



TEXAS EXCEL
TITLE

Howdy!

WELCOME TO TEXAS!

A TEXAS RELOCATION GUIDE



TEXASEXCELTITLE.COM

ALL ABOUT THE **LONE STAR STATE**

NO STATE INCOME TAX

Texas is one of the few states with no state income tax, which can be a big financial win — especially for those moving from places like California or New York.

WEATHER EXTREMES

Texas is big — so the climate varies. In DFW and Central Texas, expect hot summers (100°+), occasional ice storms in winter, and unpredictable spring storms. Hurricanes are more common in coastal areas like Houston or Corpus Christi.

FOOD IS A BIG DEAL

Tex-Mex and BBQ (and Whataburger) are local staples. You may hear arguments over who has the best brisket or tacos... it's serious business. Just ask us — we'll tell you our favorite spots!

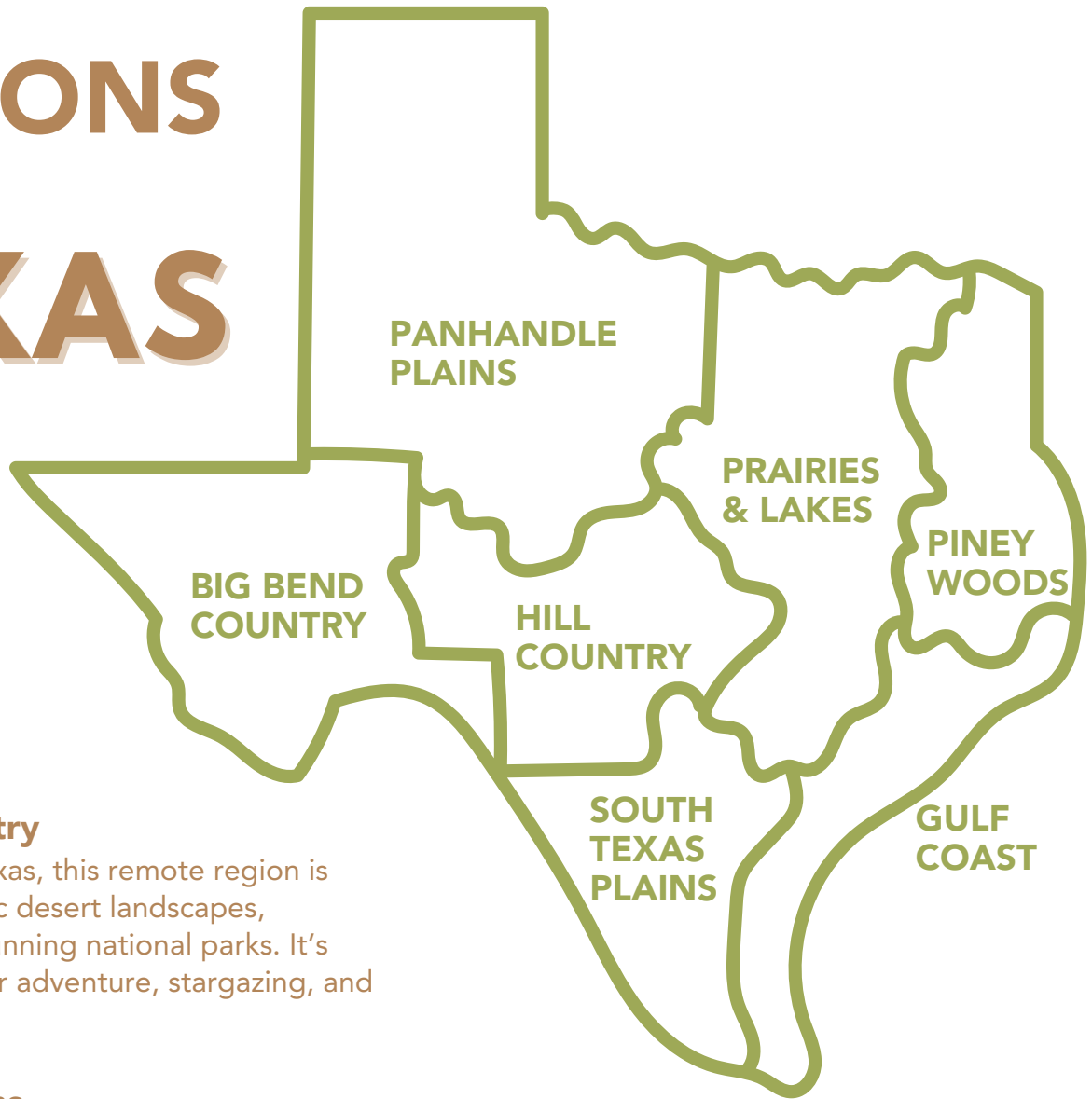
TEXANS LOVE THEIR STATE

You'll see the Texas flag everywhere, from belt buckles to porch swings. State pride runs deep. Texas is also the second largest state by area and population — bigger than many countries!

EMBRACE THE CULTURE

Texans are known for being welcoming and community-minded, especially in smaller towns. A "Howdy" from a stranger is normal and waving at your neighbors is expected. Embrace it — say "y'all," try the brisket, and expect to drive.

REGIONS OF TEXAS



Big Bend Country

Spanning West Texas, this remote region is known for dramatic desert landscapes, mountains, and stunning national parks. It's perfect for outdoor adventure, stargazing, and solitude.

Panhandle Plains

Located in the far north, this flat, wind-swept region is dominated by agriculture and cattle ranching. It feels more like the Midwest, with strong rural values and wide open spaces.

Hill Country

Rolling hills, wildflowers, rivers, and charming small towns make this central region one of the most picturesque. It's known for wine country, swimming holes, and a strong German and Czech influence.

South Texas Plains

Hot and semi-arid, this region is rich in Hispanic culture and Texas ranching history. It stretches from San Antonio down to the Mexican border, with palm trees, mesquite brush, and authentic Tex-Mex.

Prairies & Lakes

Centered around the Dallas–Fort Worth area, this region offers bustling cities, lakes, and a mix of modern living and rich Texas history. It's known for big business, shopping, sports, and a little bit of everything.

Piney Woods

Found in East Texas, this lush, forested region is full of tall pine trees, small towns, and a Southern vibe. It feels slower-paced, with front-porch charm, antique shops, and deep cultural roots.

Gulf Coast

Stretching from the Louisiana border to South Padre Island, the Gulf Coast is known for its beaches, seafood, and port cities like Houston and Galveston. Expect humid weather, coastal culture, and laid-back living.

TEXAS DRIVING CHEAT SHEET

SPEED LIMITS CAN BE HIGH

Some rural highways in Texas (like parts of I-10 and SH 130) allow speeds up to 85 mph — the highest legal limit in the U.S. — but are typically 65-75 mph. Speed limits are enforced and can change rapidly from road to road, so keep an eye out there!

TEXAS TURNAROUNDS ARE A THING

At many freeway overpasses, you'll see designated U-turn lanes called Texas Turnarounds, allowing you to quickly loop around without waiting at a light. And in most cases, U-turns are legal on most roads, unless otherwise stated with a sign.

LEFT LANE = PASSING ONLY

On some highways, there are signs that say "Left Lane for Passing Only," and it's actually enforced. You can be ticketed for lingering in the left lane when not passing.

STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES

If a school bus stops with red lights flashing and stop sign extended, you must stop from both directions, even on undivided rural roads and unless there's a physical barrier (like a median).

NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

While some states leave this to local regulation, Texas bans texting while driving statewide, even at stoplights.

OPEN CONTAINER LAW

Open alcoholic containers are not allowed in the passenger area of a vehicle (within arm's reach) — even if you're not drinking it. This is a common violation for new residents unfamiliar with Texas law.

FLASHING LIGHTS = SLOW DOWN OR MOVE OVER

If you see emergency, tow truck, or TxDOT vehicles with flashing lights on the shoulder, you must either move over a lane or slow down to 20 mph below the posted limit.

NEW RESIDENT CHECKLIST



Vehicle Registration & Inspection

- ☐ Get your vehicle inspected at a certified Texas inspection station. Find locations: www.txdmv.gov/motorists/register-your-vehicle

Don't forget! Every year, Texas requires a safety inspection (and emissions test if you're in certain counties like DFW, Houston, or Austin).

- ☐ Get Texas auto insurance — must meet the minimum liability requirements:
 - \$30,000 for injury per person
 - \$60,000 per accident
 - \$25,000 for property damage
- ☐ Bring the following to your local county tax office: Proof of Texas inspection, Proof of insurance, Out-of-state title or registration, and Completed Form 130-U (Download here: www.txdmv.gov/forms).
- ☐ Pay registration and title fees. You'll get a Texas license plate and registration sticker — you're officially official!

Texas Driver's License

- ☐ Make an appointment at a Texas DPS office: www.txdpsscheduler.com.
- ☐ Collect the following documents to bring with you to the appointment:
 - Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence (if not a U.S. Citizen)
 - Proof of Texas Residency
 - Proof of Identity
 - Social Security Number
 - Proof of current Texas Vehicle Registration for each vehicle you own
 - Proof of Insurance for each vehicle you own
 - Your current Out-of-State License

Voter Registration

- ☐ Register when you get your driver's license OR Fill out a form online: www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/

Note: You cannot register online in Texas — you must print, sign, and mail the application.

SPORTS IN TEXAS



FOOTBALL

Texas has two NFL teams and a football culture that's unmatched.

The Dallas Cowboys, nicknamed "America's Team," play at AT&T Stadium — one of the largest domed stadiums in the world with a video board longer than a Boeing 747!

The Houston Texans are the NFL's youngest franchise (founded in 2002), but have built a passionate fan base at NRG Stadium.

Texas high school football is legendary — Friday Night Lights isn't just a TV show, it's a way of life.



BASEBALL

Texas is home to two Major League Baseball (MLB) teams, each with loyal fans and unique traditions.

The Texas Rangers, based in Arlington, play at Globe Life Field, a state-of-the-art stadium with a retractable roof (a must for Texas summers!).

The Houston Astros, who play at Daikin Park in downtown Houston, are one of baseball's powerhouse teams, playing in and winning multiple World Series.

Baseball in Texas isn't just about the majors; there are also beloved minor league teams like the Frisco RoughRiders (in the DFW suburbs) and Round Rock Express (just north of Austin), offering family-friendly fun and affordable tickets.



BASKETBALL

Texas is a basketball powerhouse, home to three NBA teams and a WNBA team.

The Houston Rockets are two-time NBA champions. Their "Clutch City" nickname still resonates with fans today.

The Dallas Mavericks play at the American Airlines Center downtown. The Mavs are known worldwide thanks to superstar Dirk Nowitzki, who spent his entire 21-year career in Dallas.

The San Antonio Spurs are one of the most successful franchises in NBA history, with five championships.

Texas also proudly supports women's basketball with the Dallas Wings, who play at the College Park Center in Arlington.



SOCCER & HOCKEY

The Houston Dynamo and FC Dallas play in MLS, and Austin recently got its own team — Austin FC. The Houston Dash play in the National Women's Soccer League and are the only women's pro soccer team in Texas.

Surprising to newcomers: Texas is big on hockey! The Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999 and remain fan favorites.

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Held every fall (usually late September to mid-October) at Fair Park in Dallas, it is one of the biggest and longest-running state fairs in the U.S. It's a showcase of Texas pride, agriculture, art, music, and food.

Fried Food Capital of the World

Ever tried deep-fried butter or a fried Oreo? The food is legendary, and each year vendors compete for the most creative culinary concoctions. Stop by to get a corny dog at Fletcher's, too!

Visit Big Tex

He's 55 feet tall, wears size 96 boots, and welcomes fairgoers with a slow drawl: "Howdy, folks!" Big Tex is the official greeter of the fair and a photo op you won't want to miss.

Live Music & Livestock Shows

Enjoy free concerts daily (usually local and big-name Texas artists) and see livestock competitions, petting zoos, and agricultural showcases.



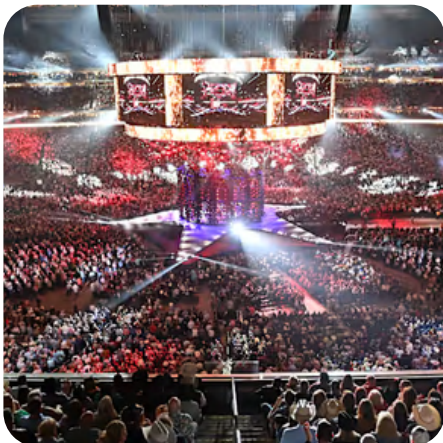
RODEOS

Rodeos are more than entertainment — they're a Texas legacy. They honor the skills of working cowboys and cowgirls, spotlight local agriculture, and bring communities together. Enjoy concerts (everyone from George Strait to Beyoncé), carnival rides, livestock shows, and world-class rodeo competitions.

There are three major rodeos held in Texas each year — Houston, San Antonio, and Fort Worth.

Houston Stock Show & Rodeo

February-March



San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

February



Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

January-February



TEXAS BUCKET LIST

(Check them off as you go!)

DALLAS



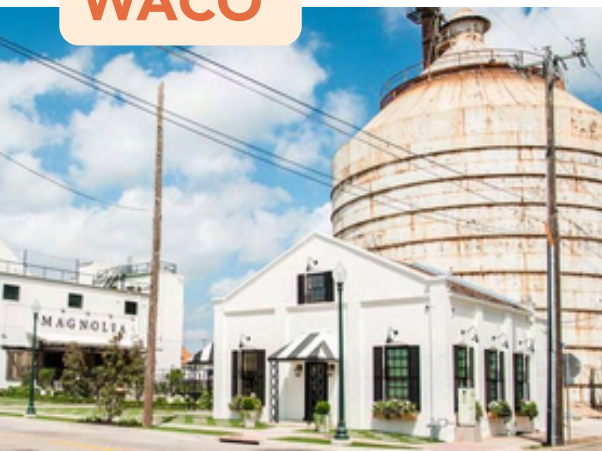
- ❑ Visit the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
- ❑ Snap photos of the murals in Deep Ellum
- ❑ Ride up Reunion Tower to see breathtaking 360-degree views of the city
- ❑ Picnic or food-truck hop at Klyde Warren Park
- ❑ Eat legendary BBQ at Pecan Lodge
- ❑ Eat a fried Oreo and say howdy to Big Tex at the State Fair of Texas
- ❑ Tour AT&T Stadium and watch a Dallas Cowboys game

FORT WORTH



- ❑ Watch the cattle drive at the Fort Worth Stockyards
- ❑ Explore Sundance Square in downtown
- ❑ Spend a day at the Fort Worth Zoo
- ❑ Two-step at Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk
- ❑ Feast on Tex-Mex and grab a marg at Joe T. Garcia's
- ❑ Travel out to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose for an unforgettable drive-through safari experience

WACO



- ❑ Snag a kolache on your drive at Czech Stop in West
- ❑ Shop and explore Magnolia Market at the Silos (by Chip & Joanna Gaines' from HGTV "Fixer Upper")
- ❑ Sip history at the Dr Pepper Museum, the birthplace of the original 1885 soft drink

TEXAS BUCKET LIST

(Check them off as you go!)

AUSTIN / HILL COUNTRY



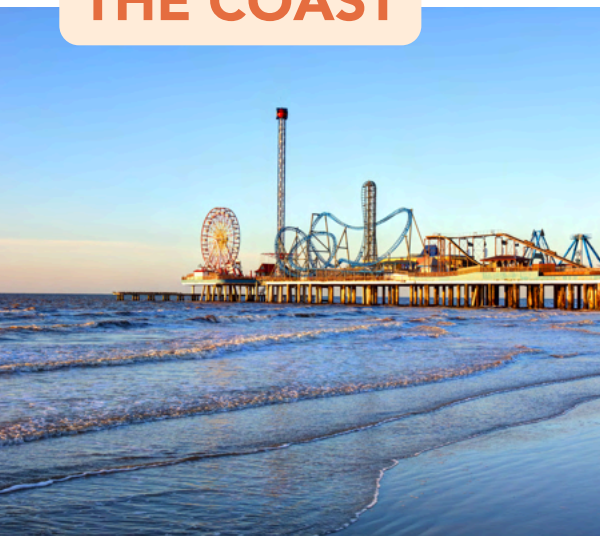
- ☐ Tour the Texas State Capitol
- ☐ Catch live music on Sixth Street
- ☐ Swim at Barton Springs Pool
- ☐ Paddleboard on Lady Bird Lake
- ☐ Wait in line for Franklin Barbecue (it's worth it!)
- ☐ Attend Austin City Limits (ACL) Music Festival
- ☐ Sip wine in the Texas Hill Country in Fredericksburg
- ☐ Hike Enchanted Rock for epic Hill Country views

SAN ANTONIO



- ☐ Remember history at The Alamo
- ☐ Dine and stroll the San Antonio River Walk
- ☐ Explore the San Antonio Missions
- ☐ Grab pan dulce at Mi Tierra Café y Panadería
- ☐ Ride the coasters at SeaWorld San Antonio
- ☐ Float the San Marcos River
- ☐ Visit the Spoetzl Brewery to sample the state's iconic craft beer, Shiner Bock

THE COAST



- ☐ Relax on the beaches of Padre Island
- ☐ Ride the rollercoasters at Kemah Boardwalk on Galveston Bay
- ☐ Visit the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay, a WWII aircraft carrier turned museum, in Corpus Christi
- ☐ Stroll The Strand District in Galveston to explore Victorian-era buildings, shops, and restaurants
- ☐ Enjoy Stewart Beach and East Beach in Galveston

TEXAS BUCKET LIST

(Check them off as you go!)

HOUSTON



- ❑ Blast off at NASA Johnson Space Center
- ❑ Experience the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
- ❑ Catch an Astros game at Daikin Park
- ❑ Tour the Houston Museum District
- ❑ Eat fajitas where they were born at Ninfa's on Navigation
- ❑ Relax and explore Discovery Green, a 12-acre park located in the heart of downtown Houston
- ❑ Tour the legendary Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham and enjoy a scoop of Texas' most beloved ice cream

WEST TEXAS



- ❑ Road trip to see the stars in Big Bend National Park
- ❑ Bring spray paint and leave your mark at Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo
- ❑ Ride Route 66 for classic diners and neon nostalgia (stop by the iconic Conoco gas station in Shamrock)
- ❑ Snap a quirky photo at Prada Marfa art installation
- ❑ Hike the stunning Palo Duro Canyon State Park
- ❑ Hike to the top of Guadalupe Peak, the tallest peak in Texas

STATEWIDE MUSTS



- ❑ Stop at the biggest, cleanest, and most Texas-style gas station, Buc-ee's (grab some Beaver Nuggets!)
- ❑ Late-night stop at Whataburger and get a Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit
- ❑ Get fitted to buy a pair of custom cowboy boots
- ❑ Take pictures in a bluebonnet field off the side of the highway (but don't pick any - it's illegal in Texas!)

WHY BUSINESS IS BOOMING IN TEXAS?

KEY REASONS BUSINESS IS
BETTER IN TEXAS



1

If Texas were a country, it would have the 9th largest economy in the world. Why? A business-friendly climate, no personal income tax, and no corporate income tax.

2

Over the past decade, Texas added nearly 2 million private-sector jobs, making it the #1 state for job creation in the U.S.

3

Texas has a light regulatory environment, fewer bureaucratic hurdles, and right-to-work laws, which contribute to lower operating costs and greater flexibility for employers.

4

With low land and energy costs, plus fewer zoning restrictions, Texas helps businesses save on overhead — and employees enjoy a lower cost of living.

5

Texas has a young, diverse, and rapidly growing population — with more than 14 million workers and a strong pipeline of graduates from major universities (e.g., UT, Texas A&M, Rice, and SMU).



**LOCALLY OWNED.
LOCALLY OPERATED.
LOCALLY LOVED.**



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