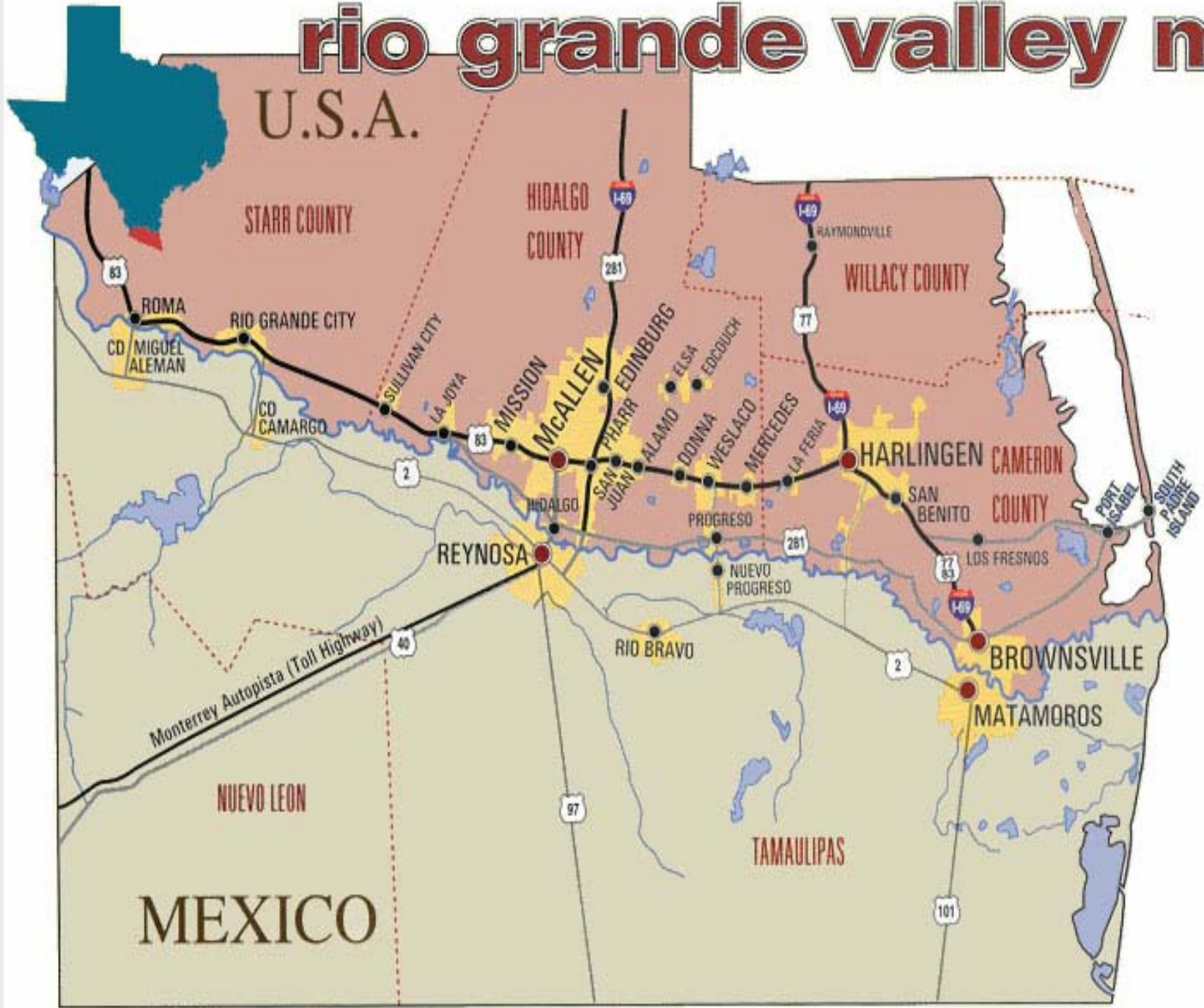


WELCOME



rio grande valley map





FUN FACTS

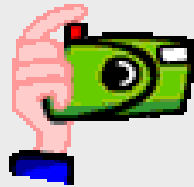


- The first Queen Isabella Causeway was a two-lane drawbridge with a \$1.00 toll. Because of its poor construction, a new causeway was built. Part of the original causeway is still used as a fishing pier on the South Padre Island side.
- Prior to being called Padre Island, the island was known as Isla de Santiago and Isla Blanca. In 1828, the island was inherited by Padre Jose Nicholas Balli, and in 1829 upon his death, the island was renamed Padre Island in his honor.
- On May 12, 1865, the Battle of Palmetto Hill, the last battle of the Civil War, was fought in the Rio Grande Valley 33 days after General Lee had surrendered.
- Highway 100, which runs East from 77 to SPI, was completed in 1974. The highway turns North on the island and is one of the few highways in the U.S. with a 90-degree turn.
- Padre Island is 110 miles long and is the longest barrier island in the U.S.
- Brownsville and Port Isabel are known as the "Shrimp Capital of the World" with more than 300 boats and an \$80 million annual catch.
- The first battle of the U.S.-Mexico War was fought in Brownsville.
- In the 1920s, Charles Lindbergh flew to Brownsville from Mexico City with the first airmail delivery. Young pilot Amelia Earhart waited for Lindbergh's arrival while taking flying lessons in Brownsville.
- Two inches of snow fell on Dec. 24, 2004. The last time it snowed in Brownsville was on Feb. 14, 1895.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO



Stroll on boardwalk nature trails that link the marsh and Laguna Madre shore
North on Padre Blvd to Orca Circle; adjacent to SPI Convention Center



Point Isabel Lighthouse
Port Isabel Historical Museum
Treasures of the Gulf Museum
Corner Railroad/Tarnava Sts, one block west of the Queen Isabella Causeway



Sabal Palm Audubon Center

Home to many native species of plants and animals that do not occur elsewhere in the U.S.
FM 511 to FM 3068 to Southmost (FM 1419); turn right.



Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site
NE corner of intersection FM-1847 (Paredes Line Road) and FM-511; 5 miles North of downtown Brownsville

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Port of Brownsville Tours



Local History
Dolphins
Shrimp Boats
International Ships
Gas & Oil Rigs
Construction Yards

**Come See
The Busiest
Port In
South Texas**



Sea Ranch Marina
One Padre Island

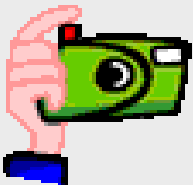


Tour roads, hiking trails, bicycle trails, and visitor center. Located 20 miles northeast of Brownsville.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge



Fishing Charters, Bay Cruises, Eco-Tours



Lighthouse Square in Port Isabel at
110 North Garcia by Pirate's Landing



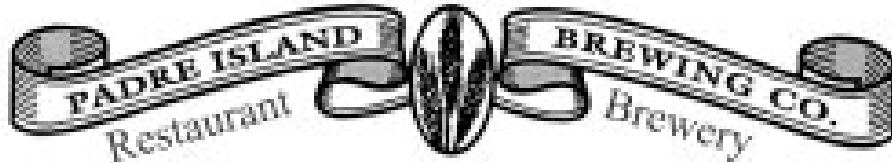
GOOD EATS



209 W Amberjack St



201 West Corral



3400 Padre Boulevard



1 Padre Blvd



3001 Pablo Kisel, BRO



1655 Ruben Torres Blvd, BRO



MEXICO

Beginning 1/31/08, all US Citizens who enter the US at land points of entry will need to present government-issued photo ID (such as driver's license) along with proof of citizenship (such as passport).



Matamoros

A strategic point on the Mexican-American border. A "not to miss" shopping experience is the Juarez Market, located on 9th St between Abasolo and Matamoros Sts.

Entry Point – International Blvd (Rte 48), downtown Brownsville.

Nuevo Progreso



Originally called Las Flores. When you cross the bridge you're right in the heart of one of the busiest, happiest, and most fun shopping places anywhere on the border.

Entry Point – Hwy 281 (approx. 1 hr drive from SPI).

