

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

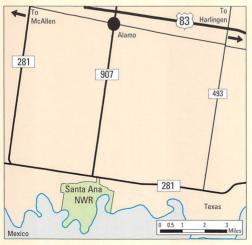
Noisy chachalacas welcome the morning dawn while malachite butterflies float among the shadows. Spanish moss hangs from tall-reaching ebony trees and sabal palms rise between prickly pear cacti. This small island of habitat along the most southern stretch of the Rio Grande attracts visitors from around the world. They come to enjoy the unique wildlife that can only be found here, one of the most biologically diverse regions in the United States. Step into this rare subtropical world at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the benefit of wildlife and you.

At Santa Ana NWR, subtropical, Gulf coast, Great Plains and Chihuahuan desert meet. You are entering the 2,088-acre home of more than 400 species of birds, nearly half of all butterfly species found in North America, and such south Texas specialties as the indigo snake and the Altamira oriole. Established in 1943 for the protection of migratory birds, Santa Ana NWR provides a glimpse into a world that has vanished from 95 percent of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Santa Ana NWR is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset for wildlife observation, hiking and nature photography. Stop by the visitor center for the latest information and find out about the excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The visitor center is open every day from 8:00 am-4:00 pm except for major holidays.

## **Directions**

Take Highway 83 to Alamo. Turn south onto FM 907 for seven miles. At Highway 281 (Old Military Highway), turn left and continue east for about one quarter of a mile. The refuge is on the south side of the highway.



For more information, please call the Santa Ana NWR Office at 956/784-7500 or visit www.fws. gov/refuge/santa\_ana.

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