



## WRITER'S SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

***Texas Highways*, the official travel magazine of Texas, encourages and inspires travel within the state by documenting Texas destinations for readers throughout the United States and around the globe. The monthly magazine, published by the Travel Information Division of the Texas Department of Transportation, connects with a loyal readership through its award-winning writing, design, and photography. The magazine's website, [texashighways.com](http://texashighways.com), offers not only some of the magazine's elements but also original content. The magazine reaches nearly 500,000 readers each month, with subscribers in every one of the United States and 54 countries. Surveys reveal that *Texas Highways* readers particularly enjoy coverage of Texas scenery, history, small towns, and out-of-the-way places. Many of *Texas Highways*' feature articles and much of its photography originate with freelance contributors.**

### QUERY GUIDELINES

Briefly describe your proposed article with suggestions on how you will develop the travel angle. The magazine's goal is to inspire travel through descriptive and evocative language that describes the experience of visiting a Texas destination. Email queries are preferred ([letters@texashighways.com](mailto:letters@texashighways.com)). Writers new to *Texas Highways* should include PDF files of previously published articles.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Good research is imperative. Check and double-check facts, dates, spellings, directions, distances, heights, and telephone numbers. Ask individuals how to spell their names, and always confirm event details.
2. Your style and approach should be readable and well-informed. Write a strong lead and ending, using active constructions and strong verbs. Avoid the passive voice and overuse of "to be" verb forms. Strong stories often contain a cornerstone paragraph that offers an overview of your composition's direction within the first three or four paragraphs. This paragraph will not only keep the writer on track, but also it will help the reader stay focused.



**3.** Include the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of all persons quoted or consulted for information. Check the spelling of all names in your story, and include a list of published sources, as well. *Texas Highways* fact-checks all aspects of every story. We need a telephone number and an email address where we can reach you.

**4.** If you find interesting illustrations on the subject such as old photographs, engravings, maps, or paintings, please make a note of what they are and where they can be found. Include copyright information with your submission.

**5.** Send information for the “Essentials” box with your manuscript. Refer to recent issues of the magazine for the format and type of facts needed.

**6.** Please submit a brief bio that relates to your story. The *Texas Highways* staff will edit and use it with the article.

**7.** Please submit two or three title suggestions with your story. Typically, the revision process requires two steps: The first round to confirm the overall structure and flow of the story and the final round to polish verb choices, adjectives, and general copy editing.

**8.** Please include your name, address, telephone number, and email address on the front of your manuscript. A signed agreement must be on file in the magazine office before payment can be made.

## RATES

*Texas Highways* pays 50 cents per word on acceptance. After we accept your manuscript, we will ask you to send us an invoice. Once the invoice is approved, payment takes two to four weeks.

## SEND QUERIES TO:

letters@texashighways.com

*Texas Highways*  
P.O. Box 141009  
Austin, TX 78714-1009

### Courier:

200 E. Riverside Drive  
Austin, TX 78704

**Phone:** 512.486.5858

texashighways.com

