



**Securing the Benefits of Trade to
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland**

Del Rio, Texas

Home to Ports-to-Plains Chair, Sid Cauthorn, the city of Del Rio, Texas, is located in Val Verde County on the Texas-Mexico border, midway between Padre Island and Big Bend National Park. The city is eight miles south of Amistad National Recreation Area which surrounds Lake Amistad, formed by the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devil's Rivers, with 850 miles of shoreline.

Del Rio is immediately across from the International Bridge that originates in Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, and is seven miles east of the Air Education Training Command's Laughlin Air Force Base.

Del Rio is on U.S. Highway 90, running east-west and U.S. 277, running north-south. It is 150 miles from San Antonio to the east and 154 miles from San Angelo to the north along the Ports-to-Plains Route..

About 40,000 people reside in the city. The city is at an elevation of 999 feet, and has an average annual temperature of 72-degrees with an annual average of 18.80 inches of rainfall. The climatological summary reflects a maximum average temperature of 80.9 and a minimum of 58.5i with June being the hottest month and January being the coldest.

In a semi-desert locale, Del Rio is an oasis with San Felipe Springs flowing 150 million gallons of pure water per day through creeks and canals which border recreational facilities including parks, municipal swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses, and facilities for baseball, softball and soccer. Water and a temperate climate make Del Rio a recreational mecca, with many modern motels and campgrounds. Sportsmen enjoy hunting, fishing, golf and tennis throughout the year. Local attractions such as Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, Whitehead Memorial Museum, Laughlin Heritage Museum, George Paul Museum, Val Verde Winery – the state's oldest winery, and Shumla School – attract many travelers, as do annual rodeos and fiestas.



Amistad National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service. Includes Lake Amistad which provides outstanding opportunities for boating, sailing, scuba diving, fishing and outdoor activities. The Park also includes a diversity of flora and fauna that can be seen from the various nature trails and numerous archaeological sites consisting of ancient Indian Pictographs. The National Park Service hosts educational and nature programs and maintains the beaches, campsites and boat launching facilities. Concessionaires operate marinas, boat storage and fishing guide services.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Sontag

Cultural Activities

Cultural activities are largely provided by The HeART of Del Rio, an association of Art Galleries with a very diverse clientele and unique patrons. The First Friday of every month, each member hosts an opening reception for featured artists. The participating venues include Garden of Arts Gallery at Amistad Florist, Vevilu Gallery, Del Rio Council for the Arts Firehouse Gallery, Lee-Bunch Studio Gallery and Casa De La Cultura/A Project of El Comite Cultural Del Pueblo, Inc. The Council for the Arts, offers a variety of art exhibits, offers arts, crafts and educational classes. Casa de la Cultura, a cultural arts center in the barrio of San Felipe, offers classes in clay, ballet folklórico, pinata making, guitar, and other traditional cultural arts. Concerts, touring groups and recitals at the Paul Poag Theatre for the Performing Arts and The Upstagers Community Theater Group, combine to provide entertainment and enrichment.



There are many national, civic, educational and service organizations represented in Del Rio as well as many unique local groups such as the Maquila Wives' Association, which was the first of its kind and Border Patrol wives association.

The religious needs of Del Rio are served by 47 churches representing 19 denominations including Catholic and Protestant.

The Val Verde County Library has a collection of over 58,000 volumes and an extensive reference collection. As a

member of the San Antonio Area Library System, it has regional, state and national access to virtually any book through Interlibrary Loan.

The many shopping areas encompass everything from the well-established family business to large national chains located downtown, in the mall and various shopping centers. Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña offer unique shops and stylish boutiques throughout the two communities. Del Rio's news media include a daily newspaper, The Del Rio News-Herald; a monthly newspaper Del Rio Live and also on line at www.delriolive.com; and four radio stations. In addition, Time Warner offers 49 basic television channels and many premium channels by subscription.

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Twenty motels in Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña provide the traveling public more than 1000 rooms. Restaurants in Del Rio offer home cooking, Oriental, Deli sandwiches, great BBQ, steak, Italian, seafood and of course, great Mexican food.

Laughlin AFB "the largest and best Flying Training Wing in the world" is just six miles east of Del Rio. Laughlin is home to almost 2,800 military and civilian employees. Approximately 300 student pilots are trained at Laughlin every year.

Del Rio is home to the US Border Patrol Sector headquarters which encompasses 41 counties and 59,540 sq. miles. It includes 210 miles of river border and 2000 agents and support staff.

Crossing into Ciudad Acuña is easy and safe. You will need your passport or a copy of your birth certificate and your driver's license to return to the US. Jewelry, liquor and colorful Mexican pottery are just a few of the things visitors bring home with them.

Transportation Services

Del Rio is connected to the world via commercial air passenger service from Continental Airlines. Continental Airlines provides three flights daily to Houston, Texas. The runway at the Del Rio International Airport is 5,100 feet long and 75 feet wide and is capable of serving executive jet aircraft. Full aircraft services are available with rental car agencies located at the airport. The airport has VASI on the runway and a NDB with published letdown procedures, and is also a designated Port of Entry for Customs and Immigration inspection.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Sontag

Del Rio is a freight switching point on the Union Pacific main line. Piggy-back service is available. Passenger service is available through AMTRAK.

Air freight service is provided by Airborne, DHL, Emery, Federal Express, Pony Express, Purolator, United Parcel Service, Burlington, and American Freightways, Inc.

Bus lines serving Del Rio are Greyhound/Trailways and Kerrville Bus Coach USA, providing freight and passenger service to destinations including San Antonio, Laredo, and San Angelo, with connections nationally.

Local bus service and service to Ciudad Acuña are provided by Transportation.

The trucking industry is represented by a wide assortment of LTD/long haul and regional carriers. Among the freighters in Del Rio are American Freightways, Basse Truck Line, Central Transport, Stagecoach, and Pro-Trans International.

THE MAQUILA POSSIBILITY

Del Rio/Ciudad Acuña is now home to over 50 Maquiladora plants, including such well-known companies as Oster; Alcoa Fujikura Ltd.; General Electric; San Antonio Shoe Co.; Alliedsignal Automotive; and Bridgestone/Firestone Del Rio Test Center, all of whom came here to avail themselves of low-priced labor, while enjoying the technology and lifestyle of the United States.

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Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico, is in the lowest wage region of Mexico. Mexican minimum wages, for direct labor, with all fringe benefits included, have remained in the range of \$1.15 to \$1.35 per hour (U. S.), as the peso has been revalued in comparison with the dollar. Major advantages to the Del Rio/Ciudad Acuña locations are short border crossing times, a minimum of union activity, and the ability to use U.S. trucks and drivers to deliver to Mexican facilities.

A "shelter" operation provides a facility, staffing, training, equipment setup and accounting. Many companies begin operations in this manner. Typically, these firms take over or establish their own operations in one to three years.

The true "maquila" offers the largest savings, but it requires such expertise in setup, construction, staffing and operations that most companies without experience retain a consultant. Del Rio offers experienced, capable consultants, who have set up their own facilities and who have taken clients through each of these steps.

Location Assistance

The City of Del Rio Economic Development Department, in partnership with the community is committed to promoting balanced job opportunities, economic development and tourism. The City of Del Rio is a community without borders, we are open for business! For more information please contact the [Economic Development Department](#) at 830-774-8638.

The [Del Rio Chamber of Commerce](#) offers relocation and tourism services. Call 830-775-3551.



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