

TRIP
ADVENTURES

A DYNAMIC PAST

Dive into the unexpected tales of the Upper Texas Coast.

Uncover the captivating history that shaped the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. With easy access to coastal and inland waters, abundant bays, fertile soils, and extended growing seasons, this region has drawn many throughout history. First the Karankawa, followed by Spain, France, Mexico, Anglo-Americans, and then the United States. The opportunity for land ownership and economic prosperity, plus security from debt collectors and oppression, shaped the European and Anglo-American drive into the region. Slave-based agriculture, immigration and the discovery of petroleum were key factors in economic development, which earned Galveston the names 'Wall Street of the Southwest' and 'Ellis Island of the West'. This opportunity and independence-driven spirit is integral to the DNA of Texas. From indigenous peoples, colonizers, and formerly enslaved Africans, to voluntary immigrants from across the globe, this region's history is fueled by stories of freedom—both past and present.



Explore
LONE STAR
COASTAL

www.explorelonestarcoastal.com

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- A** Museum of the Gulf Coast
- B** Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum
- C** La Maison Acadienne Museum & Dutch Windmill Museum
- D** McFaddin-Ward House & John Jay French House

GALVESTON COUNTY

- A** The Bryan Museum
- B** Juneteenth Legacy Project Mural and Storytelling Space
- C** Galveston Historic Seaport
- D** League City Founder's Square and Homes Self Tour
» [Tour Map](#)

When you think of the Underground Railroad, you probably picture heading north to freedom in Canada. But did you know many enslaved people in Texas fled south to Mexico? Some seeking freedom fled from or through Brazoria county, while others stowed away on ships leaving Galveston for ports in Mexico. Researchers have only recently begun uncovering and cataloging these stories.



Walk the stations of the cross in this "Area of Peace" built as a tribute to Port Arthur for welcoming Vietnamese refugees. This site is part of the [Faith Trail](#) which highlights the many religious communities with roots in this region.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

- A** Stephen F. Austin-Munson Historical County Park
- B** Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site
- C** Capitol of Texas Park
- D** Lake Jackson Historical Museum

MATAGORDA COUNTY

- A** Matagorda County Museum
- B** City By The Sea Museum
- C** Sanford Community Center
- D** Fisherman's Memorial

