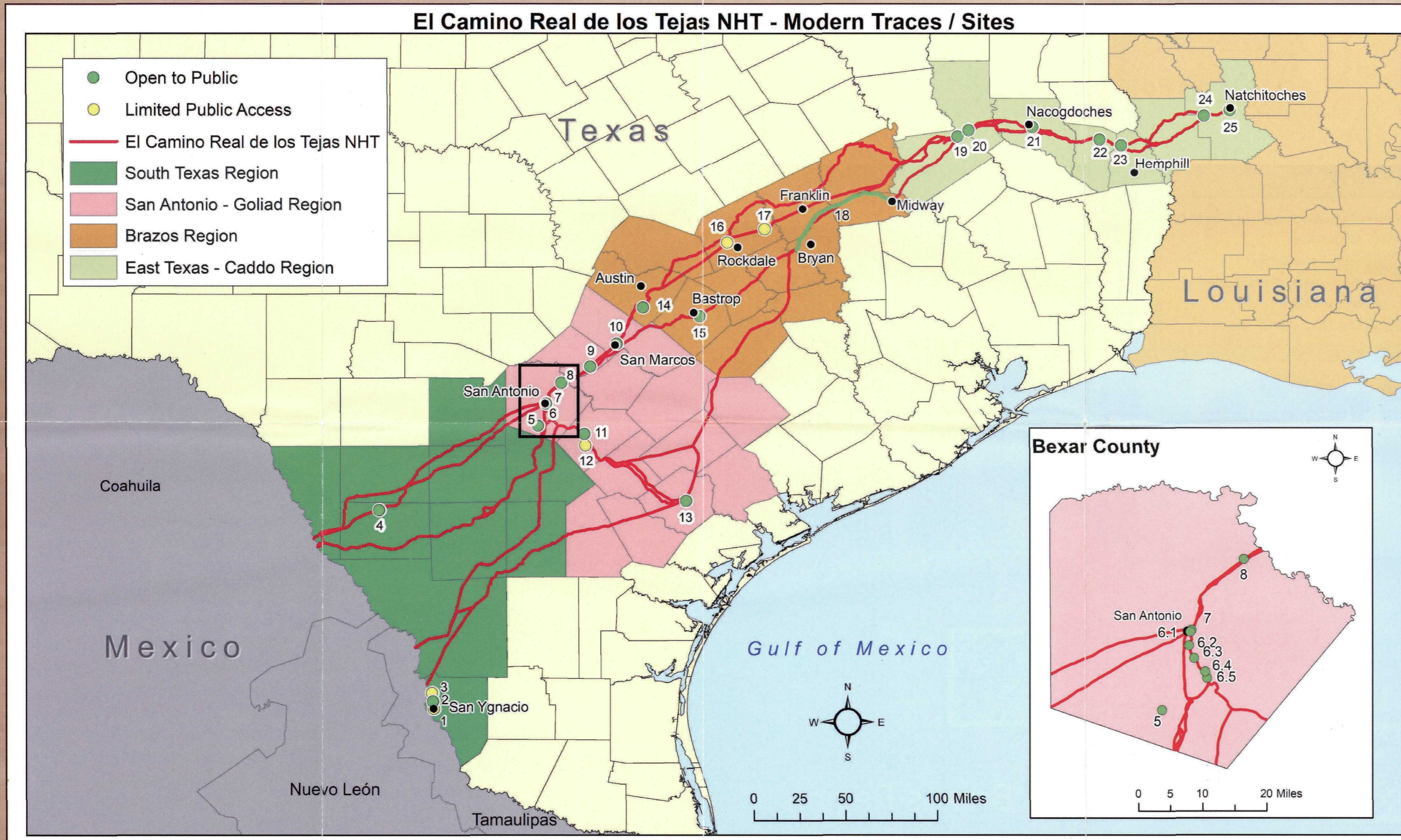


Historical Overview

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail (NHT) commemorates nationally significant historic routes extending from the international border at the Río Grande to the easternmost extent of the Spanish province of Texas in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Spanning 2,580 miles across forty counties, two parishes, and two states, Caminos Reales are *royal roads* that connected Spanish regional and provincial capitals of New Spain. Along the way, they also connected Spanish villas and mines that possessed a royal charter, a distinction not shared with roads that connected ordinary Spanish or American Indian villages. The period of historic significance for the trail dates from 1680 to 1845, but some of the earliest segments linked indigenous settlements and existed before the Spanish arrived. El Camino Real is one of the two earliest trails that began to comprise the storyline of the history of our country. Therefore, on October 18, 2004, El Camino Real de los Tejas was designated as a National Historic Trail and part of the National Trails System.

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT - Modern Traces / Sites



- 1: Treviño-Urbe Fort
- 2: Arroyo San Francisco at Rio Grande Overlook
- 3: Los Corralitos
- 4: Laguna Espantosa
- 5: Paso de Dolores Crossing / Pérez Jacal
- 6: San Antonio Missions
 - 6.1: Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo)
 - 6.2: Mission Concepción
 - 6.3: Mission San José
 - 6.4: Mission San Juan Capistrano
 - 6.5: Mission San Francisco de la Espada
- 7: La Villita
- 8: Comanche Lookout
- 9: Comal Springs
- 10: San Marcos Springs
- 11: Floresville El Camino Real Trail
- 12: Rancho de las Cabras
- 13: Goliad State Park / Mission Espíritu Santo / Presidio La Bahía
- 14: McKinney Falls State Park
- 15: Bastrop State Park
- 16: San Xavier Mission Complex / Apache Pass
- 17: Ranchería Grande
- 18: State Highway OSR and Rye Loop
- 19: Mission Tejas State Park
- 20: Caddo Mounds State Historic Site
- 21: Old Stone Fort Museum
- 22: Mission Dolores State Historic Site
- 23: Lobanillo Swales
- 24: Los Adaes State Historic Site
- 25: Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site



National Historic Trail
de los Tejas
El Camino Real



Association History

Since obtaining the status of a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2007, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association (EICaT) has built a strong foundation through partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as individuals and other partners across Texas and Louisiana. Additionally, EICaT has maintained relationships with partner organizations in México and Spain.

Originally based in San Marcos at Texas State University, EICaT has been housed in Austin since 2011. In addition to a volunteer, eleven-member board, the Association employs a full-time executive director, a part-time staff member, and multiple interns.

Mission Statement

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association seeks to protect the historic integrity of the trail, to educate and engage the public about its significance, and to promote resource development, interpretation, and tourism along its path.

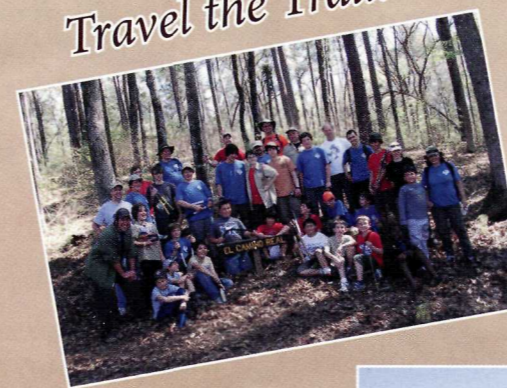


Vision Statement

For the trail:
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT is a nationally recognized and protected cultural resource connecting nations, cultures, and places through time.

For the association:
EICaT is a champion for the trail and achieves its work through the strength of its volunteers, partners, and staff.

Travel the Trail!



Join Us!



Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreta de la Bahía, third site, Goliad County

We can't do it alone! We would like to thank our agency partners for all they do for the trail!



Support Us!

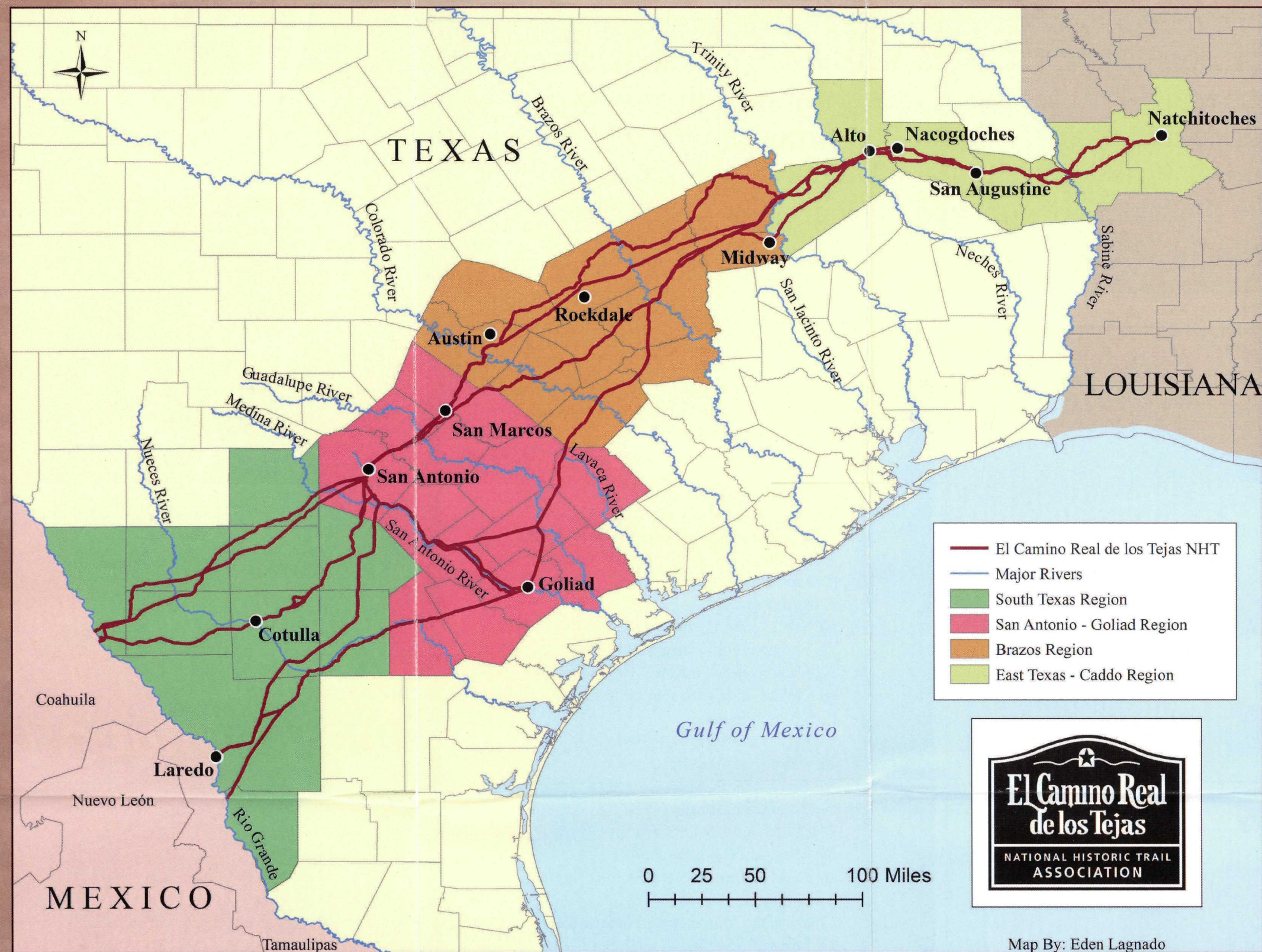
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and conserving the trail.

As a non-profit 501(c)3, we are only able to do what we do for the trail with the support of businesses and individuals like you. There are multiple ways that you can support the trail and our efforts for it. These include volunteering, making a donation, or by choosing to become a member or a sponsor. All monies received by the association are tax-deductible.

Join Us!

<https://www.elcamino-realdelostejas.org/support-us/>

EICaT Regions



South Texas Region

Culturally, South Texas is often referred to as the "Tejano Homeland" for its deep ties with México and substantial Latino population. The area is also dissected by many rivers, such as the Río Grande, Nueces, and Frio.

The banks of the Río Grande – dividing the states of Texas and Coahuila, México – are where the history and legends of Spanish Texas run deep.

The dusty, semiarid plain that is the backdrop for this area is a transitional zone featuring the arid desert environments to the west, the hardwood forest to the north and east, and the coastal grasslands to the south.

The states of Coahuila and Texas have been linked historically for centuries. Coahuila served as the initial Spanish



Los Corralitos, Zapata County

gateway into Texas and contains portions of the Sierra Madre Oriental. Around 1726, the Spanish government separated the governance of the two provinces, with Monclova now governing Coahuila and Los Adaes governing Texas.

Nearly 100 years later, the Mexican Constitution of 1824 combined the Mexican Provinces of Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Texas as one state.

Nuevo León was quickly separated, and by early 1827, the Constitution of Coahuila y Texas was adopted.

Over the next several years, due to machinations and much colluding, turmoil enveloped Coahuila y Texas, so that by 1835, Texas was declared a separate state under the Mexican Constitution of 1824.



Treviño-Urjbe Rancho, Zapata County

The Texas Revolution (1836) and incorporation of Texas into the United States (1845) meant that the two states would never again be united as one.

For more information and sites in the South Texas Region, use this QR code or the url below:



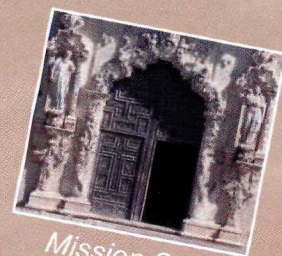
www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/south-texas-region/

San Antonio - Goliad Region

It is in this region that visitors will find the largest and most enduring structures along El Camino Real: Spanish missions, presidios, and comandancias.



Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto de la Bahía, Goliad County



Mission San José, Bexar County

As prime examples of Spanish frontier institutions in Texas, the missions and presidios of San Antonio and Goliad are indeed emblems of El Camino Real.

While some Hispanic populations may find pride in these structures, others such as Native people may simultaneously see them as symbols of oppression.



Mission San Antonio de Valero, Bexar County

Linked by the San Antonio, Guadalupe, and San Marcos Rivers, the region is a combination of the South Texas Plains, Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah, and even a bit of Edwards Plateau ecological regions.

In the city of San Antonio, the Hispanic population comprises nearly 60 percent of the community. One can find a wide array of cultures in other parts of the region, too, such as Coahuiltecan peoples, German, Polish, and Czech, and that of the Anglo-Americans whose families long ago migrated from the lower south of the United States.



Floresville El Camino Trail, Wilson County

For more information and sites in the San Antonio - Goliad Region, use this QR code or the url below:

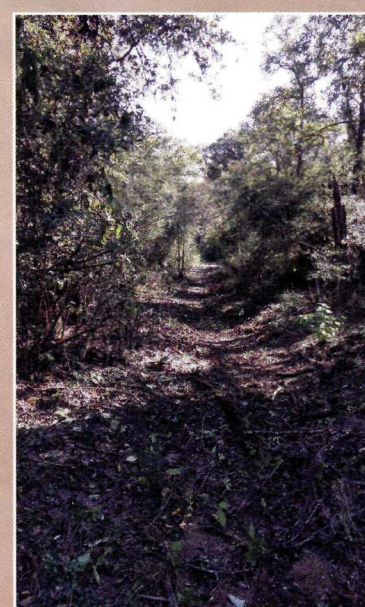


www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/san-antonio-goliad-region/

Brazos Region

The Brazos Region is in the central area of Texas and is made up of 12 counties: Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Lee, Milam, Robertson, Burleson, Brazos, Fayette, Washington, Leon, and Madison.

This region joins the San Antonio – Goliad Region to the west and the East Texas – Caddo Region to the east.



Swales, remnants of the trail



Apache Pass, Milam County

Along four routes, the NHT traverses the Brazos Region across the Colorado, Brazos, and Trinity Rivers. The Upper Route (El Camino Real de los Tejas) includes Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, and Leon Counties, while the Lower Route includes Fayette, Washington, and Burleson Counties and joins the Old San Antonio Road in Brazos County east to Madison County.



River Crossing at Sugarloaf Mountain, Milam County



Sugarloaf Mountain Bridge, Milam County

Some historic sites and points of interest in the Brazos Region include McKinney Falls State Park in Travis County; the Rye Loop Swales in Brazos County and the Trail Segment in Bastrop County; Apache Pass, Missions Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, San Ildefonso, and San Francisco Xavier de Horcasitas, Presidio San Francisco Xavier de Gigedo, and Sugarloaf Mountain in Milam County; and Kickapoo Rapids in Leon County.

For more information and sites in the Brazos Region, use this QR code or the url below:



www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/brazos-region/

East Texas - Caddo Region

Moving on from the Brazos Region, history continues to manifest itself. The Caddoan Mounds and Mission Tejas are two prime examples of sites in this area, and both have interpretive centers to help visitors grasp the historic importance of these locations. The Adai Caddo Indian Nation have a particularly influential presence here. The cultural center, located near Robeline, Louisiana, and also near Los

Adaes explains much of their history with an emphasis on the profound influence that these people have had in shaping American history in both Texas and Louisiana.

The Adai Caddo Indian Nation was among the first to be influenced by Spanish explorers who were exploring Texas at that time.

The cities of Natchitoches and Nacogdoches are integral parts of the history and heritage of those who forged the trail. Remnants of this history abound in the parishes and counties along the camino, and worthwhile experiences await visitors at the forts, missions, and log homes and swales of the trail itself.



Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Cherokee County



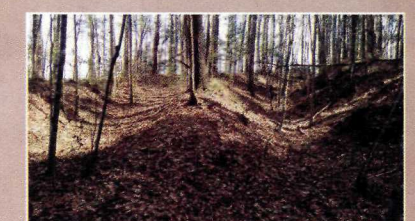
Fort Jesup State Historic Site, Sabine Parish



Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site, Natchitoches Parish

Fort Jesup, Fort St. Jean Baptiste, and Los Adaes, near Robeline – which served as the capital of Texas for about 50 years – and the Old Stone Fort, in Nacogdoches, are just a few of the historic sites located along this segment of El Camino Real.

The history in this region is also evident thanks to the presence of swales, the actual remnants that mark the route of the physical trail. One of the better-known swales segments in this region is Lobanillo Swales in Sabine County. EICaT purchased the property in June 2014 and dedicated in April 2018. It is open to the public year-round, so that you may walk in the same path as explorers and settlers did hundreds of years ago.



Lobanillo Swales, Sabine County

For more information and sites in the East Texas - Caddo Region, use this QR code or the url below:



www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/east-texas-caddo-region/