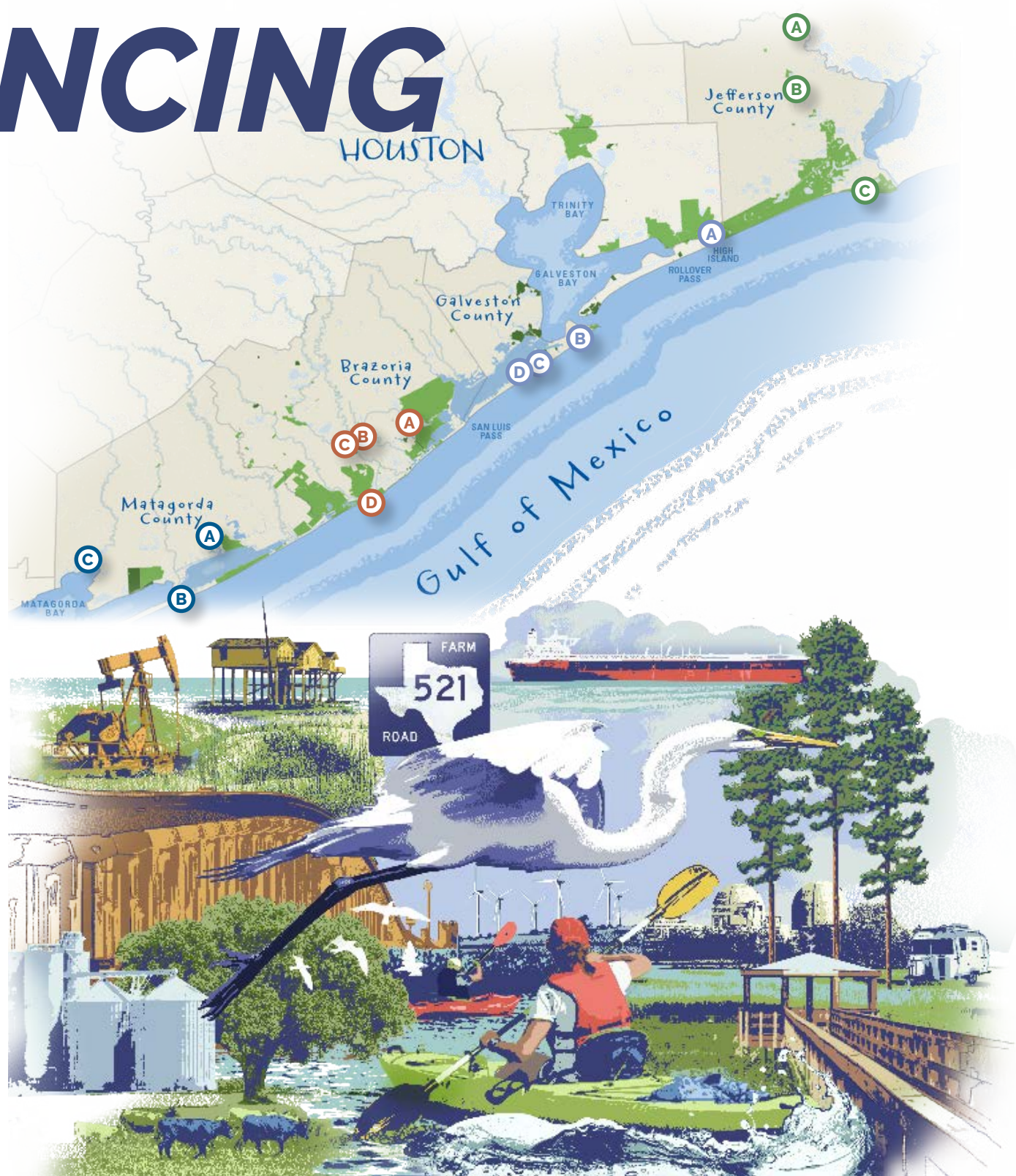


TRIP  
ADVENTURES

# BALANCING ACT

*Unravel the fascinating complexities of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast*

The tension between human habitation and the environment is complex, and there's nowhere better to see that than on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. Home to large and productive agricultural and seafood sectors and ports since the mid-1800's, birthplace of the modern petroleum age in 1901, and now a lead player in green energy development, the questions, tensions, and impact of coexistence is the lived reality for those along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. The complexities and nuances of this relationship—with its varied costs and benefits— can be seen and experienced in many ways across this region, offering insights, lessons, and innovations for us all.



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COASTAL**

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## JEFFERSON COUNTY

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- A** Neches River Ivory Bill Boat Tour  
» [Registration Link](#)
- B** Cattail Marsh Scenic Wetlands  
» [Trail Map Link](#)
- C** Sea Rim State Park

## GALVESTON COUNTY

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- A** Houston Audubon Smith Oaks Sanctuary, High Island
- B** Galveston Sea Wall
- C** Artist Boat Kayak Adventure
- D** Laffite's Cove Nature Preserve

You might be surprised that along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast, murky is good! Rather than pollution, the cloudy brown color represents sediment emptied into the bays and the Gulf of Mexico by numerous bayous and rivers, including the Brazos, Colorado, Sabine and even the Mighty Mississippi, and indicates the presence of nutrients and minerals which support the abundant marine life!



Though offshore oil rigs have an imposing and unnatural presence above water, underwater they serve as vertical reefs and sanctuaries for millions of plants and animals. As oil extraction moves inland, these important habitats are being lost. The Sabine Pass Port Authority—with the help of large industries, community members, and conservationists—have come together to create 160-acres of new artificial reef near Sabine Pass.



## BRAZORIA COUNTY

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- A** Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
- B** Lake Jackson Historical Museum
- C** Sea Center Texas
- D** Quintana Beach County Park

## MATAGORDA COUNTY

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- A** Driving Tour on FM521
- B** Matagorda Bay Nature Park
- C** South Bay Marina