

CHAMIZAL

NATIONAL MEMORIAL

TEXAS

Natural features are constantly changing but the changes are so gradual they usually escape notice. Sometimes, however, they are abrupt and pronounced — and create real problems.

This was the case when the Rio Grande shifted its course in the vicinity of El Paso-Ciudad Juarez. By the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico and the United States had agreed that the Rio Grande would be their common border; it was surveyed by the two nations jointly in 1852. The shifting of the river raised a question of ownership. If the river was the border, Mexico lost about 600 acres; if the survey line was the border, Mexico had land north of the Rio Grande.

Although efforts were made to solve the problem, it remained unresolved until the Chamizal Treaty of 1963. The river was realigned to a concrete-lined channel. On a little less than 55 acres of the affected area, the United States government created the Chamizal National Memorial to commemorate this peaceful settlement of a border dispute. It is managed for your use and enjoyment by the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

AN HISTORIC AREA
Political and Military Affairs



What You Can See and Do

Chamizal is a small urban park commemorating a big idea: that “men of good will, working together, can reach equitable solutions to mutual problems. And in working together, they will find friendship and gain understanding.”

The attraction to Chamizal is the Visitor Center surrounded by about 34 acres of grassed area. Unlike most memorial parks that commemorate by means of statuary or impressive buildings, Chamizal commemorates the Treaty of 1963 through on-going cultural attractions. Thus, a focal point of the Visitor Center is the 506-seat theater where live presentations in the performing arts are regularly offered.

During the daytime, visitors to Chamizal view the film “A Most Singular Country” in the theater. It documents the incredible hardships and achievements of members of the First Joint International Boundary Commission of the United States and the Comision de Limites of Mexico in determining, mapping, and marking the boundary between the United States and Mexico between 1849 and 1857.

In 1976, as part of our national Bicentennial celebration, the Memorial instituted the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival. This is an effort to bring to the United States the productions of Spain’s Golden Age — the period when literature and drama flowered in Spain as it did in Elizabethan England.

Each year brings to Chamizal groups from American and Mexican universities and repertory groups from the two countries. The Festival is usually held during the last half of March.

The Annual Border Folk Festival brings together folk musicians, dancers, and other cultural demonstrators from both sides of the border. It is held on the grounds of the Memorial during the first weekend of October.

A small, permanent museum in the Visitor Center also commemorates the Chamizal Settlement of 1963.

Another part of the Visitor Center is a graphic arts exhibit gallery, with exhibits changing on a regular schedule.

In keeping with the international character of the Memorial, all National Park Service sponsored programs are bilingual.

How You Get There

The Chamizal National Memorial is located on the flood plain of the Rio Grande between El Paso, Texas, U.S.A., and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. It is immediately west of the Cordova Island Port of Entry into Mexico, between Paisano Drive and Delta Drive. Interstate 10 is marked to direct you to the Memorial.

Some Nearby Attractions

Monumento Conmemorativo a la Entraga del Chamizal — the Chamizal Commemorative Park of the Republic of Mexico — is a matching park across the Rio Grande. Its 760 acres have been dedicated to public use, and developments encompass field sports facilities, a central park structure used for patriotic celebration, and parkland.

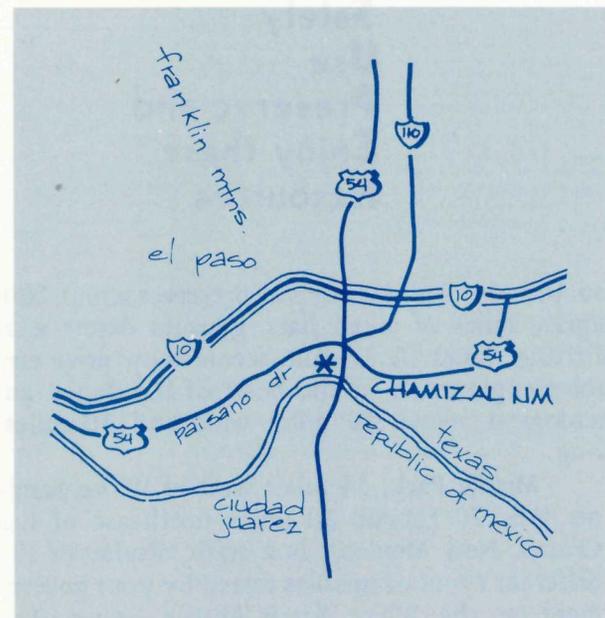
The central structure is an architectural statement of the scales of justice rendered in traditional Mexican architectural terms. A bronze head of Mexican patriot Benito Juarez bears his quotation: “The law has always been my sword and my shield.”

Immediately south of this central area is a cactus garden, with cacti from all states on both sides of the border in a setting recalling the archeological ruins of Mexico.

Just east of the central park area is a spectacular 300-foot long water fountain, the work of Ruiz Obregon.

The **ProNaF Center** in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, is a government border beautification project. The **Centro Artesanal** is an outstanding crafts center. It is open daily except Christmas, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Admission is free. The **Museo de Arte e Historia** and **Museo de Antropologia** exhibits the archeology, arts and crafts

of Mexico. It is open daily from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. A small admission fee is charged.



The **El Paso Museum of Art**, 1211 Montana Avenue, offers a permanent collection and changing exhibits of arts, crafts, and cultural history. Open daily except Mondays and holidays, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (Sundays the museum opens at 1 p.m.). Free.

Fort Bliss Replica Museum, on Pleasanton Road in Fort Bliss, has exhibits depicting surveying of routes to the West and early military units. Open daily, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (Closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.) Free.

Ysleta, 14 miles east of El Paso on I-10, is the oldest town in Texas. When the Indians of the upper Rio Grande rebelled against the Spanish in 1680, refugees fled south and settled along the river, naming their town Ysleta de Sur. An auto tour of the lower valley sites begins at the old Ysleta Mission. It takes about two hours and includes communities and buildings dating from the early 1680’s.

White Sands National Monument is 15 miles west of Alamogordo, New Mexico, on U.S. 70-82. Alamogordo is 84 miles north of El Paso

have a **SUPER*** visit
***Safely**
Use
Preserve and
Enjoy these
Resources

on U.S. 54. The Monument preserves about 280 square miles of alkali flats, gypsum desert and drifting dunes. A 16-mile scenic loop drive enables exploration of the heart of the dunes, an ecological island 10 miles wide and 30 miles long.

Missile Park, 34 miles west of White Sands on U.S. 70 (about 20 miles northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico), is a static display of the different types of missiles tested by your government at the White Sands Missile Range. The Missile Range surrounds White Sands National Monument.

The **International Space Hall of Fame** in Alamogordo enshrines artifacts, aerospace hardware, and other memorabilia related to world space pioneers.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park is about 103 miles east of El Paso, off U.S. 62-180. It is not yet developed for visitors, so unless you enjoy roughin' it, just drive by and enjoy the spectacular view of Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas (elevation 8,751 feet.).

Overnight Accommodations

El Paso offers a wide range of accommodations. For the camper, private campgrounds are located on I-10, both east and west of the city.

Meals and Snacks

Refreshments are not available at the Memorial except on special occasions.

★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1978-782-876 Region 8

El Paso offers a wide range of dining facilities and fast food services.

A Word About Weather

The climate of El Paso is generally mild.

Summers have hot days but the evenings are generally cool. For outdoor activities, a protective hat is recommended. In late summer there are occasional torrential thunderstorms.

Off-Season Is Great !

The Memorial is open daily, to the public, throughout the year. During the fall, winter and spring, cultural arts programs are presented in the Visitor Center Theater; there programs are recessed from late July until early September.



During the first weekend of October, the Memorial hosts the annual Border Folk Festival.

For A Safe Visit

Don't run inside the Memorial Theater. There are places where the footing is tricky, especially in dim light.

Keep In Mind

Don't leave souvenirs of your passing on the walks or walls.

Don't disturb the vegetation, please.

★ ★ ★ **National Park Service**
U.S. Department of the Interior

CHAMIZAL

NATIONAL MEMORIAL

TEXAS

Natural features are constantly changing but the changes are so gradual they usually escape notice. Sometimes, however, they are abrupt and pronounced — and create real problems.

This was the case when the Rio Grande shifted its course in the vicinity of El Paso-Ciudad Juarez. By the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico and the United States had agreed that the Rio Grande would be their common border; it was surveyed by the two nations jointly in 1852. The shifting of the river raised a question of ownership. If the river was the border, Mexico lost about 600 acres; if the survey line was the border, Mexico had land north of the Rio Grande.

Although efforts were made to solve the problem, it remained unresolved until the Chamizal Treaty of 1963. The river was realigned to a concrete-lined channel. On a little less than 55 acres of the affected area, the United States government created the Chamizal National Memorial to commemorate this peaceful settlement of a border dispute. It is managed for your use and enjoyment by the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.



AN HISTORIC AREA
Political and Military Affairs