

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail



Texas, Louisiana

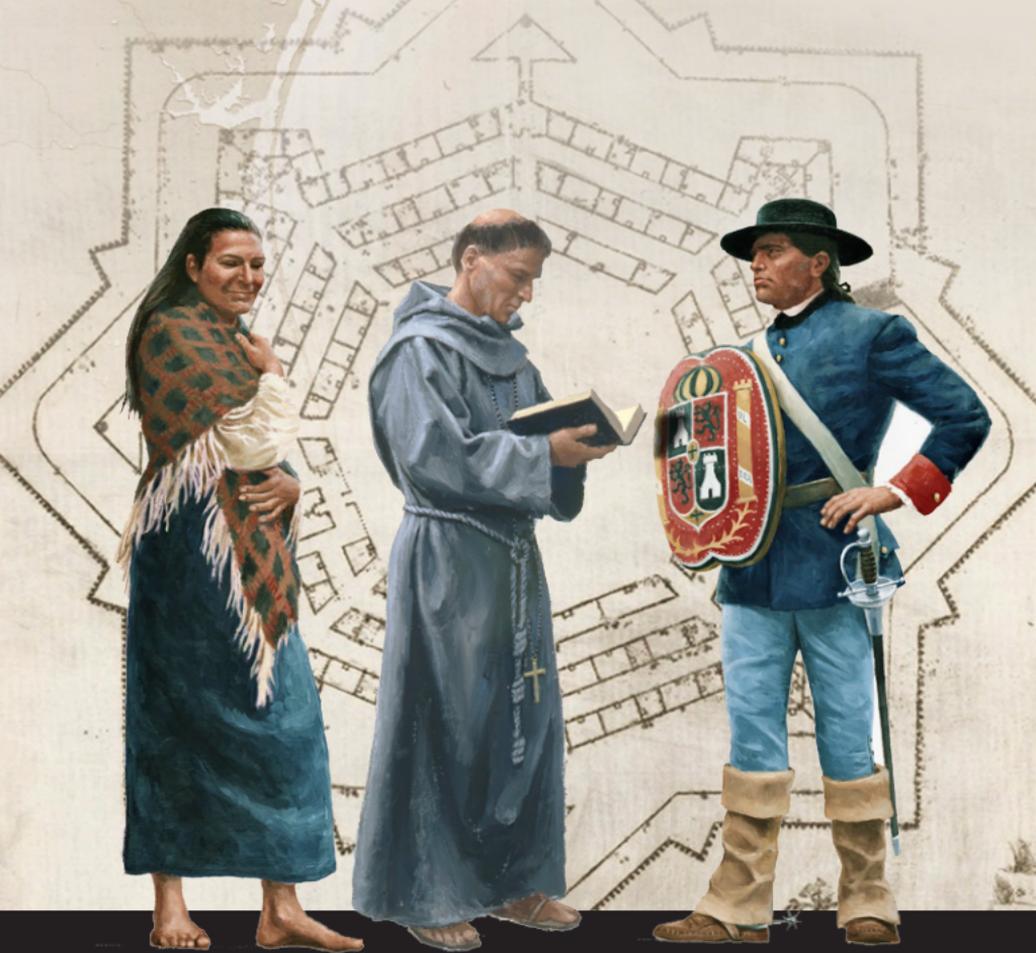


Royal Road to the Land of the Tejas

A varied and expansive landscape, home to American Indians for hundreds of years, offered no apparent riches, but Spain was intent on protecting its territory from France. Spaniards claimed this land and named it Tejas for the Caddo word meaning friend.

Missionaries and soldiers traveled timeworn routes, built missions and *presidios* (military posts), and opened a *camino real* (royal road), a vital artery across the heart of the land.

El Camino Real de los Tejas brought change—exploration, trade, migration, settlement, war, independence, and statehood. It fostered cultural interactions and created a distinctive mosaic of language and lifeways. You are invited walk in the footsteps of those who traveled the Royal Road.





Travel El Camino Real de los Tejas and take an adventure into the past. Discover the stories of those who shaped this land. Trace the history of Texas and northwestern Louisiana along trail segments, river crossings, historic sites, and communities.

Trail sites might be in private, tribal, municipal, state, or federal ownership. Check websites and call trail sites before you travel. Visit safely—bring water, food, and accurate maps.

For more information, including historic site locations and trip planning tools, please visit the official trail websites.

National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region
www.nps.gov/elte

El Camino Real de los Tejas National
Historic Trail Association
www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org



Follow signs
to retrace
the trail.



Scan this
code for
nps.gov/elte



Caddo Village, ca. 1870
William S. Soule