

Human Rights on the Southern Border: What's Along the US-Mexico Border?



Map by Vox

The Facts:

- The US-Mexico border is 1,984 miles ([USA Today](#))
 - 1,954 land miles
 - 18 miles of the border extends into the Pacific Ocean
 - 12 miles of the border extends into the Gulf of Mexico
 - The border includes the Rio Grande River, canyons, cropland, private land, pedestrian fencing, vehicle barriers and physical wall.
 - 654 miles have some sort of physical barrier.
 - There are 48 legal ports of entry along the US-Mexico border
 - The San Ysidro crossing in San Diego is the busiest land border crossing in the Western Hemisphere with an average of 90,000 people passing north through the crossing daily.
- 521,090 people were apprehended or turned themselves in to Customs and Border Patrol agents October 2017 – September 2018. ([CBP](#))
- At least 281 people died trying to cross the US-Mexico border in 2018. The Federal government does not keep a complete count of the total known deaths of migrants along the border. They rely on local officials to track the number of deaths. ([ABC News](#))

Who/What Is Along the Border?

- Private citizens of Mexico and the US; land owners; businesses; Customs and Border Patrol agents; wildlife, including endangered species; religious sites; vigilantes; aid groups; tribal land; federal and state protected land; etc.

When Was the Current US-Mexico Border Established?

- 1848 – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and transferred 55% of Mexico's territory to the US, establishing the modern-day boundaries. ([USA Today](#))