlife Watching

**Galveston, Mustang, Padre Islands.** Three of Texas's 350-mile (560km) -long barrier islands offer history, a chance to see rare whooping cranes, beachcombing, and camping. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Austin Bats.** Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge in the Texas capital is home to a huge colony of Mexican freetail bats, which swirls forth at dusk in a crowd-pleasing spectacle. For more information, [click here](#).

**Big Thicket National Preserve.** Rivers, pine woods, and desert come together in this large national preserve along the Texas–Louisiana border that is home to pileated woodpeckers and common nighthawks. For more information, [click here](#).

**High Island, Bolivar Peninsula.** Texas Audubon operates four bird sanctuaries on High Island, an oak-dense upland used by neotropical migrant birds during their spring migrations. For more information, [click here](#).



Bats over Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, Austin.

*Robert Harding*

# Best Festivals and Events

**Austin City Limits Music Festival.** Around 150 bands perform over three days each September on the shores of Town Lake in downtown Austin, the self-proclaimed “Live Music Capital of the World.” For more information, [click here](#).

**Kerrville Folk Festival.** Springtime homage to folk and acoustic music, in the heart of Texas Hill Country. For more information, [click here](#).

**Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis.** *Tejanos* (Hispanic Texans) celebrate these Mexican independence holidays on May 5 and September 16. For more information, [click here](#)

**Spring Wildflowers.** Driving in the Hill Country to see bluebonnets and other Texas flora is a time-honored Lone Star tradition. For more information, [click here](#)

**Juneteenth.** Commemorating June 19, 1865, when Texas slaves learned they were free, this is a popular Galveston Festival. For more information, [click here](#).

**Willie Nelson’s 4th of July Picnic.** Fireworks, hot sun, cold beer, hours of music, and Willie Nelson make for an only-in-Texas blowout. Various locations. For more information, [click here](#)



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