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# A Photographic Journey along El Camino Real de los Tejas

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I have always been interested in landscape and man's connection to it. When I learned that a segment of the historic Camino Real passes through my property, I was drawn to learn about the road and to photograph its remnants. As I got to know the trail, I came to realize what an amazing piece of history it is. The overlapping historic and modern uses of the trail are the subject of this work.

There are places where the past and present collide in an awkward relationship. Some sites demonstrate the need to preserve their historical integrity, so future generations can enjoy an interaction with history. Every trail has a source and a destination as well as a past, present, and future. As I walk these trails, I contemplate the source of their history, aware of the present and hopeful for the future.

-- Christopher Talbot

Christopher Talbot is an Associate Professor of Art at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds a BFA degree in Photography from Brigham Young University and a MFA in Photography and Digital Media from The University of Houston. Some of his panoramic photographs are in the permanent collection at The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. His recently published book, *Nacogdoches Now and Then*, is a collaborative, re-photographic project that he completed with his university students.

## Exhibit and Trail Contacts

### Exhibit Support

This exhibit was made possible through the Challenge Cost Share Program in cooperation with Stephen F. Austin State University. This matching fund program allows the National Park Service and partners to work together to preserve and improve resources on national trails.

To learn more about this program and how to apply, please visit: [www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/ccsp/](http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/ccsp/)

### National Park Service

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service.

By helping to preserve historic sites and trail segments and developing areas for public use, the story of the early history of Texas and Louisiana along this corridor is remembered and told.

To learn more about the trail, or to provide feedback on this exhibit, please contact:

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(505) 988-6004  
[susan\\_boyle@nps.gov](mailto:susan_boyle@nps.gov)  
<http://www.nps.gov/elte>

### El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

If you are interested in helping to protect this historic trail so that others will be able to enjoy it in the future, consider joining El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association. This non-profit organization seeks to raise awareness about the trail's historical and cultural resources through the collaboration of state and local groups, tourism bureaus, and the National Park Service.

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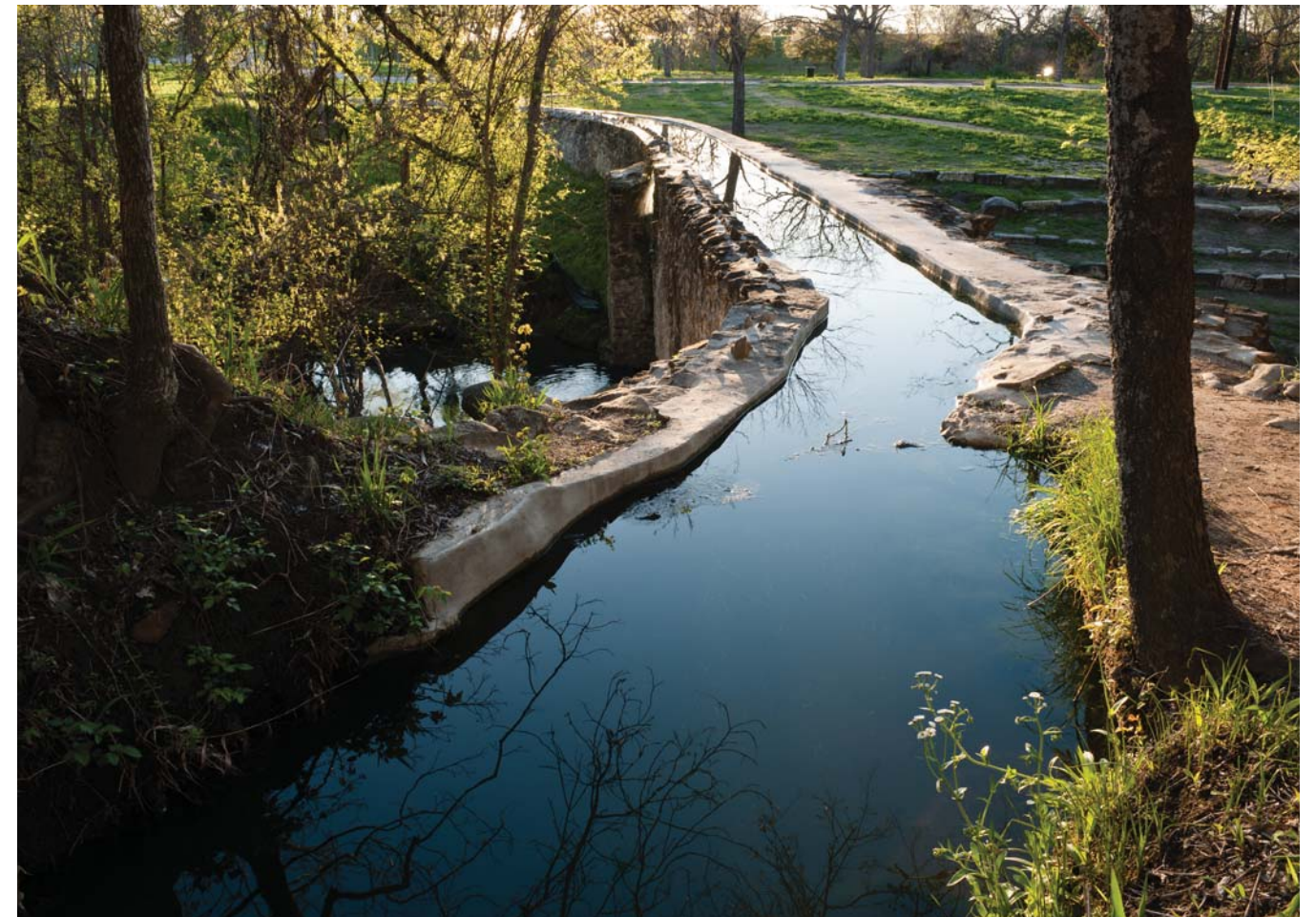


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## *A Photographic Journey along El Camino Real de los Tejas*

Christopher Talbot, Professor of Photography  
Stephen F. Austin State University



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Mission Espada Aqueduct in San Antonio shows a historic imprint on the landscape from El Camino Real de los Tejas.

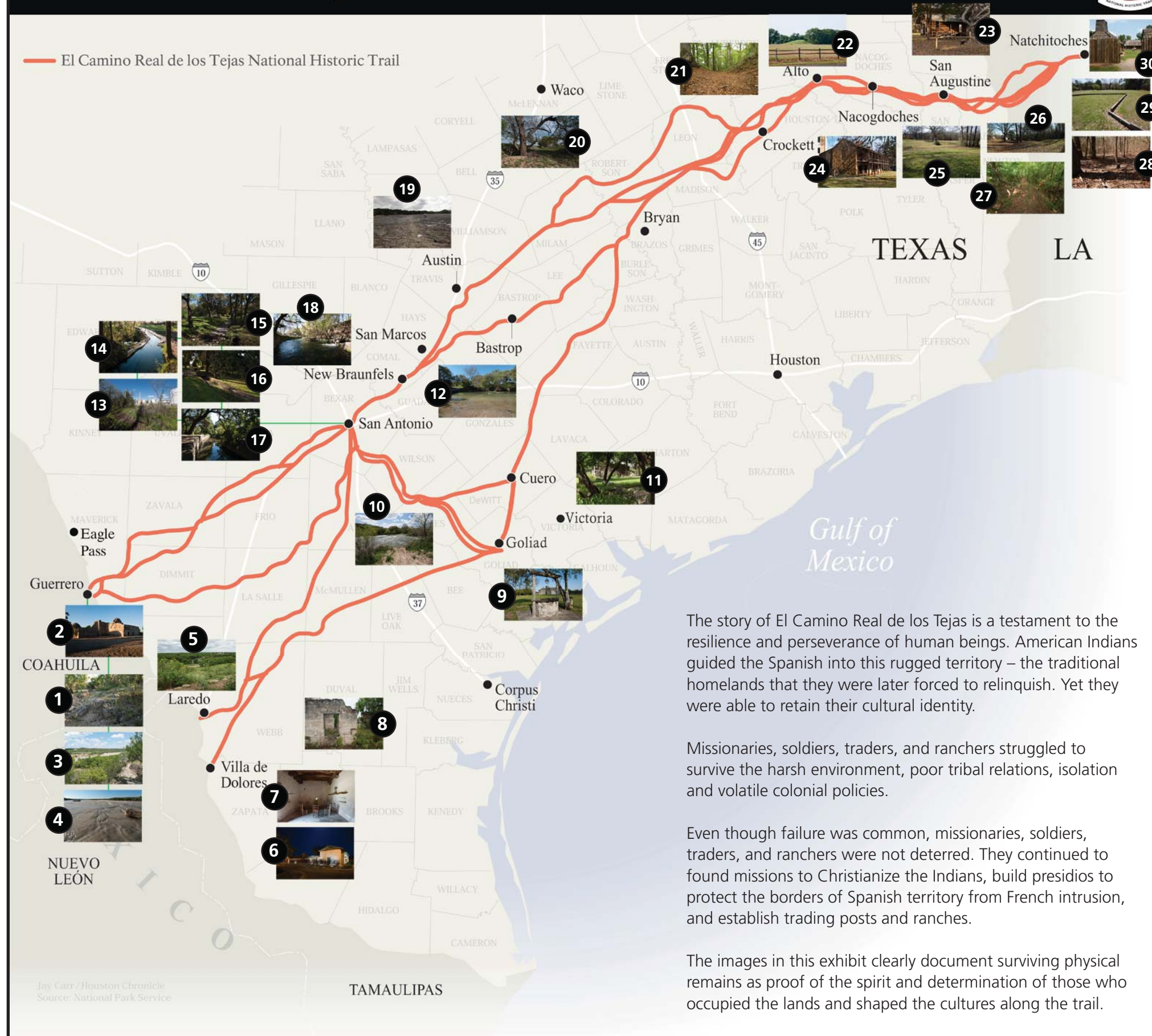
# El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail



## Featured sites along El Camino Real de los Tejas

The numbers correspond to the sites on the map.

1. Mission San Juan Bautista Guerrero, Mexico
2. Mission San Bernardo Guerrero, Mexico
3. Paso de Francia Maverick County
4. Paso Las Islas Maverick County
5. Paso de Jacinto Webb County
6. Jesús Treviño Ranch & Fort Zapata Zapata County
7. Los Corralitos Zapata County
8. Rancho Los Ojuelos Webb County
9. Presidio Nuestra Señora del Rosario de los Cujanes Goliad County
10. Conquista Crossing Karnes County
11. Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo Victoria County
12. McGehee Crossing Hays County
13. Mission San Juan Acequia Bexar County
14. Mission Espada Aqueduct Bexar County
15. Olmos Basin Road Segment Bexar County



16. San Pedro Springs Bexar County
17. Acequia Madre Mission de Valero Bexar County
18. Comal Spring Comal County
19. McKinney Falls State Park Travis County
20. Mission San Xavier Acequia Milam County
21. Mission Tejas State Park Houston County
22. Caddo Mounds State Historic Park Cherokee County
23. Gaines-Oliphant House Sabine County
24. Old Stone Fort Nacogdoches County
25. Nuestra Señora Mission de los Dolores de los Ais San Augustine County
26. Lucky Loop Swales Sabine County
27. Lobanillo Swales Sabine County
28. Camino de la Laguna Natchitoches Parish
29. Presidio Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Los Adaes Natchitoches Parish
30. Fort St. Jean Baptiste Natchitoches Parish

The story of El Camino Real de los Tejas is a testament to the resilience and perseverance of human beings. American Indians guided the Spanish into this rugged territory – the traditional homelands that they were later forced to relinquish. Yet they were able to retain their cultural identity.

Missionaries, soldiers, traders, and ranchers struggled to survive the harsh environment, poor tribal relations, isolation and volatile colonial policies.

Even though failure was common, missionaries, soldiers, traders, and ranchers were not deterred. They continued to found missions to Christianize the Indians, build presidios to protect the borders of Spanish territory from French intrusion, and establish trading posts and ranches.

The images in this exhibit clearly document surviving physical remains as proof of the spirit and determination of those who occupied the lands and shaped the cultures along the trail.

Jay Carr / Houston Chronicle  
Source: National Park Service