

General Information

Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism

512-936-0101, 800-888-8839, travel.state.tx.us
Complimentary marketing support available to travel planners includes the following: informational brochures, state highway maps, itinerary planning, and travel trade and media familiarization tours. For more information on Texas tourism, visit TravelTex.com. For materials available to travel planners and information for the trade and media visit travel.state.tx.us.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

800-792-1112, tpwd.state.tx.us
The Texas State Parks Pass is a \$60 annual one-card membership program that rewards visitors with unlimited free entry to 120 state parks and state historic sites.

Texas Regulations for Out-of-State Motor Carriers

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
fmcsa.dot.gov, 800-832-5660
An out-of-state motor bus company must have Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) authority registered under the Unified Carrier Registration System (UCR) program with the state where it is domiciled and select Texas as a state in which it will travel. Proper insurance and fees must be filed with the state where the company is registered. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles at 888-368-4689 or visit txdmv.gov.

U.S. Immigration and Customs

A valid passport is required for entry into the U.S. and must be shown on arrival. Under the Visa Waiver Program, visas are not required for citizens of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, if they have a passport for vacation, transit, or business purposes for a stay not exceeding 90 days and, if entering by land or sea, they hold a return or onward ticket and enter aboard a carrier participating in the Visa Waiver Program. U.S. and Canadian citizens are also exempt from visa requirements. As of January 12, 2009, a valid ESTA approval is required for all Visa Waiver Program (VWP) participants to travel to the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security, Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is a free, automated system used to determine the eligibility of visitors to travel to the U.S. under the VWP. It collects the same information as the paper I-94W form that VWP travelers fill out en route to the U.S. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel. An ESTA authorization generally will be valid for up to two years. Authorizations will be valid for multiple entries into the U.S. DHS recommends that travelers submit an ESTA application as soon as they begin making travel plans. Citizens of all other nationalities must have a visa. For further details, inquire through U.S. embassies or consulates abroad, or contact the nearest airline office. The U.S. customs or immigration officer at the port of entry grants permission to enter and approves the length of the stay.

Highway System, Driving Laws, and Safety Belts

Nine primary interstate highways serve Texas. Passing is illegal where there is a continuous yellow stripe on the driver's side of the center line. Speed limits are 30 mph in any urban district, 70 mph during the day and 65 mph at night for passenger vehicles on numbered state or US highways outside urban districts, and 60 mph on county



roads, all unless otherwise posted. Use of wireless communication devices is prohibited in school zones unless the vehicle is stopped or the device is used in conjunction with a hands-free device. Texas law requires safety belts to be worn by drivers and all passengers in vehicles equipped with safety belts, regardless of age. Children under age eight or under 57 inches tall are required to be restrained in child safety seats. For more information visit txdot.gov/safety.

Alcohol Consumption Laws

Legal drinking age is 21. Open containers of alcoholic beverages are not allowed in vehicles. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) is punishable by a minimum term of confinement of 72 hours. As of November 2010, 26 of

the state's 254 counties are "dry," which means alcohol is not sold anywhere. For additional information visit tabc.state.tx.us.

Mexico Travel Regulations

Mexico regulations change frequently, so visitors are advised to check beforehand with the Mexican consulate about proper entrance and exit documentation. The U.S. Department of State website includes important requirements for entering and exiting Mexico, vehicle permit information, customs regulations, driving and insurance information, and tips for traveling abroad. See travel.state.gov for more information. Or to find out more about traveling by car into Mexico, call 800-44-MEXICO (639-426).



WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Texas Travel Information Centers

800-452-9292,
txdot.gov/travel/information_centers.htm
 The Texas Department of Transportation operates 12 information centers with professional travel counselors offering a wealth of literature, trip planning, and information such as road conditions. Located around the state, the centers are open daily, except major holidays.

- Amarillo I-40 (from Oklahoma and New Mexico)
- Anthony I-10 (from New Mexico)
- Austin Capitol Complex
- Denison US 75/US 69 (from Oklahoma)
- Gainesville I-35 (from Oklahoma)
- Langtry US 90, Loop 25
- Laredo I-35 and US 83 (from Mexico)
- Orange I-10 (from Louisiana)
- Rio Grande Valley US 77 and US 83 in Harlingen
- Texarkana I-30 (from Arkansas)
- Waskom I-20 (from Louisiana)
- Wichita Falls I-44, US 277/US 281 (from Oklahoma)

Amtrak Information

For information and reservations, call 800-872-7245 or visit amtrak.com.

2011-2012 U.S. and Texas Holidays

- September 5 Labor Day
- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 24 Thanksgiving Day*
- December 25 Christmas Day
- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 20 Presidents' Day
- March 2 Texas Independence Day

- April 21 San Jacinto Day
 - May 28 Memorial Day
 - June 19 Emancipation Day
 - July 4 Independence Day
 - August 27 Lyndon B. Johnson's Birthday
- *The state of Texas may grant its employees additional holidays, such as the day after Thanksgiving.

Airport Information

Abilene Regional Airport
 325-676-6200,
abilenetx.com/airport

Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport
 806-335-1671,
ci.amarillo.tx.us/departments/airport.html

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
 512-530-2242,
ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport

Southeast Texas Regional Airport
 (Beaumont)
 409-719-4900,
co.jefferson.tx.us/setra/frames.htm

Corpus Christi International Airport
 361-289-0171 x1210,
cctexas.com/airport

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
 972-973-8888,
dfwairport.com

Dallas Love Field
 214-670-6080,
dallas-lovefield.com

El Paso International Airport
 915-780-4749,
elpasointernationalairport.com

Valley International Airport
 (Harlingen/
 South Padre Island)
 956-430-8600,
flythevalley.com

George Bush Intercontinental Airport
 (Houston)
 713-640-3100,
fly2houston.com

William P. Hobby Airport
 (Houston)
 713-640-3000,
fly2houston.com

Laredo International Airport
 956-795-2000,
ci.laredo.tx.us/airport

Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport
 806-775-2044,
flylia.com

McAllen-Miller International Airport
 956-681-1500,
mcallenairport.com

Midland International Airport
 (Midland/Odessa)
 432-560-2200,
flymaf.com

San Angelo Regional Airport/Mathis Field
 325-659-6409 x3,
sanangelotexas.us/airport

San Antonio International Airport
 210-207-3411,
sanantonio.gov/aviation

Tyler-Pounds Regional Airport
 903-531-2343,
cityoftyler.org

Wichita Falls Municipal Airport
 940-855-3621,
cwftx.net

★ Information Center ★						
Gateways to Texas Airports						
Flight Time in Hours	Austin	DFW	El Paso	Houston	San Antonio	
Atlanta	2.25	2	3	2	2.25	
Chicago	2.5	2.25	2.75	2.5	2.5	
Denver	2.25	2	2	2.5	2.25	
Los Angeles	3.25	3.25	2.25	3.75	3.25	
Miami	X	2.5	X	2.25	X	
New York	3.5	3.25	X	3.5	3.75	
Orlando	2.25	2.25	X	2.25	2.25	
San Francisco	4	4	X	4.5	4	
Seattle	4.24	4.25	X	4.75	X	
St. Louis	X	1.5	X	2	X	
Washington	3	2.75	X	2.75	3.25	