

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
WHEN RELOCATING TO

TEXAS



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03 | INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Buckle up, partner, because you're in for a wild ride! Texas isn't just a state; it's a cultural phenomenon. Dripping with history, pulsating with a unique blend of influences, and boasting a friendly spirit that's as big as the state itself, Texas offers a one-of-a-kind experience for its residents.

This ain't your average history lesson. We're talking about six flags having flown over Texas, a larger-than-life fight for independence, and a cultural gumbo simmered to perfection over centuries. So, grab your Stetson (or cowboy hat, for the uninitiated) and mosey on over as we explore some of the fascinating facts that shaped Texas into the vibrant state it is today.

Texas: A Timeline of Lone Star Legends

Pre-Colonial Texas (10,000 BC - 1519 AD): Long before Europeans set foot on Texan soil, the land was home to a rich tapestry of indigenous cultures like the Comanche, Apache, and the Caddo. These groups developed complex societies with their own languages, traditions, and deep connection to the land.

Spanish Explorers Arrive (1519 AD): Spanish conquistador Alonso Álvarez de Pineda became the first European to set foot in Texas in 1519. Spain would later establish missions and presidios (forts) throughout the region, forever altering the landscape.

The French Attempt to Stake Their Claim (1685 AD): Feeling left out of the land grab, the French attempted to establish a colony near present-day Matagorda Bay. However, their efforts were short-lived as neighboring Spanish forces drove them out.

Texas Declares Independence from Mexico (1836 AD): Following years of simmering tensions with the Mexican government, Texans declared independence in 1836, culminating in the iconic Battle of the Alamo. After a decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas secured its independence and became the Republic of Texas.

Annexation by the United States (1845 AD): The young Republic of Texas faced a turbulent decade before being annexed by the United States in 1845. This decision sparked the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), ultimately expanding the US territory westward.

The Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1870 AD): Texas sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War, and the state faced a period of economic hardship and social upheaval during Reconstruction.

The Rise of Oil and Industry (Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries): The discovery of massive oil reserves in the late 19th century transformed Texas into an economic powerhouse. This period also saw significant advancements in agriculture, ranching, and transportation infrastructure.

This is just a taste of the rich tapestry that is Texas history. As a new resident, you'll have the opportunity to experience this vibrant culture firsthand, from the world-renowned rodeos and Tex-Mex cuisine to the warm hospitality and the iconic "Howdy, Y'all!"

QUICK FACTS

6

TEXAS HAS
BEEN LED BY 6
OTHER
COUNTRIES.

1997

THE YEAR TEXAS
ADOPTED RODEO AS
THEIR STATE SPORT

2,000

YEARS OLD

ROCKPORT, TX IS HOME
TO AN ESTIMATED 2K
OLD OAK TREE

635

MILES TO CA

CALIFORNIA IS
CLOSER TO EL PASO
THAN DALLAS

1883

FIRST EVER RODEO
HELD IN PECOS, TX

TEJAS

"TEJAS" IS THE SPANISH
SPELLING OF "TAYSHA," A
NATIVE AMERICAN CADDO
WORD THAT MEANS
"FRIEND" OR "ALLY."



INTRODUCTION

CONSIDER THIS YOUR TEXAS-SIZED ROADMAP

Unveiling the diverse tapestry of Texan cities: From the bustling metropolis of Houston to the charming Hill Country towns, we'll explore the unique offerings of various regions, helping you find the perfect place to call home.

Taming the Texas job market: We'll equip you with the knowledge to navigate the booming Texan economy, highlighting industries where your skills can flourish.

Understanding the cost of living: Saddle up for a transparent discussion on the cost of living in different Texan areas, from housing and utilities to groceries and entertainment.

Conquering the housing hunt: Whether you're searching for a spacious suburban home or a trendy city apartment, we'll provide tips and resources to streamline your search.

Lifestyle Lasso

Urban Adventure: Craving the energy and buzz of a city? Look for features like robust public transportation systems, diverse cultural offerings (museums, art galleries), and a vibrant nightlife scene. Cities like Houston, Austin, and Dallas cater to this urban lifestyle.

Suburban Oasis: Seeking a balance between city convenience and a quieter environment? Explore suburbs surrounding major cities or smaller cities with good access to amenities. Think Frisco near Dallas, or Pearland near Houston.

Small Town Charm: Yearning for a close-knit community and a slower pace of life? Explore charming towns like Fredericksburg in the Hill Country or historic towns like Nacogdoches in East Texas.

Job Market Jitterbugs

Industry Focus: Research the industries that thrive in different regions. For example, Houston is a hub for energy and healthcare, while Austin boasts a booming tech scene.

Job Market Research: Utilize online resources like the Texas Workforce Commission website (<https://www.twc.texas.gov/>) and explore job postings on platforms like Indeed or LinkedIn to gauge the availability of positions in your field.

Cost of Living Corral

Budgeting Basics: Be realistic about your financial situation. While Texas offers a generally lower cost of living compared to the national average, there are significant variations between cities.

Research is Key: Utilize online cost-of-living calculators and explore resources like <https://www.nerdwallet.com/cost-of-living-calculator/compare/chicago-vs-grand-rapids> to compare housing costs, taxes, and other expenses in different cities.

08 | TOP CITIES



We've gotten to the exciting stage of choosing your new Texan haven. Texas boasts a diverse landscape, from bustling metropolises to charming small towns, each offering a unique character and lifestyle. But with so many incredible options, selecting the perfect city can feel like wrangling a herd of longhorns!

Fear not, newcomer! This section will be your trusty lasso, guiding you through the process of identifying your ideal Texan city.

Remember, choosing your Texan city is about finding a place that resonates with your lifestyle, aspirations, and sense of community. So, saddle up, partner, and let's explore our curated list of the Top 10 Best Cities in Texas for new residents! We'll delve into the unique charm, economic strengths, cultural offerings, and essential details of each city, empowering you to make an informed decision and find the perfect place to put down roots in the Lone Star State.



AUSTIN

Nestled in the heart of Texas Hill Country, Austin pulsates with a unique blend of urban energy, artistic soul, and a touch of the Wild West. Moving to Austin presents an exciting opportunity to experience a vibrant city consistently ranked highly for its livability, job market, and overall appeal.

A Booming Tech Hub

Austin has rightfully earned the nickname "Silicon Hills." Major tech companies like Dell, Apple, Google, Facebook, and Tesla have established a significant presence in the city, fostering a dynamic and innovative ecosystem. This translates to a thriving job market with ample opportunities for skilled professionals in various tech fields, including software development, engineering, cybersecurity, and data science. Moving to Austin for a tech career means access to competitive salaries, excellent benefits packages, and the chance to be at the forefront of cutting-edge technological advancements.

LIVING IN AUSTIN

Beyond Tech

While tech is a driving force, the Austin economy is diverse. The city boasts a strong presence in healthcare, with world-renowned institutions like **Seton Healthcare Family** and **Dell Medical School** attracting top medical professionals. Additionally, the **University of Texas at Austin**, a leading research university, fuels a robust educational sector. The creative sector also thrives in Austin, with a flourishing film industry, a vibrant music scene, and a growing community of artists, designers, and entrepreneurs.

Music City Magic

Austin is widely known as the "Live Music Capital of the World," and for good reason. Live music is woven into the very fabric of the city. Catch up-and-coming musicians belting out soulful tunes at Sixth Street bars, or witness legendary acts grace the stages of iconic venues like the **Moody Theater** or the historic **Paramount Theatre**. The iconic **ACL Music Festival**, held every fall, attracts music lovers from around the globe. No matter your musical taste, Austin has something for you, from blues and jazz to country and electronic music.

Foodie Paradise

From world-class restaurants with innovative chefs to quirky food trucks serving up delicious bites, Austin tantalizes taste buds with its diverse culinary scene. Sample authentic Texas BBQ at **Franklin Barbecue** (*be prepared to wait!*) or indulge in breakfast tacos, a quintessential Austin experience. For international flavors, explore the vibrant **East Sixth Street** with its restaurants serving everything from Thai to Ethiopian cuisine. The city also boasts a thriving craft beer scene, with local breweries offering unique and flavorful brews. Moving to Austin means indulging in a city where food is more than just sustenance – it's an adventure.

Outdoor Enthusiast's Playground

Escape the urban bustle and commune with nature at **Barton Creek Greenbelt**, a sprawling network of trails perfect for hiking and biking. Paddle down **Lady Bird Lake**, a scenic oasis in the heart of the city, or explore the natural wonders of **Zilker Metropolitan Park**, a massive green space with playgrounds, gardens, and hiking trails. Austin also offers easy access to outdoor adventures beyond the city limits. Take a day trip to the breathtaking **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** or go rock climbing in the world-famous **McKinney Falls State Park**.



DALLAS/FORT WORTH

DFW isn't just one city, but a powerful duo – Dallas, a bustling metropolis brimming with innovation and culture, and Fort Worth, a city steeped in Western heritage with a friendly, community-oriented vibe. Moving to DFW means having the best of both worlds at your fingertips, with the convenience of a major metropolitan area alongside the warmth and character of distinct city personalities.

This dynamic duo caters to a wide range of lifestyles. Are you a young professional seeking career advancement in a thriving tech hub? Dallas beckons with its impressive skyline and fast-paced energy. Do you yearn for a taste of the Wild West without sacrificing modern amenities? Fort Worth offers a welcoming atmosphere and a rich cultural tapestry. No matter your preferences, DFW promises a place where you can forge your own path and experience the unique blend of Texas spirit that makes this region so special.

LIVING IN DALLAS/FORT WORTH

So, saddle up, partner! We're about to delve into the exciting world of DFW, exploring the dynamic job market, diverse housing options, and the plethora of entertainment options that await you in this one-of-a-kind Texan metropolis.

A Hub for Diverse Industries

DFW boasts a booming job market with a strong presence in various sectors. Dallas is a major financial center, attracting leading corporations in banking, insurance, and energy. Fort Worth, meanwhile, is a leader in healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation. This diversity ensures a plethora of opportunities for professionals across various fields.

Thriving Tech Scene

Beyond traditional industries, DFW is experiencing a surge in the tech sector. Major tech companies like **Apple**, **Facebook**, and **Google** have established offices in the metroplex, fueling innovation and creating exciting career prospects for tech-savvy individuals.

Housing Options for All

The DFW housing market offers a range of options to suit different budgets and lifestyles. From trendy condos in vibrant downtown areas to spacious single-family homes in suburban neighborhoods, you'll find a place to call home in DFW. Affordability varies depending on the location, with Fort Worth generally offering slightly lower housing costs compared to Dallas.

Urban Excitement in Dallas

Dallas sizzles with a cosmopolitan vibe. Immerse yourself in the vibrant arts scene at the **Dallas Museum of Art** or the **Meyerson Symphony Center**. Catch a Broadway show at the historic **Majestic Theatre** or shop designer brands at **Highland Park Village**. Sports fans can cheer on the **Dallas Cowboys** at AT&T Stadium or the **Dallas Mavericks** at the **American Airlines Center**.

Western Heritage in Fort Worth

Fort Worth embraces its rich Western heritage. Step back in time at the Fort Worth **Stockyards National Historic District**, where longhorn cattle drives and rodeos evoke the spirit of the Wild West. Explore the world's largest collection of Western art at the **Amon Carter Museum of American Art** or visit the **Fort Worth Zoo**, a nationally acclaimed zoological park.



SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, fondly nicknamed "The Alamo City," pulsates with a rich tapestry of history, vibrant culture, and a warm Texas welcome. Moving to San Antonio presents an opportunity to experience a city brimming with charm, a booming job market, and a deep sense of community.

San Antonio's economy thrives on a diverse mix of industries. The city is a major center for healthcare, with world-renowned institutions like the **South Texas Medical Center** attracting top medical professionals. Additionally, the military plays a significant role in the San Antonio economy, with significant military bases like **Joint Base San Antonio**. Furthermore, tourism is a major economic driver, with visitors flocking to experience the city's historical sites and cultural attractions.

LIVING IN SAN ANTONIO

Finding Your Nest in San Antonio

The San Antonio housing market offers a range of options to suit various budgets and lifestyles. From charming bungalows in historic neighborhoods like **King William** to modern apartments downtown, you'll find a place to call home. The cost of living in San Antonio is generally lower compared to other major Texas cities, making it an attractive option for those seeking affordability.

A Walk Through Time

San Antonio is a living museum. Immerse yourself in history at the iconic Alamo, where Texans bravely fought for independence. Explore the majestic beauty of the **San Antonio Missions National Historical Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll along the world-famous **River Walk**, a network of walkways lined with shops, restaurants, and historic landmarks.

A Celebration of Culture

San Antonio's vibrant culture is evident in its diverse festivals and celebrations. Experience the electrifying energy of **Fiesta San Antonio**, a two-week festival celebrating the city's rich heritage. Immerse yourself in the **Tejano** music scene, a unique blend of Texan and Mexican influences. Explore the artistic side of the city at the **San Antonio Museum of Art** or catch a performance at the historic **Majestic Theatre**.

Family Fun Awaits

Moving to San Antonio with a family means access to exciting entertainment options. **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** provides thrills for all ages, while **SeaWorld San Antonio** offers a captivating underwater adventure. The **DoSeum**, a children's museum, ignites young imaginations with interactive exhibits. Spend a relaxing day exploring the **San Antonio Zoo**, a world-class zoological park.

Beyond the City Limits

San Antonio offers easy access to natural wonders. Take a day trip to **Natural Bridge Caverns**, a spectacular network of underground caverns, or explore the scenic beauty of Hill Country, a region known for its rolling hills, vineyards, and charming small towns.

Sports Fanatics Rejoice

San Antonio offers a taste of professional sports. Cheer on the **San Antonio Spurs**, a perennial NBA contender, or catch a **San Antonio FC** soccer game at Toyota Field.



KILLEEN

While the bright lights of metropolises like Dallas and Houston often steal the spotlight, Killeen offers a unique and compelling Texan experience. Moving to Killeen, TX presents an opportunity to immerse yourself in a friendly, community-oriented city with a strong military presence and a surprisingly vibrant arts and culture scene.

Killeen is proudly known as the "Home of Fort Hood," one of the largest active military installations in the world. This military presence infuses the city with a strong sense of community, patriotism, and respect for veterans. Killeen offers numerous resources and support systems for military families, making it a welcoming haven for those serving our country.

LIVING IN KILLEEN

Beyond the Military

While the military is a significant part of Killeen's identity, the city boasts a diverse economy. Healthcare, education, and retail sectors offer a range of employment opportunities. Additionally, Killeen is strategically located near major highways, making it an attractive location for businesses seeking a central Texas hub.

Finding Your Affordable Haven

Moving to Killeen means affordability. The housing market offers a wide range of options, from single-family homes in quiet neighborhoods to modern apartments with convenient amenities. The cost of living in Killeen is significantly lower compared to other major Texas cities, making it an attractive option for budget-conscious individuals and families.

Family-Friendly Fun

Killeen caters to families with a variety of attractions. Spend a day exploring the wonders of the **Killeen Civic Center Complex**, which houses a zoo, a botanical garden, and a splash pad. Catch a movie at the historic Killeen Mall or take a trip to **Typhoon Texas Waterpark** for some splashy fun. Fort Hood offers a surprising wealth of family-friendly activities, including museums, bowling alleys, and movie theaters.

A Cultural Tapestry

Killeen's cultural scene is a hidden gem. Immerse yourself in the vibrant arts community at the **Killeen Civic Auditorium**, which hosts theatrical productions, musical performances, and art exhibitions. Explore the rich history of the region at the **Central Texas Museum**, or delve into the stories of military veterans at the **Killeen Veterans Memorial**.

Nature's Playground

Killeen offers easy access to the beauty of Central Texas. Spend a day exploring the scenic **Belton Lake**, a popular spot for boating, fishing, and hiking. Take a drive through the rolling hills of the **Hill Country** and discover charming small towns brimming with wineries and art galleries.

While Killeen may not have professional sports teams or theme parks, it offers a unique charm and a strong sense of community. Moving to Killeen is ideal for those seeking an affordable Texan haven with a blend of military pride, family-friendly activities, and surprising cultural offerings. Remember, this is just a glimpse into what Killeen has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems and friendly atmosphere that await you in this welcoming Central Texas city.



EL PASO

Nestled along the Rio Grande River bordering Mexico, El Paso exudes a unique charm unlike any other Texan city. Moving to El Paso, TX means embracing a vibrant blend of cultures, breathtaking natural beauty, and a surprisingly affordable cost of living. Often nicknamed "Sun City" for its abundant sunshine, El Paso offers a laid-back atmosphere and a strong sense of community.

El Paso's strategic location at the crossroads of the United States and Mexico fosters a dynamic and diverse economy. The city is a major center for international trade, with logistics and manufacturing playing a significant role. Healthcare and education are also growing sectors, offering a variety of job opportunities for professionals. Additionally, El Paso's proximity to Mexico opens doors for exciting cross-border business ventures.

LIVING IN EL PASO

Affordable Texan Dream

El Paso is a haven for budget-conscious individuals and families. The housing market offers a wide range of options, from sprawling single-family homes in established neighborhoods to modern apartments with stunning mountain views. The cost of living in El Paso is significantly lower compared to the national average and other major Texas cities, making it an attractive option for those seeking affordability without sacrificing quality of life.

A Cultural Tapestry

Moving to El Paso means experiencing a vibrant fusion of Mexican and American influences. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the region at **El Paso Museum of Art**, or delve deeper into the city's unique past at sites like **Magoffin House Historic Site**. Stroll along **El Paso Street**, a historic downtown district brimming with shops, restaurants, and vibrant street performers.

A Feast for the Senses

El Paso's culinary scene is a delicious adventure. Savor authentic Tex-Mex cuisine, a fusion of Texan and Mexican flavors. Indulge in fresh seafood dishes at one of the many restaurants lining the **Rio Grande**.

Outdoor Oasis

Despite its desert landscape, El Paso offers surprising opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Hike or bike through the scenic **Franklin Mountains State Park**, with its breathtaking views of the city and surrounding desert. Explore the fascinating **Hueco Tanks State Park**, renowned for its ancient rock art and challenging rock climbing routes. Take a stroll along the **Rio Grande River Trail**, a scenic path perfect for enjoying the outdoors.

Unexpected Entertainment

While El Paso may not have professional sports teams, it offers a unique blend of entertainment options. Cheer on the **El Paso Locomotive FC**, a professional soccer team, or catch a performance by the **El Paso Symphony Orchestra**. The **El Paso Comic Con** is a must-visit for pop culture enthusiasts. Throughout the year, El Paso comes alive with vibrant festivals celebrating its rich cultural heritage.

Moving to El Paso is ideal for those seeking an affordable Texan city with a strong sense of community, a rich cultural tapestry, and stunning natural beauty. Remember, this is just a glimpse into what El Paso has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems, friendly atmosphere, and unexpected delights that await you in this vibrant Sun City.



BEAUMONT

Often overshadowed by its larger neighbors, Beaumont offers a unique and compelling Texan experience. Moving to Beaumont, TX means discovering a city brimming with natural beauty, a rich cultural heritage, and an incredibly affordable cost of living. Beaumont is an ideal choice for those seeking a slower pace of life, a strong sense of community, and easy access to the wonders of Southeast Texas.

Beaumont's nickname, "The Spindletop City," reflects its historical significance in the oil industry. However, beyond its industrial roots, Beaumont boasts a surprising connection to nature. Nestled along the Neches River and bordering Sabine Lake, the city offers ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. Explore the sprawling Beaumont Botanical Gardens, a haven of vibrant flora and fauna. Spend a day fishing, kayaking, or simply relaxing on the shores of Sabine Lake. Take a scenic drive along the Texas Gulf Coast and discover the beauty of barrier islands and pristine beaches.

LIVING IN BEAUMONT

A Blend of Industries

The Beaumont economy is a diverse mix of industries. While oil and gas remain significant players, healthcare, education, and manufacturing are growing sectors. The Port of Beaumont, a major deepwater port, fuels international trade activity and creates exciting job opportunities. Moving to Beaumont opens doors for careers in various fields, with a lower cost of living compared to other Texas cities.

Finding Your Affordable Haven

Beaumont is a haven for affordability. The housing market offers a wide range of options, from charming bungalows in historic neighborhoods to modern apartments with waterfront views. The cost of living in Beaumont is significantly lower than the national average and other major Texas cities, making it an attractive option for budget-minded individuals and families.

A Cultural Tapestry

Moving to Beaumont means experiencing a vibrant cultural scene. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the region at the **McFaddin-Ward House Museum**, a stunning example of Victorian architecture. Explore the **Art Museum of Southeast Texas**, showcasing a diverse collection of art from around the world. Catch a performance at the **Julie Rogers Theatre**, a historic venue hosting theatrical productions, concerts, and community events. Throughout the year, Beaumont comes alive with festivals celebrating its unique heritage, from the **Texas Music & Food Festival** to the **Art Walk on Beaumont**.

Family Fun Awaits

Beaumont caters to families with a variety of attractions. Spend a day learning about the wonders of science at the **Beaumont Children's Museum**. Catch a movie at the historic **Majestic Theatre** or explore the interactive exhibits at the **Edison Museum**, housed in Thomas Edison's original laboratory. Take a trip to **Splashtown Waterpark** for some splashy fun or enjoy a day of picnicking and playing at one of Beaumont's many parks.

Beaumont may not have professional sports teams or theme parks, but it offers a unique charm, a strong sense of community, and a deep connection to nature. Moving to Beaumont is ideal for those seeking an affordable Texan city with a rich cultural heritage, abundant outdoor activities, and a relaxed pace of life. Remember, this is just a glimpse into what Beaumont has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems, friendly atmosphere, and unexpected delights that await you in this *Beaumont-ful* Southeast Texas city.



CORPUS CHRISTI

Nestled along the sparkling Gulf Coast, Corpus Christi beckons with a laid-back beach vibe, a rich cultural heritage, and a surprising amount of urban energy. Moving to Corpus Christi, TX means embracing a city where life revolves around the water, from indulging in fresh seafood to exploring historic shipwrecks. Corpus Christi offers a thriving job market, a diverse housing market, and an overall affordability that makes it an attractive option for families and young professionals alike.

The Corpus Christi economy thrives on its connection to the water. Tourism is a major driver, with visitors flocking to the city's pristine beaches, world-class fishing spots, and vibrant attractions. The energy sector and healthcare also play significant roles, offering a variety of job opportunities. The Port of Corpus Christi, a major deepwater port, fuels international trade activity, further diversifying the city's economic landscape. Moving to Corpus Christi opens doors to careers in various fields, with a generally lower cost of living compared to other coastal Texas cities.

LIVING IN CORPUS CHRISTI

Finding Your Coastal Nest

The Corpus Christi housing market offers a range of options for all budgets and lifestyles. From beachfront condos with breathtaking ocean views to charming bungalows in historic neighborhoods, you'll find a place to call home. The cost of living in Corpus Christi is lower than the national average and many other coastal cities, making it an attractive option for those seeking affordability without sacrificing beachside living.

A City Steeped in History

Corpus Christi boasts a rich history that comes alive through its many museums and landmarks. Delve into the city's maritime past at the **Texas State Aquarium**, a world-renowned aquarium showcasing marine life from around the globe. Explore the **USS Lexington Museum** on the Bay, a decommissioned aircraft carrier turned museum offering a glimpse into naval history. Learn about the city's founding at the **Selena Memorial**, a tribute to the Queen of Tejano music.

Endless Coastal Adventures

Water is the lifeblood of Corpus Christi, and there's no shortage of ways to experience it. Spend a day soaking up the sun on pristine beaches like **Mustang Island** or **Padre Island National Seashore**. Cast a line and try your luck fishing for redfish, trout, or flounder in the bountiful waters of the Gulf Coast. Explore the underwater world by snorkeling or scuba diving at shipwrecks teeming with marine life. Kayak through the tranquil waters of the **Corpus Christi Bay** or rent a boat and explore the hidden coves and waterways.

Beyond the Beach

Corpus Christi offers more than just coastal fun. Immerse yourself in the world of butterflies at the **South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center**. Shop for unique finds at the vibrant **La Placita Market**.

While Corpus Christi may not have professional sports teams, the city offers a vibrant cultural scene and a strong sense of community. Moving to Corpus Christi is ideal for those seeking an affordable coastal haven with a rich history, endless water activities, and a relaxed beach lifestyle. Remember, this is just a taste of what Corpus Christi has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems and the coastal charm that await you in this vibrant Texas city.



BROWNSVILLE

Basking in year-round sunshine at the very southern tip of Texas, Brownsville beckons with a unique blend of Mexican and American influences, a rich historical tapestry, and an incredibly affordable cost of living. Moving to Brownsville, TX means embracing a vibrant border city where life moves at a relaxed pace, cultural experiences abound, and the natural beauty of the Rio Grande Valley captivates.

Brownsville's strategic location on the US-Mexico border fosters a dynamic and diverse economy. International trade is a major driver, with the Brownsville-Matamoros Bridge, one of the busiest international bridges in the world, facilitating the flow of goods and services. Healthcare, education, and tourism are also growing sectors, offering a variety of job opportunities for professionals. Moving to Brownsville opens doors to exciting career prospects, often with a lower cost of living compared to other Texas cities.

LIVING IN BROWNSVILLE

Finding Your Affordable Dream Home

The Brownsville housing market is a haven for affordability. From charming bungalows in established neighborhoods to modern apartments with stunning river views, you'll find a place to call home that perfectly suits your budget and lifestyle. The cost of living in Brownsville is significantly lower than the national average and most other Texas cities, making it an attractive option for cost-conscious individuals and families.

A Cultural Tapestry

Moving to Brownsville means experiencing a vibrant fusion of Mexican and American cultures. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the region at the Brownsville Historical Museum, or delve deeper into the city's unique past at sites like Fort Brown, a former US military post.

A Foodie's Paradise

Brownsville's culinary scene is a delicious adventure. Savor authentic Tex-Mex cuisine, a fusion of Texan and Mexican flavors. Indulge in fresh seafood dishes at one of the many restaurants lining the waterfront. Explore the vibrant farmers markets overflowing with locally-grown produce and handcrafted goods. Foodie festivals throughout the year celebrate the city's rich culinary heritage.

Nature's Playground

Brownsville offers surprising opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Explore the wonders of the **Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge**, a haven for migratory birds and diverse wildlife. Hike or bike through the scenic **Resaca de la Palma State Park**, a historic battleground transformed into a peaceful nature preserve. Spend a day kayaking or canoeing on the **Rio Grande River**, a natural border teeming with life. Take a short drive to South Padre Island National Seashore and unwind on pristine beaches bathed in sunshine.

Brownsville may not have major theme parks or professional sports teams, but it offers a unique cultural experience, a strong sense of community, and a deep connection to the natural beauty of the Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville is ideal for those seeking an affordable Texan city with a rich history, a vibrant border culture, and a relaxed, sun-soaked lifestyle. Remember, this is just a glimpse into what Brownsville has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems, friendly atmosphere, and unexpected delights that await you in this southernmost Texan city.



MCALEN

Nestled in the heart of South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, McAllen beckons with a warm climate, a friendly atmosphere, and a surprisingly affordable cost of living. Moving to McAllen, TX means embracing a vibrant border city where Mexican and American cultures seamlessly blend, offering a unique and enriching experience. The city boasts a thriving economy, a diverse housing market, and a strong sense of community, making it an attractive destination for families and young professionals alike.

McAllen's strategic location on the US-Mexico border fuels a dynamic and international economy. International trade is a major driver, with the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge facilitating the flow of goods and services between the two countries. Healthcare, education, and tourism are also growing sectors, offering a variety of job opportunities. The city opens doors to a diverse job market, often with a lower cost of living compared to other Texas cities.

LIVING IN MCALLEN

Finding Your Affordable Haven

The McAllen housing market caters to a range of budgets and lifestyles. From charming ranch-style homes in established neighborhoods to modern apartments with stunning city views, you'll find a place to call home. The cost of living in McAllen is significantly lower than the national average and most other Texas cities, making it an attractive option for cost-conscious individuals and families.

A Cultural Tapestry

Moving to McAllen means experiencing a vibrant fusion of Mexican and American cultures. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the region at the **McAllen Heritage Village**, a living history museum showcasing traditional Rio Grande Valley life. Explore the stunning **Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle National Shrine**, a pilgrimage site steeped in cultural significance. Stroll along **McAllen's vibrant La Plaza de Guadalupe**, a marketplace brimming with handcrafted goods, delicious street food, and lively music.

Outdoor Adventures Await

Despite its urban center, McAllen offers surprising opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Explore the wonders of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, a haven for diverse birdlife and a scenic escape from the city. Hike or bike through the scenic trails of **Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center** and immerse yourself in the beauty of the **Rio Grande Valley** ecosystem. Spend a day kayaking or canoeing on the **Rio Grande River**, a natural border teeming with life.

Family Fun in the Sun

Moving to McAllen with a family means having access to a variety of exciting activities. The **McAllen Convention Center** boasts a waterpark, offering a refreshing escape on hot days. The **McAllen Nature Center** provides a chance to learn about the region's unique flora and fauna. Catch a game with the **Rio Grande Valley Vipers**, a professional basketball team, or explore the interactive exhibits at the **McAllen Science Center**. Family-friendly festivals throughout the year celebrate the city's rich cultural heritage.

While McAllen may not have a major theme park, it offers a unique cultural experience, a strong sense of community, and a connection to the natural beauty of the Rio Grande Valley. Moving to McAllen is ideal for those seeking an affordable Texan city with a vibrant border culture, a thriving job market, and a relaxed, sun-soaked lifestyle. Remember, this is just a glimpse into what McAllen has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems, friendly atmosphere, and cultural richness that await you in this southern Texan gem.



HOUSTON

Often referred to as "Space City" for its role in NASA's historic missions, Houston is a sprawling metropolis that pulsates with energy, diversity, and a can-do spirit. Moving to Houston, TX means embracing a city where innovation thrives alongside a rich cultural heritage, offering something for everyone. Houston boasts a booming job market, a vast array of housing options, and a surprisingly affordable cost of living for a major city, making it an attractive destination for professionals and families alike.

Houston's economy is a powerhouse, fueled by a diverse mix of industries. The energy sector remains a significant player, but healthcare, manufacturing, and technology are also booming. The Port of Houston, one of the busiest in the nation, facilitates international trade and opens doors to exciting career prospects. Moving to Houston offers access to a dynamic job market, with a strong potential for professional growth.

HOUSTON

THINGS TO DO

Finding Your Nest in Houston

The Houston housing market caters to a wide range of budgets and lifestyles. From charming bungalows in historic neighborhoods like The Heights to modern high-rise apartments downtown, you'll find a place to call home. The cost of living in Houston is lower than the national average for major cities, and there's no state income tax, making it an attractive option for those seeking affordability without sacrificing big-city amenities.

A Cultural Tapestry

Houston's diverse population is reflected in its vibrant cultural scene. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the region at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science** or explore the stunning collections at the **Museum of Fine Arts**, one of the largest in the South.

Thrills and Chills

Houston offers a variety of entertainment options for all ages. Experience the grandeur of professional sports at its finest with the **Houston Texans (NFL)**, **Houston Astros (MLB)**, **Houston Rockets (NBA)**, or the **Houston Dynamo (MLS)**. Spend a thrilling day at **Six Flags AstroWorld**, one of the nation's largest theme parks. Explore the wonders of space exploration at **Space Center Houston**, the official visitor center of **NASA's Johnson Space Center**.

A Foodie's Paradise

Houston's culinary scene is a delicious adventure. Savor authentic Texas barbecue, a true Texan tradition. Indulge in fresh Gulf Coast seafood at one of the many waterfront restaurants. Explore the diverse international flavors offered in vibrant ethnic enclaves, from Vietnamese pho to Korean barbecue.

Exploring the Great Outdoors

Despite its urban sprawl, Houston offers green spaces for outdoor enthusiasts. Hike or bike through the scenic trails of **Memorial Park**, one of the largest urban parks in the country. Rent a kayak and explore the serene Buffalo Bayou or take a boat tour on the historic **Houston Ship Channel**. Spend a day picnicking or exploring the nature trails at Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Moving to Houston means embracing a city that's constantly evolving. With its diverse neighborhoods, booming job market, and exciting cultural scene, Houston offers something for everyone. This is just a taste of what Houston has to offer. Explore further to discover the hidden gems, friendly atmosphere, and unexpected delights that await you in this dynamic Texas metropolis.

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30 | COST OF LIVING

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Texas, often associated with wide-open spaces and big steaks, is a state known for its diverse landscapes, vibrant cities, and, most importantly for budget-conscious individuals, its generally affordable cost of living. But before you pack your bags and head to the Lone Star State, it's essential to understand the various factors that influence living costs. We'll delve into essential expenses like housing, transportation, groceries, healthcare, and entertainment, providing a clear picture of what day-to-day life might cost in Texas.

However, Texas, like any place, isn't a one-size-fits-all proposition. Moving to Texas for affordability has its undeniable advantages, but there are also some trade-offs to consider. We'll explore both the positives and negatives to help you make an informed decision about whether Texas aligns with your financial goals and lifestyle.

By understanding these factors and considering both the advantages and disadvantages, you'll be well-equipped to make an informed decision about whether moving to Texas aligns with your financial goals and desired lifestyle. Remember, Texas offers a diverse range of living experiences, each with its unique cost of living landscape.

Categories for Cost of Living	Avg. Costs
Rent (Monthly)	\$1,252
Home Purchase	\$263,040
Utilities (Monthly)	\$299
Groceries (Monthly)	\$226
Healthcare (Annually)	\$6,593
Transportation (Monthly)	\$38
State Tax Rate	N/A

\$11.61

Avg. cost of a adult movie ticket.

50

Number of Toll Roads across Texas

30,503,301

Texas population as of July 2023

\$1,997

Season ticket cost for Dallas Cowboys Football Games

33 | JOB MARKET



Texas beckons with wide-open opportunities, not just geographically, but also in the realm of careers. The Lone Star State boasts a booming job market, consistently ranking high for job growth and offering a diverse range of industries for both newcomers and seasoned professionals. Whether you're seeking a fresh start or a strategic career switch, Texas offers a fertile ground to cultivate your professional goals.

Who are the Big Players?

Texas boasts a robust presence of Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders. Here are some of the top employers to consider:

- Exxon Mobil (*Energy*)
- AT&T (*Telecommunications*)
- Dell Technologies (*Technology*)
- Texas Health Resources (*Healthcare*)
- H-E-B (*Grocery*)
- Baylor Scott & White Health (*Healthcare*)
- Charles Schwab (*Financial Services*)
- Valero Energy (*Energy*)
- Boeing (*Aerospace*)
- State Farm Insurance (*Insurance*)

35 | EDUCATION



Texas operates a decentralized public education system, with local school districts managing individual schools. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) sets statewide standards and curriculum guidelines, ensuring a baseline level of education across the state. Public schools are funded primarily through a combination of local property taxes and state funding.

Texas' Higher Education Powerhouse

Texas boasts a robust network of colleges and universities, catering to a wide range of academic interests and budgets. The state is home to several nationally recognized institutions, including:

- The University of Texas at Austin (*UT Austin*)
- Texas A&M University
- Rice University
- Southern Methodist University (*SMU*)
- Baylor University

These universities consistently rank high in national and international rankings, offering prestigious undergraduate and graduate programs across various disciplines. Texas also boasts a strong network of public universities and community colleges, providing affordable high-quality education for a diverse student body.

Texas: A Hallmark of Academic Excellence

Beyond traditional education metrics, Texas schools shine in several unique ways:

- **National Awards:** Texas schools consistently win national awards for academic excellence and innovative programs.
- **Dual Credit Programs:** Many high schools offer dual credit programs, allowing students to earn college credit while still in high school.
- **Magnet Schools:** Texas offers a diverse range of magnet schools specializing in STEM, arts, and career and technical education, catering to students' specific interests.
- **Focus on Innovation:** Texas universities are at the forefront of research and innovation, attracting top minds and fostering groundbreaking discoveries.

Choosing the Right Educational Path

The ideal educational path for your child depends on your individual needs and priorities. By understanding the strengths and considerations of both public and private K-12 schools, you can make an informed decision. Texas's extensive network of colleges and universities offers a wealth of options for higher education, ensuring students can find the perfect fit for their academic aspirations. This overview equips you to navigate the Texas educational landscape and empower your child to thrive in the Lone Star State's diverse and enriching learning environment.

Public Schools: A Foundation for Success

Pros:

- **Free Education:** Public schools offer a tuition-free education, making quality education accessible to all.
- **Diverse Programs:** Many public schools offer specialized programs like magnet schools focusing on STEM, arts, or career and technical education.
- **Standardized Testing:** Statewide testing provides a benchmark for student progress and school performance.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Public schools often offer a range of extracurricular activities like sports, clubs, and student government, fostering well-rounded development.

Cons:

- **Funding Variations:** Funding levels can vary between districts, potentially impacting resources and educational quality.
- **Standardized Testing Emphasis:** Focus on standardized testing can create pressure and potentially limit educational exploration.
- **Larger Class Sizes:** Public schools may have larger class sizes compared to private institutions, potentially impacting individualized attention.

Private Schools: Tailoring Education to Individual Needs

Pros:

- **Smaller Class Sizes:** Private schools often boast smaller class sizes, allowing for more individualized attention and personalized learning.
- **Curriculum Choice:** Many private schools offer specialized curriculums with a focus on religion, arts, or specific academic areas.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Private schools often have strong extracurricular programs, fostering student development beyond academics.

Cons:

- **Tuition Costs:** Private schools require tuition fees, which can be a significant financial consideration.
- **Admissions Requirements:** Some private schools have selective admissions processes based on test scores or interviews.
- **Limited Diversity:** Private schools may not reflect the same level of demographic diversity as public schools.

39 | LIVING IN TEXAS



Texas isn't just a state; it's an experience. Beyond the wide-open spaces and iconic cities, Texas pulsates with a vibrant entertainment scene that caters to every interest. This section will be your guide to the Lone Star State's smorgasbord of fun, from thrilling theme parks and awe-inspiring national parks to historic landmarks and lively festivals. Whether you crave heart-pounding rollercoasters, immersive historical journeys, or laid-back afternoons soaking up the sun, Texas has something for everyone. So, pack your sense of adventure and get ready to discover the endless entertainment possibilities that await you in the heart of Texas!

This is just a taste of the endless entertainment possibilities that Texas has to offer. Whether you're seeking heart-pounding thrills, a journey through history, or a chance to connect with nature, Texas has something for everyone. This guide has just scratched the surface – with charming small towns hosting quirky festivals, vibrant art scenes blossoming in major cities, and unexpected hidden gems waiting to be explored, Texas offers a lifetime of entertainment possibilities. So, embrace the Texas spirit, delve into the local culture, and embark on your own unforgettable entertainment adventure in the Lone Star State!

HAVING FUN IN TEXAS

Texas-Sized Thrills: Theme Parks and Amusement Centers

- **Six Flags Fiesta Texas (San Antonio):** Experience high-octane thrills on world-class rollercoasters, get soaked in water rides, and encounter exciting shows and character experiences.
- **Moody Gardens (Galveston):** Explore a combination of amusement park rides, educational exhibits showcasing rainforests and aquariums, and discovery theaters offering unique experiences.
- **Zero Gravity Thrill Park (Dallas):** Experience the thrill of indoor skydiving, defying gravity in a safe and controlled environment.

A Journey Through Time: Historical Sites and Landmarks

- **The Alamo (San Antonio):** Step back in time and explore this iconic mission-turned-fortress, a pivotal site in the fight for Texan independence.
- **San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (San Antonio):** Explore a collection of Spanish colonial missions, offering a glimpse into Texas's rich history and religious heritage.
- **Balmerhea State Park (Balmerhea):** Take a dip in the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool, a natural wonder dating back millions of years.
- **Cadillac Ranch (Amarillo):** Pose for a photo with this quirky roadside art installation featuring ten classic Cadillacs buried nose-down in the desert.

Immerse Yourself in Nature: National Parks and Large Parks

- **Big Bend National Park:** Hike through breathtaking canyons, explore ancient Chihuahuan Desert landscapes, and experience unparalleled stargazing opportunities.
- **Guadalupe Mountains National Park:** Ascend Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas, and explore the otherworldly Permian Reef ecosystem.
- **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (Fredericksburg):** Climb a massive pink granite dome, explore natural caves, and enjoy stunning panoramic views.
- **Texas Hill Country:** Embark on a scenic drive through rolling hills covered in wildflowers, explore charming wineries, and experience the laid-back charm of small towns.

Festivals and Events: A Celebration of Texas Spirit

- **South by Southwest (SXSW) (Austin):** Immerse yourself in this massive film, music, and interactive media festival, showcasing the latest trends and innovations.
- **State Fair of Texas (Dallas):** Indulge in classic fair food, enjoy thrilling carnival rides, and witness livestock shows and rodeos at this massive annual event.
- **Festivals Across Texas:** From music festivals like Austin City Limits and Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic to food festivals celebrating barbecue, pecan pie, and everything in between, Texas offers a festival for every taste.

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