

# Vacations Of A Lifetime

## The Best Of Both Worlds: A Two-Nation Vacation

(NAPS)—One of the greatest trips you may ever take is a journey that incorporates the sights and culture of two distinct countries—a two-nation vacation.

For more than 1,000 miles, the mighty Rio Grande separates Texas from its neighbor to the south, Mexico. With the rich history and culture of Mexico just a short hop away, cities up and down Texas' southern and western borders have incorporated a Mexican feel along with their Texas roots. In fact, you'll know you're near Mexico even if you never cross the border.

World-famous Tex-Mex food, a unique blend of Texas barbecue and Mexican home-cooking, was born along the border. You'll hear Spanish spoken and see Spanish-influenced architecture. Art galleries and craft shops are stocked with native artworks and traditional handcrafted items.

In addition, several cities have developed into "sister cities," with the Rio Grande running straight down the middle. In Laredo/Nuevo Laredo, visitors can enjoy festive surroundings filled with delicious Mexican cuisine and colorful handicrafts, shopping galore, entertaining nightclubs and even bullfights. The area is also the starting point for Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Corridor, which features early settlements, battle sites and historic landmarks on both sides of the river.

McAllen/Reynosa is a lush, subtropical area which supports a variety of palm trees and the state's largest citrus crops. In El Paso/Juarez, Anglo culture meets



**Mexico influences Texas' heritage and culture along the Rio Grande.**

Mexican and Native American influence. Shoppers can find a variety of wares: turquoise jewelry, leather goods, hand-blown glass, authentic crafts and more. Nightclubs on either side of the river, as well as El Paso's symphony orchestra, theater, sporting events and hiking trails through Franklin Mountain State Park mean there's always something to do.

In South Texas, wildlife buffs can enjoy the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, with local fauna including ocelots, mountain lions and alligators. In northern Tamaulipas, outdoor enthusiasts can take advantage of the man-made lakes of Presa Falcon, Presa Mante R. Gomez and Sugar Lake. And at Presa Falcon, visitors can stop at the Club Ecologico Novaterra, an educational center where younger generations learn about preserving the country's national resources.

To learn more about Texas travel, and the possibilities for a two-nation vacation, call 1-800-888-8TEX or visit the Web site at [www.traveltex.com](http://www.traveltex.com).