

# Welcome to Texas

Howdy, and welcome to Texas! Together we will discover the various landscapes and cultures across the Texas plains. We will dive deep into the heart of Texas to find exactly what makes Texas worthy of pride! So hold on to your hats „cus it’s gunna be a yeehaw kinda ride!

Did you know that Texas is the biggest state in the lower 48 United States? With over 24 million residents...and growing quickly, it ranks second in population in the U.S. Not only is Texas incredibly large in size, it also has a wide variety of landscapes to offer. Along our route through Texas, you will experience pine forests, coastal prairies, deserts, mountains and several urban landscapes.

Texans are very proud of our state flower, the beautiful bluebonnet. In the spring time, fields of bluebonnets cover the Texas hill country with a painted blue sea along highways and country roads. If you travel this Amtrak route between San Antonio and Houston during the spring, you will have an opportunity to see many of the native wildflowers of Texas.

The “Lone Star State” is represented by its red, white, and blue flag which features one white star on the far left blue portion of the flag, while red and white color the rest of the right side of the flag. You may have heard of the six flags which flew over Texas during its colorful past. Spain claimed this territory first, followed by France and then Mexico. Texas won its independence and became an independent Republic in 1836. After joining the United States, Texas flew the Confederate flag, and finally the U.S. flag.

Texas is home to a unique mix of cultures. Mexican culture flavors the food, music, and architecture in much of the southern part of the state such as San Antonio and the Rio Grande

Valley. Immigrants from all over the world settled in pockets of Texas, contributing their special foods, music, dance and art. In Austin, the state capital, there is a young hipster natural vibe. Austin has often been considered the “new California” for its innovative green ideals and practices, as well as a high population of young people.

Some may argue that the best part of Texas is the Texans. So enjoy some interactions with good ol’ folk and some southern hospitality as you travel across the largest and finest state and discover what this “Texas Pride” is all about!

## **Source(s):**

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