

WELCOME, Y'ALL!

A Texas Relocation Guide




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LOVE BEIN' LONE STAR!

(Or Why It's Great Being Texan)



The Largest State in the Lower 48

There's a reason they say "everything's bigger in Texas". Second only to Alaska in size, Texas is home to 6 major cities (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and El Paso), three of which are among the largest in America!



The Heat is No Joke!

Ok, this one might not sound like a perk at first...but the bright side of the heat is that you need a way to beat it, and Texas has that in spades! There are so many wonderful swimming holes across the state, you'll find no shortage of ways to cool off! Plus, the hot summers give way to generally mild winters, so you can put away that heavy winter coat!



Say "Adiós" to Income Tax.

Texas is among the seven states that has no personal income tax. (You're still on the hook for sales tax, business/industry taxes, and property taxes though.) Property taxes are collected by your county, city and school district, so you can be sure that they're going straight to covering local needs!



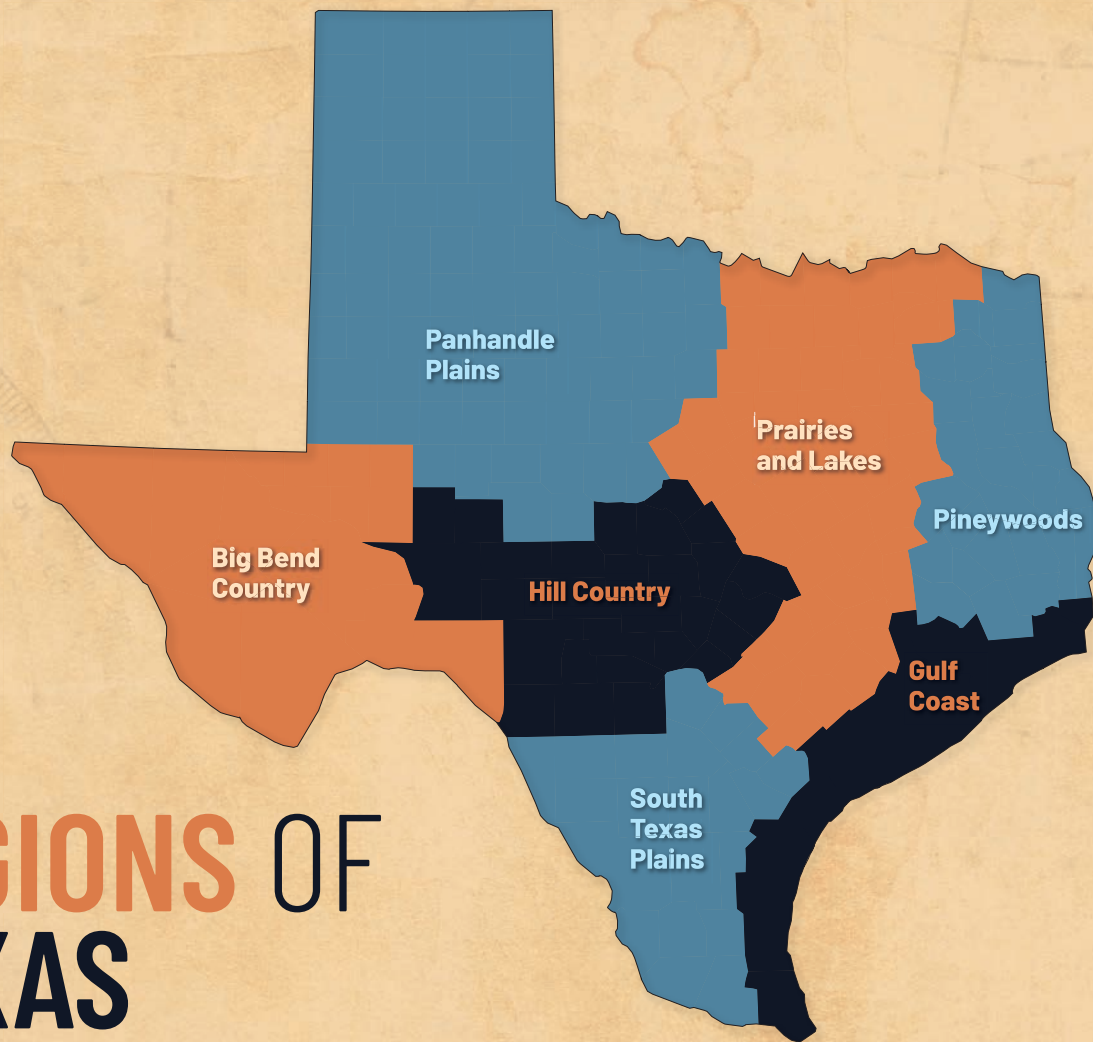
Isn't it Gorgeous?

Far from the windswept dusty plains and tumbleweeds you might see in the movies, (although we've got those too!) much of Texas is marked by incredible natural beauty! From the Hill Country in Central and South Texas to the forests in the east, and down to the coast. And in the west you'll find the breathtaking landscapes of Big Bend National Park!



Good Eats!

Texans are all about our food, especially barbecue and Tex Mex. And we all have our opinions, so if you don't know where to start, just ask...we'll tell you!



REGIONS OF TEXAS

Hill Country

The Texas Hill Country is located in Central Texas. Over millions of years, the Edwards Plateau has eroded into the beautiful hills that give this region its namesake.

Prairies and Lakes

The Prairies and Lakes region is in north central and central Texas. This area is a transition between the plains of the West Texas Panhandle and the Pineywoods of East Texas. Patches of woodland running in a north and south direction are sprinkled throughout this grassland prairie. The land is gently rolling to hilly. This region is sometimes called “cross timbers” because these patches of treed areas cross strips of prairie grassland.

Panhandle Plains

Sometimes called the Llano Estacado or “Staked Plains”, these plains are part of the same flat grassland that extends from the Great Plains of the Central United States. The land is mostly treeless and is on a high, flat plateau. The region is home to Palo Duro Canyon and Caprock Canyons State Parks.

Pineywoods

The East Texas region is primarily a thick forest of pines, hence the name Pineywoods! This woodland is part of a larger forest that extends into Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The terrain is rolling with lower, wetter bottomlands that grow hardwood trees such as elm, mesquite and ash.

Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast stretches along the Gulf of Mexico for hundreds of miles. Cities such as Corpus Christi, Galveston, and Houston are in the Gulf Coast region. Near the gulf waters you can see marshes, barrier islands, estuaries (where salty sea water and fresh river water meet), and bays. As you travel west, you can see prairies and grasslands.

South Texas Plains

The South Texas plains and brush country stretches from the edges of the Hill Country into the subtropical regions of the Lower Rio Grande valley. Much of the area is dry and covered with grasses and thorny brush such as mesquite and prickly pear cacti.

Big Bend Country

Big Bend Country is a region of extremes. The desert is dry and hot in the day and cool at night, and the plants and animals that live there are well-adapted to these extremes. The mountains are cold in the winter, where on occasion it even snows. Forests grow on the slopes, fed by the precipitation that falls from the clouds moving over the peaks.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Tollways

We've got a whole bunch of 'em here in Texas - in fact, we have more toll roads than any other state in the US! That's because we have a low gasoline tax and no state income tax, so we need to make up for it somehow. But it's not all bad news - toll roads can actually be pretty helpful! For one thing, they can come in handy if you're ever stuck on the highway with car trouble. Plus, by reducing traffic congestion and improving highway safety, toll roads are a win-win for everyone.

Traffic

It's been getting pretty crowded around here lately! Our population has been booming in recent years, and we're seeing a lot of new faces from out of state. But with all these new folks around, traffic has become a bit of a headache, especially in the major cities. Houston takes the cake for the worst traffic, followed by the DFW area in second place, Austin in third, and San Antonio bringing up the rear at number four. So if you're planning to hit the road in any of these cities, make sure you've got a lot of patience and a good playlist ready!

Texas Driving Tips

- You can actually pass other cars on the shoulder of the road. So if someone in front of you is slowing down to make a left turn, you can just zip right around 'em!
- If you're driving in San Antonio, make sure you don't open your car door while you're on the road, even if you're at a full stop. It's against the law!
- It's illegal to have any alcohol within arm's reach while you're driving, even if the drink is still sealed up.
- In most cases, U-turns are totally legal here in Texas as long as you can see at least 500 feet in front of and behind you.

Standard Speed Limits

Residential & Urban Districts
Rural & Country Roads
Freeway in City Limits
Freeway Outside City Limits

5-30 MPH
55-70 MPH
55-75 MPH
70-85 MPH





BECOMING A REGISTERED TEXAN

Vehicle Registration

- Visit your local county tax-assessor collector office.
- Bring your insurance card, proof of vehicle inspection, and proof you own the vehicle, such as the registration or title from your previous state.
- If your insurance policy was issued in another state, you will need to bring your policy in its entirety so that insurance coverage minimums may be verified.

*** In Texas, you must show you have insurance coverage for a minimum of \$30,000 per injured person, up to a total of \$60,000 for everyone injured in an accident, and \$25,000 for property damage.*

Vehicle Inspection and Insurance

This one's easy, just bring your vehicle and insurance card to a certified Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) inspection station. Many mechanic shops and oil change locations are certified, so you'll have plenty of options.

Drivers License

As a new resident you are required to obtain your drivers license from the Texas Department of Public Safety within 90 days of moving here. You will need to provide proof of the following to apply for a driver license:

- U.S. Citizenship or evidence of lawful presence
- Texas Residency
- Identity
- Social Security Number
- Evidence of Texas Vehicle Registration for each vehicle you own.
- Proof of Insurance for each vehicle you own

Note: Active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and nonresident, full-time students attending a Texas college or university are not required to register or title their vehicles in Texas.

Voter Registration

Simply complete a voter registration application (found at votetexas.gov) and mail it to your county election office.



STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

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Texas-Sized Fun

With more than 2 million annual visitors, the State Fair of Texas is the largest in the nation. Fair Park, with its rich history and art deco buildings, has been the location of the fair since 1886.

Food

Texas' mishmash of cultures has led to some serious (and frankly crazy) innovations in the art of fair food. You'll find everything from gourmet, regional, national, and international foods. And if it can be deep fried, it will!

Creative Arts Show

In addition to artwork from artists all over the state, you'll be able to marvel at a massive sculpture made out of butter!

Live Music

At the State Fair of Texas, musicians of all kinds play on the same stage that was once graced by legendary artists such as Elvis, Selena, and Jimi Hendrix!



PROFESSIONAL & COLLEGE SPORTS

Football

Dallas Cowboys
Houston Texans

Baseball

Houston Astros
Texas Rangers

Hockey

Dallas Stars

Basketball

Dallas Mavericks
Houston Rockets
San Antonio Spurs

Soccer

Austin FC
FC Dallas
Houston Dynamo

College Sports

Baylor Bears
Houston Cougars
North Texas Mean Green
Rice Owls
SMU Mustangs
TCU Horned Frogs
Texas A&M Aggies
Texas Longhorns
Texas State Bobcats
Texas Tech Red Raiders
UTSA Roadrunners

Women's Basketball

Dallas Wings

Women's Soccer

Houston Dash



RODEOS

Rodeos in Texas are a cherished tradition that showcase the state's deep-rooted cowboy culture. These adrenaline-fueled spectacles feature a variety of events that test the skills and bravery of cowboys and cowgirls.

But Texas rodeos go beyond just thrilling performances; they often embrace a festive atmosphere with live music, carnival rides, and mouthwatering Texan cuisine.

Four major Rodeos are held annually— in Fort Worth, Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

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BIG ON BUSINESS

8 Reasons Why Business is Better in Texas

1

Over the past decade, Texas has maintained its lead as the state with the highest private-sector job creation, having added nearly 2 million jobs.

2

In 2019, Texas broke records with an incredible \$83 billion in travel spending from both residents and non-residents.

3

Texas is the 9th largest economy in the world, partly owing to its business-friendly climate— we have no corporate tax and no personal income tax.

4

In 2019, there were more than 2.7 million small businesses in Texas, employing more than 4.7 million people. 1.1 million of those businesses were women and minority owned.

5

In 2021, and for the 19th consecutive year, Texas held its position as the leading state in the United States, exporting goods worth \$279.3 billion to various global destinations.

6

53 leading Fortune 500 countries have their headquarters here in Texas.

7

In 2020, Texas was #1 in the nation in capital investment for the 9th consecutive year, hosting 781 projects and thousands of jobs created.

8

The price of land and energy is lower in Texas, and there are fewer land-use restrictions, which leads to lower operating costs for businesses, as well as a lower cost-of-living for their employees.

A silhouette of a windmill stands against a sunset sky. The windmill has a circular fan with many blades and a conical cap. It is mounted on a tall, lattice-like tower. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and lens flare. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted vegetation.

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