



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

LOCATED in the state's southern-most region, the Texas Tropical Trail Region covers 20 counties, 23,000 square miles, and is home to 1.7 mil-

lion residents. For over 200 miles in both directions, the Tropical Trail borders the nation of Mexico along the Border Byway and the Gulf of Mexico along the Gulf Coast Byway.

TROPICAL TRAIL REGION COUNTRIES: Aransas, Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, LaSalle, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Zapata.

OUR MISSION: The Texas Tropical Trail Region and its partners

identify, preserve, interpret, and promote the natural, historic, and cultural resources of South Texas.

OUR VISION: The Texas Tropical Trail Region's unique attributes and resources will be preserved and developed to create a strong economic impact in our communities.

CONTACT:
The Texas Tropical Trail Region
P O Box 1538 Freer, TX 78357
Phone: (361) 547-8033
Email: info@texastropicaltrail.com
Facebook: [texastropicaltrail](http://www.facebook.com/texastropicaltrail)

THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY CIVIL WAR TRAIL

WEBSITE: http://portal.utpa.edu/utpa_main/daa_home/cosbs_home/rgv_civilwartrail_home

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/rgvcwt>

MAP LEGEND/LEYENDA

- CITY - Ciudad
- RANCH - Rancho
- MISSES - Misión
- BATTLE - Batalla
- CAMP - Campamento
- POST - Puesto
- HOUSE/HOUSEHOLD - Casa/Hogar
- STEAMBOAT - Vapor
- PLAZA - Plaza
- BRIDGE - Puente

THE SUMMERLEE FOUNDATION

BCIC **TWELVE** **UTPA**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CIVIL WAR TRAIL

On February 28, 2015, the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail launched with a dedicated bilingual website and a mobile web accessible by direct dial and by QR code; both equipped with audio podcasts and site narratives in English and Spanish. A bilingual tourism map/brochure and trail guide has been produced as well and are available at regional travel and tourist information centers, chambers of commerce, hotels, museums, historical parks and eco-tourism parks.

The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail

covers an important 30-year period of history beginning with the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), through the Civil War (1861-1865) and the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). Several U.S. Military officers who served at Fort Brown and the Palo Alto Battlefield during the Mexican-American War later became Civil War generals such as Ulysses S. Grant, Napoleon Tecumseh Dana, and John Bankhead Magruder. This international border region between Laredo and Brownsville played an instrumental role economically and militarily throughout the entire Civil War. While

battles were being hard-fought on more commonly known fields such as Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, cotton, otherwise known as "white gold", was successfully moving up, down, and across the Rio Grande into Mexico. The Rio Grande Valley not only provided economic trade routes, but it supplied many enlisted men, mainly Tejanos from the region, to the military forces. These Tejano recruits, along with U.S. Colored Troop regiments were present to fight the last battle of the Civil War at Palmito Ranch between Brownsville and Point Isabel.

 **NEW & NEWSWORTHY IN THE TROPICAL TRAIL!**

PORT ARANSAS MUSEUM

Visit the Port Aransas Museum, 101 E. Brundrett Street, at the corner of Alister Street. (361)749-3800. This early 1900s “kit” house showcases Port Aransas history. Open every Thursday through Saturday from 1-5 p.m., with tours given by volunteer



docents. Admission is free but donations are happily accepted.

Some of the permanent exhibits include the Fourth Order Fresnel lens that graced the top of the Lydia Ann Lighthouse from 1878 to 1952, films of Port Aransas in the 1920s and 1930s, over 12,000 photos and documents about Port Aransas, video interviews by important islanders, and more.

On loan to Museum is the bell from the train that brought the rocks to build the jetties. It’s set up and waiting for you to ring it!

THE FARLEY BOAT WORKS AT A GLANCE

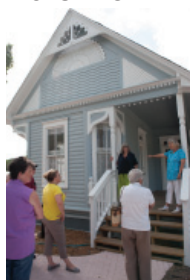
The Farley Boat Works is a branch of the Port Aransas Museum where the focus is on boatbuilding and the preservation of nautical heritage.



The Farley Boat Works opened in 1915 and closed in 1970. The Port Aransas Museum purchased the historic property and reestablished the Boat Works in 2011.

Since reopening 30 boats have been rebuilt and students scheduled until 2016. Students are paired with a skilled boat builder and at the end of the learning period, leave with their own boat. Stop by and watch boats being built. Open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5p.m. (210)218-9961 or fbwpam@gmail.com. portaransasmuseum.org/farley-boat-works/com.

HISTORY CENTER FOR ARANSAS COUNTY



Located at 801 E. Cedar St. in Rockport, the History Center is open Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The History Center showcases local history with displays and programs. Exhibits, located outside

and inside the building, change quarterly with stories of the real people of Aransas County. The History Center is housed in the



Bruhl-Paul-Johnson house, a Queen Anne Victorian cottage, in historic Live Oak Heights. (361)727-9214. Free admission.

www.aransashistorycenter.org.

ROBSTOWN AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Robstown Area Historical Museum has recently added three new rooms to more completely tell the story of Robstown’s heritage. 210 E. Main Ave. in Robstown. RobstownAHM.org, (361)752-3052. Open Thursday – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and first Saturday of the month – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Open for groups on other days by appointment.

HISTORIC DIMMIT COUNTY OLD JAIL-HOUSE MUSEUM

The Dimmit County Chamber of Commerce refurbished and re-purposed the



Old County Jailhouse Building as the Chamber Office & Visitors and Information Center,

a Museum honoring past Law Enforcement Officers, El Camino Real, and the 17 Texas Rangers buried at historical Mt. Hope Cemetery. Located at 103 N. 6th Street in Carrizo Springs. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday through Friday.



LAREDO ARTISANS BAZAAR AND TEATRO TEJANO DE LA CALLE

Teatro Tejano de la Calle is a fun; dramatic retelling of some of Laredo’s most notable historic events and characters using actors, sites and simple theatrical effects in the streets of Laredo. The tour is designed to make history captivating, vibrant and entertaining. In its first iteration, 5 stories will unfold in a sweep across centuries: A modern incantation of Tomas Sanchez recounts the founding of Laredo and the mystery of his grave, Carlos Ortiz relates the construction of one of Laredo’s oldest houses, a paperboy bellows about the election riots, a

recovering soldier talks about the daring exploits of La Cruz Blanca, and Antonio Zapata tells us, and shows us, how he lost his head when the Republic of the Rio Grande came to an end.

Mission: To entertain, educate and enrich the lives of both residents and visitors of our community through quality educational and artistic offerings that highlight the rich history of the city of Laredo.

(956)795-2200. Email: teatrotejano-laredo@gmail.com.

RIO GRANDE CITY TROLLEY TOUR

Discover the rich history and honored tradition of Rio Grande City aboard the



air-conditioned comfort of Besse III. Tour our Historic Downtown which boasts over 300 homes listed in the National

Register of Historic Places, the tour includes Fort Ringgold and the Robert E. Lee House Museum.

The tour costs \$10.00, but is free for students 18 and under, Veterans and Active Duty Military with their Military ID and operates year round, except for weekends and holidays, with 2 tours daily at 10:00am and 1:30pm, the number to call is (956)487-3476, the website is www.cityofrgc.com and the address 405 E. Mirasoles St. Rio Grande City Texas 78582

TEXAS GULF TRAWLING LLC TOURS

Looking for something unique to do? Learn about the Gulf Shrimp industry from a family who has been in the business since



1950. Come see how their operation and the industry work. Learn the difference between Domestic Wild Caught Shrimp and imported farm-raised shrimp. - Texas Gulf Trawling, LLC (behind Zimco Marine) at 1430 Everglades Road in the Brownsville

Shrimp Basin located on Highway 48.

Tours are held mid-January through March, Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. Phone (956)831-7828 or email gwlzimco@aol.com. to set up your tour.

Freshly caught boxed and frozen Domestic Wild Shrimp are also available in their on-site retail store for purchase.

