

THE TRAVIS TRAIL
WALTER EDGAR'S JOURNAL
REMEMBERING THE ALAMO!
MARCH 22-26, 2012



Throughout history, odds have helped determine likely outcomes in countless situations. Some appear to be obvious, while others seem nearly unfathomable. There were less than 200 brave men making a last desperate stand at the Alamo. What were the odds that two boys from Edgefield District (Saluda County) would make history together in the heart of Texas? For the first time in eighteen years William Travis and James Bonham met face to face. The lives of two boys from Red Bank, (Saluda) South Carolina had come full circle. The life of William Travis had its share of ups and downs, but his final days were a shining example of courage and patriotism for the ages. Facing impossible odds, William Travis used his God-given determination to fight a struggle that could not be won. (Steven Farnam)

Day One: Thursday, March 22, 2012: Arrive San Antonio, Texas, Welcome Dinner.

Welcome to Texas. Your tour director will meet you at the hotel for a **Welcome Reception/Dinner and tour orientation at 7:00 pm** CST. **Meals Included: (D)**

Day Two: Friday, March 23, 2012: The Conflict Begins: Spanish Heritage and Texan Discontent. The Road to the Alamo.



COME AND TAKE IT

This morning we begin exploring the Spanish history of Texas with a ride through the town of **Gonzales and on to Goliad**, two important points on the road to the Alamo. Our first stop is at the town of Gonzales, one of the earliest Anglo-American settlements in Texas; Gonzales is most famous as the "**Lexington of Texas**" because it was the site of the first skirmish of the [Texas Revolution](#). In 1831, the [Mexican](#) government gave the settlers a small cannon for protection against Indian attacks. At the outbreak of the Mexican/Texan hostilities, a contingent of Mexican soldiers was sent from San Antonio to retrieve the cannon. On 2 October 1835, Texans under the command of [John H. Moore](#) confronted them. The Texans had fashioned a flag with the words "[Come and take it](#)". The Texans successfully resisted the federal troops in what became known as the [Battle of Gonzales](#). We will have a living history lunch at the **Pioneer Village** and see and hear about what happened at the Battle of Gonzales.

Next we travel south to the town of Goliad. The **Battle of Goliad** was the second skirmish of the [Texas Revolution](#). In the early-morning hours of October 10, 1835, rebellious Texas settlers attacked the [Mexican Army](#) soldiers under Perfecto de Cos' garrisoned at [Presidio La Bahía](#), a fort near the [Mexican Texas](#) settlement of [Goliad](#). La



Bahía lay halfway between the only other large garrison of Mexican soldiers (at [San Antonio de Béxar](#)) and the major Texas port of [Copano](#). The loss of Goliad meant that Cos lost his means of communicating with Copano Bay, the closest port to Béxar. The Mexican troops garrisoned at Béxar would now need to get supplies and reinforcements overland. We will visit the **Presidio of Bahia**; one of the most fought after forts in American history and then see the

Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga in Goliad Historical Park. Goliad is also known in American history as the spot where 300 Texans (under Colonel Fannin) were massacred by the Mexican Army on March 27, 1836 as it marched after Sam Houston. The massacres at the Alamo and Goliad strengthened the determination of the men following Sam Houston and led to the final battle of the Texas Revolution and Texas independence at San Jacinto. After our visit, we head back to San Antonio. Your evening is free to enjoy dinner on your own in downtown San Antonio. There are many restaurants to choose from within walking distance of our hotel.

Meals Included: (B, L)

Day Three: Saturday, March 24, 2012: The Flag of No Quarter: The siege begins. The Battle of the Alamo. William B Travis Commander.



This morning we will enjoy an **historical tour of San Antonio**, stopping at the San Fernando Cathedral built by Canary Islander's in 1738. It was from the bell tower of this church on February 23, 1836, that the Mexican army raised the red flag of "no quarter." The siege of the Alamo began February 24, 1836. We will also head along **San Antonio's Mission Trail** to view some of the

Spanish mission complexes that were an integral part of the history of the Spanish in Texas. These missions also give us a glimpse into what life must have been like at the Mission San Antonio de Valero, or the Alamo. You return to San Antonio for lunch on your own at **the festive Market Square** before our afternoon tour of the famous Alamo.

This afternoon begins where William B. Travis' life ended, with a visit to the famed **Alamo**. We start with the **IMAX presentation of "The Alamo"** said to be one of the best historical renditions of this battle. Then we walk across the street to the mission once called, San Antonio de Valero, but now known as **The Alamo**. One of the many missions established by the Spanish in 1700's Texas, by 1836 the dilapidated mission had been turned into a makeshift fort.

In November, 1835 Santa Ana's brother-in-law General Perfecto de Cos was holding the



Alamo as part of the Texan war with Mexican forces. Americans including Travis began the siege of Bexar in order to drive the Mexican army out of San Antonio. On December 9, 1835 the Mexican soldiers were driven out of the Alamo and sent south. It would only be 4 months before they returned with a vengeance to fight what was called the battle of The Alamo. We will tour **the complex itself, seeing the mission church, the long barracks and the plaza area where some of the fighting took place** on March 6, 1836. The battle began just after midnight and was over before daylight. All 180 defenders, including fellow South Carolinians William Travis and James Bonham, along with Jim Bowie, and Davy Crockett died trying to hold this mission. Travis had courageously declared "victory or death," in the face of overwhelming Mexican forces and that day the die was cast. You will have free time to enjoy the area around the Alamo before returning to our hotel.



Tonight we enjoy a delightful **dinner cruise on the San Antonio River**. When the Spanish explorers and missionaries arrived here in 1691, they marveled at the abundant water of the river, the lush greenery, towering trees, and shady banks that attracted large numbers of animals and birds. The river became the centerpiece of a complex water system built to supply the five Spanish missions that were established here

between 1718 and 1731. After our dinner cruise we take a **"ghost tour"** of old San Antonio, learning about the cast of characters that haunt the streets of this old Spanish town. **Meals Included: (B, D)**

Day Four: Sunday, March 25, 2012: San Jacinto Battlefield. Texas Independence. Victory at last.

We head to Houston, Texas for our final day of touring and end where the Republic of Texas won its independence. William Travis and his men died at the Alamo, to win Texas independence. Independence was hard won at the battle of San Jacinto by Sam Houston with time bought for him by Col. William Barrett Travis at the Alamo. On March 2, 1836 Sam Houston signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and joined his volunteer army at Gonzales for a long retreat eastward from General Antonio de Lopez de Santa Ana's superior Mexican forces. Houston drew criticism for what seemed to Texans like an endless retreat, and his strategy was derided as the "runaway scape," but he was buying time for more volunteers and a better fighting army. On March 6, 1836 Col. William Travis and 180 men had bought him some of that precious time with their lives. On April 21, 1836 Houston and his ragged army surprised the Mexican soldiers during "siesta" and came away the victors at the Battle of San Jacinto. For his victory, Sam



Houston became the first president of the Texas Republic. We will tour the **San Jacinto Battlefield**, and visit the museum before checking into our Houston hotel for our final night. Enjoy a private festive **Farewell Dinner** at our hotel. **Meals Included: (B, L, D)**

Day Five: Monday, March 26, 2012: Individual departures to Houston Airport.

After breakfast, we depart at 8:30 am for the Houston Hobby flights and individually for IAH departures. It has been a fun adventure following the trail of South Carolinian, William B. Travis. You will return with special memories of a unique ETV **Walter Edgar's Journal** trip. **Meals Included: (B)**



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| PRICE PER PERSON | Single | \$2350 | Triple | \$2150 |
| | Double | \$2250 | Quad | \$2050 |

PRICE INCLUDES

- * Deluxe coach transportation
- * Airport transfers
- * Professional tour guide
- * Four nights' hotel accommodations
- * Four breakfasts
- * Two lunches
- * Three dinners
- * All trip activities listed in the itinerary
- * \$500 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment
- * Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per person
- * Bottled water and snacks on coach
- * All applicable taxes
- * Guide and driver gratuities

NOT INCLUDED:

- * Airfare (travel guidelines will be provided at a later date)
- * Items of a personal nature
- * Alcoholic beverages