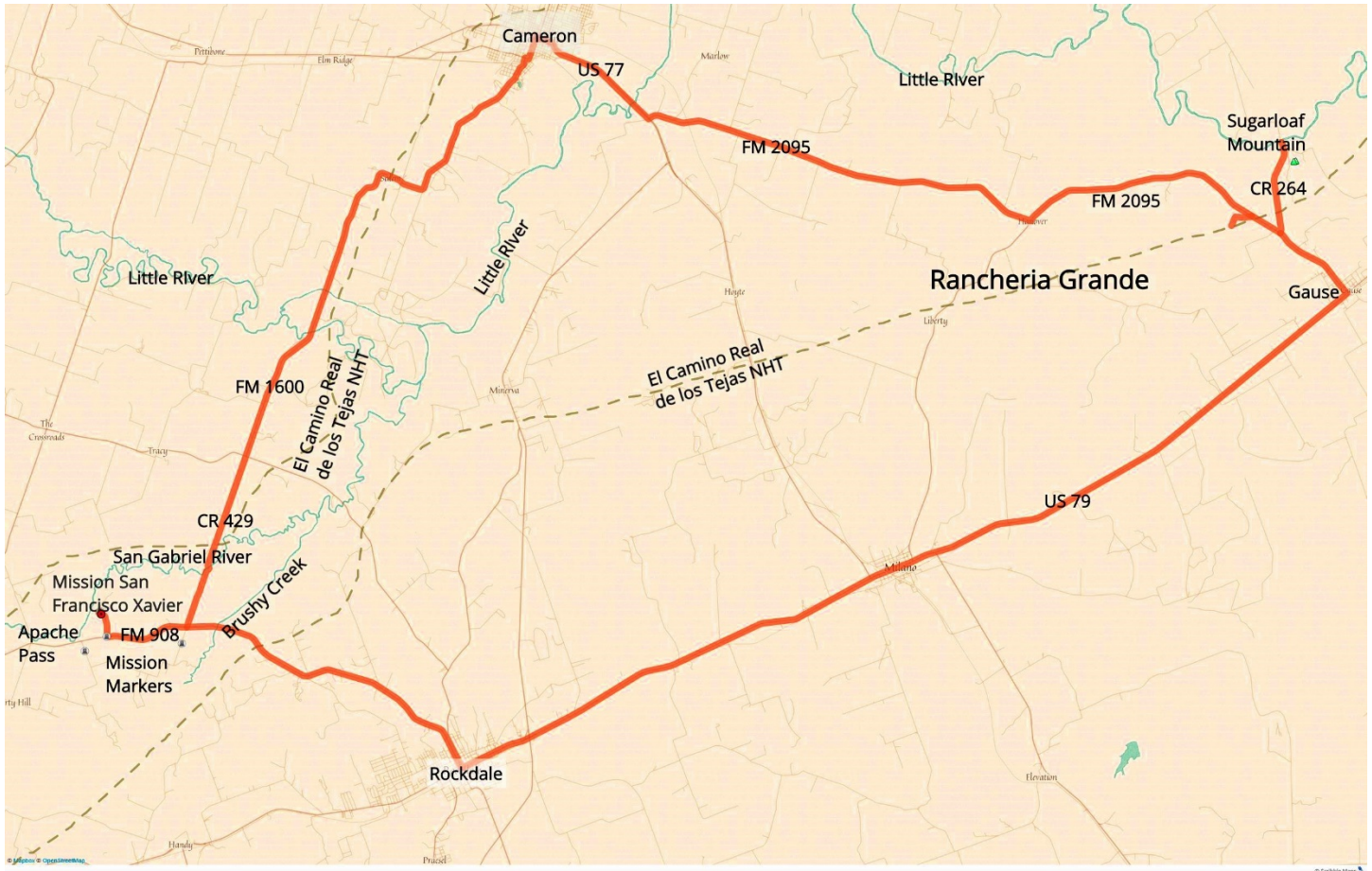


Saturday October 12th Tour Detailed Description



This is an all-day tour that will take you to several important historical sites related to the Rancheria Grande and the El Camino de los Tejas National Historic Trail. All the historical sites are located on private property and open to the public by invitation only. During the riding portions of the tour local history buffs John Pruett and Geri Burnett will entertain you with local context and history. At two of the locations there will be talks from experts on the Rancheria Grande, the Trail, and the life of Native Americans. Portions of the Tour require you to hike on woodland trails, scramble up and down steep rocky slopes and stand outside for nearly an hour at a time, so you need to be reasonably fit with good balance and dressed appropriately for outdoor hiking.

Tour Details

Start your bus tour east of the Milam County Courthouse (park in the Milam County Tax Office lot on 1st St. directly east of the Courthouse) and ride along the signed road segment of the El Camino de los Tejas National Historic Trail as it crosses Milam County from Cameron to Sugarloaf Mountain. You will travel east for about 2.6 miles on US77 crossing Little River. Turn left (east) across the divided highway onto FM2095. Continue on FM2095 about 7.6 miles, turning left in Hanover to stay on FM2095 and continue about 5.3 miles towards Gause. Turn left onto CR264. Travel about 1.5 miles to the Sugarloaf Mountain trail entrance.

Enjoy a somewhat strenuous hike up the “mountain.” At the top of [Sugarloaf Mountain](#), enjoy panoramic views of the Rancheria Grande valley and hear about the area and its early people from [Dr. Alston Thoms](#). Dr. Thoms is a Professor of Anthropology at A&M specializing in hunter-gatherer land use and plant-food cooking technology. (Those that don’t want to hike up Sugarloaf will be taken to the nearby historic bridge across Little River where they can enjoy the river view.) After visiting with Dr. Thoms, and taking photographs, return to your bus for a short ride to [Cedar Hill Ranch, 12374 FM 2095](#).

At the modern-day ranch house, take a break with a bag lunch catered by the historic Coats Grocery Store.



Your host, Dr. Michael Conner will then lead you over woodland trails and open pastures on a 2.5-mile round trip hike passing certified remnants of the original National Historic Trail. Hike a swale leading up to Elaine and Gene Baumann’s archeological Rancheria Grande village site excavated by archeologists [Sergio and Melinda Iruegas](#).



At the village site, Steven Gonzales will discuss the archeological findings, and you can examine some of the artifacts that have been discovered. After this unique experience, hike back to the ranch house before

continuing your journey. (Those that don’t choose to go on the hike will stay at the ranch house for a chat with famous local historian Dr. Lucile Estell.)

The bus will then take you back west where you will get the rare opportunity to visit the [Mission San Francisco Xavier de los Dolores](#) excavation site which is located on private property.

The tour will wrap up with a drive back along a signed road segment of the El Camino de los Tejas National Historic Trail to the Milam County Historical Museum in Cameron. Here you will have the opportunity to see artifacts from the San Xavier Mission excavation; see a photo exhibit by [Dr. Christopher Talbot](#); see a plant collection from the Trail; and have the opportunity to buy books about the archeological sites and county history.

Later, have a steak dinner served by local 44 Farms in Cameron on the County Square ([Steak, Stein, and Wine Fest](#)) or drive to Apache Pass for dinner before heading home. (Dinner reservations are at an additional cost and require separate registrations.)

You must have reservations for this unique opportunity to visit the sites (three on private landowners’ property open to the public only on invitation), hear from archeological experts, and enjoy a bag lunch.

This is a full day opportunity. For the day, wear good walking/hiking shoes, bring backpack, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunhat. There will be a travel trailer with restroom at Sugarloaf Bridge if needed, and restrooms and lunch at Cedar Hill Ranch. Take home what you bring in, please.



Note: Sugarloaf Mountain, though only a few hundred feet high, requires the ability to squeeze through narrow openings, and scramble over rocks and rough terrain, and no fear of climbing/scrambling downhill. The hike along the El Camino trail segments to the Baumann Village Site is over dirt trails and is about 2.5 miles round trip. Also, you will need to stand at various locations for several hours over the day.

Notice: Under Texas Law (Chapter 75A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code), an agritourism entity is not liable for any injury to or death of an agritourism participant resulting from an agritourism activity.

Saturday, October 12th, 2019 Tour Schedule:

- 9:00 am – Park in the Milam County Tax Office lot on 1st St. directly east of the Courthouse, sign the liability waiver, and board the bus.
- 9:45 am – Arrive at Sugarloaf Mountain (hike to top, listen to Dr. Alston Thoms, take pictures).
- 12 noon – Arrive at Cedar Hill Ranch (bag lunches, restroom break).
- 1:00 pm -- Hike to Rancheria Grande (hike along certified historic segments of the El Camino Trail, listen to Steven Gonzales; see Baumann artifacts).
- 3:30 pm – Return to bus and ride to the Mission San Francisco Xavier de los Dolores excavation site.
- 4:00 pm – View the Mission excavation site.
- 4:30 pm -- Return to town square in Cameron and visit the Milam County Historical Museum (Chris Talbot photo exhibit, trail plant specimens, mission artifacts, books for sale).
- 5:00 pm – The tour ends, and you can stay in Cameron and enjoy a steak dinner with reserved seating for tour participants and ELCAT members hosted by the Milam County Judge Steve Young, or drive to Apache Pass for dinner (you must make advanced reservations for either dinner).