



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

TOP 10

SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN



- 📍 Fascinating historic sites
- 📍 Unmissable museums & galleries
- 📍 Best restaurants in each area
- 📍 Great bars, clubs, & live-music venues
- 📍 Unmissable parks & natural wonders
- 📍 Best shopping districts & markets
- 📍 Liveliest festivals & cultural events
- 📍 Most fun places for children
- 📍 Best hotels for every budget
- 📍 Insider tips for every visitor

YOUR GUIDE TO THE 10 BEST OF EVERYTHING

TOP 10 SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN



NANCY MIKULA



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL



Left East 6th Street, Austin Center SeaWorld San Antonio Right Archway, Concepción Mission



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Within each Top 10 list in this book, no
hierarchy of quality or popularity is
implied. All 10 are, in the editor's
opinion, of roughly equal merit.

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The information in this DK Eyewitness Top 10 Travel Guide is checked regularly.

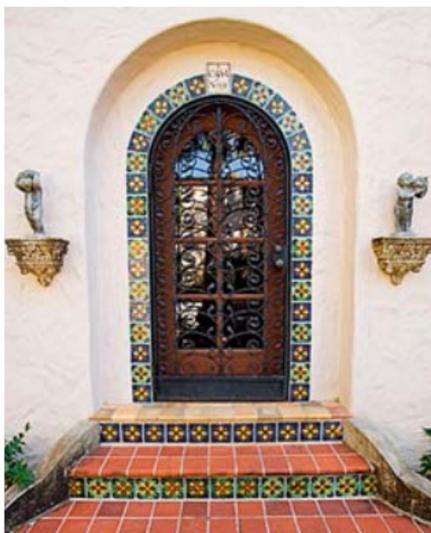
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Left **Mission San José** Center **Restaurant, Austin** Right **Amy Medical Department Museum**

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Left **Courtyard door, The McNay Art Museum** Right **San Antonio Cowboy Museum, Alamo Plaza**



Key to abbreviations

Adm admission charge **Dis.** access disabled access





SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN'S TOP 10

SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN'S TOP 10

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TOP 10 San Antonio's Highlights

A colorful history, as well as a dazzling array of world-class attractions and lively festivals, make San Antonio one of the most popular destinations in Texas. It is also frequently listed as one of the top ten places to visit in the United States. The city's rich cultural mix of early Spanish mission beginnings, German settlement, cowboy heritage, and strong ties to Mexico has created a warm and progressive city. It also boasts four of the most visited attractions in the state, including the River Walk, the Alamo, Missions National Historical Park, and SeaWorld. Plenty of sunshine also makes San Antonio a year-round favorite with all visitors.



1 River Walk (El Paseo del Rio)

The vibrant and bustling tree-shaded pathway along the San Antonio River is lined with outdoor cafés, popular nightspots, and many of the city's best hotels (see pp8–9).

2 The Alamo

One of the most visited historic sites in America, the Alamo stands as a symbol of heroic Texan struggle for independence. The Chapel and Long Barrack are all that remain today (see pp10–13).



3 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Four remarkable missions offer a fascinating glimpse into the confluence of Spanish and Native cultures in the 1700s. It offers an opportunity to explore old courtyards and serene churches (see pp14–17).

4 The McNay Art Museum

An exquisite Spanish Colonial mansion houses a comprehensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century paintings and prints by notable artists such as Rodin, Cézanne, Picasso, Gauguin, Matisse, O'Keeffe, and Hopper (see pp18–19).



5 San Fernando Cathedral

The oldest cathedral in the United States, where Mexican General Santa Anna flew the red flag, signaling "no mercy," sits in the center of the city (see pp20–21).





6 La Villita National Historic District

This charming historic village of delightful boutiques, craft shops, galleries, and restaurants is located above the south bank of the River Walk (see pp22–3).

7 King William Historic District

One of the most beautiful residential neighborhoods in Texas is lined with opulent mansions built by merchants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The elegant Steves Homestead is now a museum (see pp24–5).



8 SeaWorld San Antonio

The world's largest marine-life adventure park presents amazing shows teeming with leaping killer whales, playful dolphins, and penguins. There is also an adventure and water park (see pp26–7).



9 San Antonio Botanical Garden & Lucile Halsell Conservatory

The multiple glass towers at the fabulous conservatory house a spectrum of flora and fauna, and year-round profusion of flowering plants (see pp30–31).



10 Brackenridge Park

San Antonio's idyllic urban park along the San Antonio River is home to some of the city's top attractions. The San Antonio Zoo is one of the best in the country and the museums are fascinating. A miniature railroad runs through the park (see pp32–5).



Do not miss the beautiful courtyard with the Renoir sculpture, accessible from inside The McNay Art Museum.



TOP 10 River Walk (El Paseo del Rio)

Lined with colorful cafés, the beautiful Paseo del Rio, or River Walk, is the most visited place in San Antonio and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the US. The central area is vibrant, with mariachi bands playing and tourist-filled barges motoring down the river. Located 20 ft (6 m) below street level, the River Walk feels like a world apart, with picturesque footbridges and fountains lining the walkway as it passes by some of the city's most prominent hotels and clubs.



Restaurant sign on the River Walk

Parking is most convenient at the Rivercenter Mall, but if you are parking for most of the day the small parking lots north of the Alamo are less expensive.

Casa Rio serves great Mexican food at the river's edge (see p55).

• Map M4; 210-227-4262; Dis. access is good, but not complete; www.sanantonio-riverwalk.com

• River Boat Cruises: 210-244-5700

• Aztec On The River: 210-227-3930

• Arneson River Theatre: 210-207-8610

• The Landing: 210-223-7266

• Rivercenter Mall: 210-225-0000

• Tower of the Americas: 210-207-8615

Top 10 Features

- 1 Boat Cruise on the River
- 2 Aztec On The River
- 3 Convention Center and HemisFair Park
- 4 Arneson River Theatre
- 5 Statue of Saint Anthony
- 6 Bowen's Island
- 7 The Landing
- 8 Restaurants and Cafés
- 9 Rivercenter Mall
- 10 Bridges

1 Boat Cruise on the River

A boat cruise is one of the best ways to experience the River Walk (right). The tour motors gently past the bustling cafés while the guide explains the history of the River Walk.

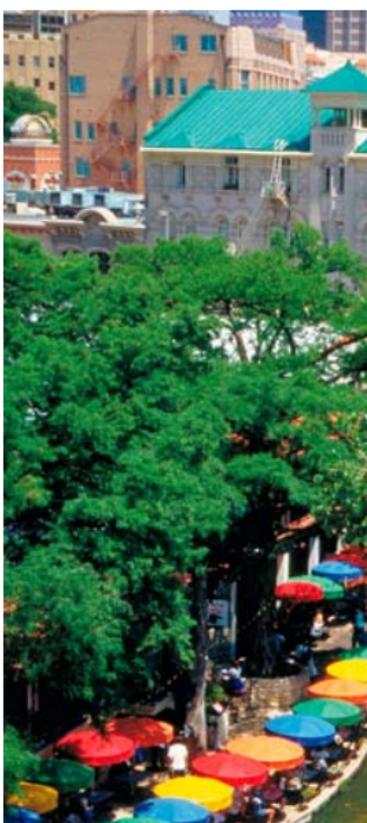


2 Aztec On The River

This magnificent silent movie theater was restored to its 1920s grandeur in 2006, with the original sculptures (above), murals, and the two-story chandelier restored.



Mariachi musician at a café



3 Convention Center and HemisFair Park

The H.B. González Convention Center on the River Walk Extension was built for the 1968 HemisFair. Behind the center, glass-walled elevators rise 500 ft (152 m) to the Tower of the Americas' observation deck.

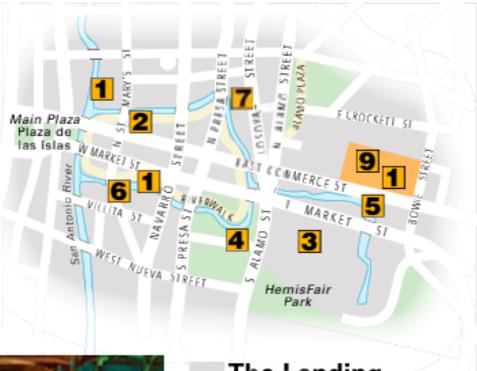
4 Arneson River Theatre

In this intimate open-air theater the river flows serenely between audience and stage. Walk up the grass-covered steps to La Villita (see pp22-23).



5 Statue of Saint Anthony

This bronze statue (right) of San Antonio's patron saint, by sculptor Leopoldo de Almeida, was presented to the city by the Portuguese government at the 1968 HemisFair.



7 The Landing

This is the River Walk's best known live music venue and one of its first businesses (left & see p58). Jim Cullum's radio program, *Riverwalk, Live from the Landing*, is broadcast from here.

8 Restaurants and Cafés

Dozens of fine restaurants and cafés line the River Walk, many offering riverside dining as well. Casa Rio Mexican Restaurant (below), is the oldest restaurant here, dating from 1946.



Bridges

10 All 35 bridges along the River Walk are unique. Colorful tiles on the lamp posts of Houston Street Bridge honor the missions situated along the mission trail (see pp14–15).



6 Bowen's Island

This beautifully landscaped section of the River Walk is quiet, offering public benches in shaded spots. Originally a low-lying peninsula owned by the Canary Islanders who settled in San Antonio, it became a farm in 1845.

9 Rivercenter Mall

With 125 stores, an IMAX theater, and the Rivercenter Comedy Club (see p59), this huge mall (below) is also one of the few places on the River Walk with several chain eateries and an excellent food court.



River Walk History

In 1921, a devastating flood killed many people in the downtown area. A flood control system was installed to protect the river bend. Robert H.H. Hugman (see p37) proposed a walkway along the river and the River Walk was completed in 1941. Having fallen into disrepair, the walk was revamped in time for the HemisFair. Anticipating big crowds, new businesses opened, which regenerated the area.



TOP 10 The Alamo

World renowned as a symbol of bravery and defiance, the Alamo today is maintained as a shrine to the heroes of March 1836. The first Spanish mission to be built along the San Antonio River, it was nicknamed the Alamo by the Spanish military after the 1790s. It served as an outpost for Spanish, then rebel, and finally Mexican forces until 1835, when Ben Milam defeated Mexican General Cós to occupy the Alamo.



Costumed actor at the Alamo



Detail, Chapel façade

Men are asked to remove their hats as they enter the Chapel, and photography is not allowed inside.

Be sure to see the Long Barrack Museum and the film in the Clara Driscoll Theater.

Costumed actors are onsite the first Saturday of every month.

There are fast food restaurants across the street along N Alamo, but a better choice is the popular Lone Star Café (see p73).

- Map N4
- 300 Alamo Plaza
- 210-225-1391
- Open Sept–May: 9am–5:30pm Mon–Sat, 10am–5:30pm Sun; Jun–Aug: 9am–7pm Mon–Sat
- Adm: Free, but donations help maintain the shrine
- Partial dis. access
- www.thealamo.org

Top 10 Features

- 1 Chapel
- 2 Sacristy Rooms
- 3 Clara Driscoll Theater
- 4 Long Barrack
- 5 Wall of History
- 6 Alamo Plaza
- 7 Alamo Cenotaph
- 8 Gift Museum
- 9 Acequia
- 10 Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) Library

1 Chapel
The mission chapel (right) is maintained as the Shrine of Texas Liberty in honor of the heroes who fought here against overwhelming odds for 13 days in 1836. The large door at the rear once led to the residence of defender James Bowie's in-laws.

2 Sacristy Rooms
The small sacristy rooms were the only quarters in the chapel with a ceiling in 1836, and were used to shelter women and children during the siege. Today, they display battle artifacts, such as William Barret Travis's ring and a buckskin vest belonging to Davy Crockett (see p12).



3 Clara Driscoll Theater
The small theater is located in the Long Barrack. A superb short film presents the historic events leading up to the Battle of the Alamo, and the 13-day siege that ended shortly after dawn on March 6, 1836.

4 Long Barrack
Some of the bloodiest fighting of the 1836 battle occurred in this long, narrow building (left), the mission convento where priests once lived. The Long Barrack and the mission church are the only two original buildings that remain. Exhibits at this museum tell the story of the Alamo.





5 Wall of History
This exhibit (left) presents 300 years of history, starting with the Native American inhabitants, and the start of the mission and its secularization. The military history began when it was leased to a Spanish cavalry unit who nicknamed it the Alamo.



6 Alamo Plaza
Much of the battle took place within the mission grounds, in the area in front of the Chapel and the Long Barrack that today is Alamo Plaza. A plaque marks the location of the Low Barrack, which was the original entrance.

7 Alamo Cenotaph
The 60 ft (18 m) high granite and marble monument (below) is a memorial to the men who died in 1836. Names and images of the heroic defenders are incorporated into *The Spirit of Sacrifice* created by Pompeo Coppini.



Mission San Antonio de Valero

The mission was named after Saint Anthony of Padua and the Spanish viceroy, the Duke of Valero. Franciscan friars oversaw its construction in 1718. It was moved twice, first in 1720, to a more fertile place, and then to the present location after a severe flood in 1724. Originally built to convert Native Americans to Christianity, the mission was secularized in 1793.



8 Gift Museum
This large museum and gift shop was built in 1939 and displays historical portraits and documents. The highlight here is the large diorama of the final assault created by Thomas Feely.

10 Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) Library

Built in 1950, this fine research library was developed by the DRT, who saved the Alamo from being turned into a hotel. The non-circulating collections explore the history of Texas. The important documents here include Santa Anna's will and a copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

9 Acequia
The remains of the original *acequia*, or hand-dug ditch (below), which brought water from the river into the compound, can still be seen behind the Chapel and the Gift Museum. This reliable source of water bolstered the confidence of the defenders as they waited for the battle.





Plaque depicting a scene from the Texas War of Independence

TOP 10 Battle of The Alamo

1 December 1835 – February 22, 1836

Colonel Ben Milam (see p37) led 300 volunteers against Mexican troops in December 1835. After five days of fighting, during which Milam died, Mexican General Cós surrendered and the Texans took over the Alamo. James Neill assumed command. Between January 19 and February 8, James Bowie, William Travis, and Davy Crockett arrived with more troops. On February 14 Neill left on an emergency and Travis took over command of the military, while Bowie led the volunteers.

2 February 23

Antonio López de Santa Anna (see p37), enraged by the defeat of Cós, reached San Antonio with his troops. The Texans retreated into the Alamo complex, and Santa Anna sent a courier offering an honorable surrender. Travis replied by firing a cannon, and Mexicans began to bombard the walls.

3 February 24

Travis assumed full command after Bowie fell ill, and wrote a letter addressed to all Texans and Americans, recounting the 24-hour bombardment, pledging that he would not surrender, and asking for immediate aid. Couriers James Bonham, Juan Seguin, and others rode out for help.

4 March 1

Lieutenant George Kimbell and 32 men from Gonzales made

their way through the Mexican lines and into the Alamo. The number of defenders reached an estimated 189 men. Travis welcomed the reinforcements, but knew he needed far more.

5 March 2

The Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico was approved by delegates meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos. On March 3, Travis sent a courier to the delegates asking for more troops, and reaffirming his intention to fight unto death, but no reinforcements were sent.

6 March 5

On day 12, Santa Anna announced that the assault would begin the next day. His officers recommended waiting for the inevitable surrender when the Alamo ran out of provisions.

7 March 6, Before Dawn

At about 5am on Sunday, March 6, the Mexican attack began. Mexican troops advanced from all directions toward the battered compound walls.

8 March 6, The Alamo

When an estimated 1,800 Mexican troops advanced within range, the Texans fired their cannons and rifles. The heavy bombardment forced the Mexican troops to halt but they quickly re-formed and attacked again, penetrating the north wall. Travis was one of the first to die.



9 March 6, Long Barrack
 Once the north side was penetrated, the beleaguered defenders had to retreat to the Long Barrack's narrow rooms, where the bloodiest close combat occurred. Bowie died in the chapel, which was the last part of the building to fall. Soon after dawn the battle was over.

10 March 6, Aftermath
 The entire battle lasted less than 90 minutes. It is believed that all 189 defenders and 600 Mexican soldiers perished in the fight. Santa Anna pledged safe passage to non-combatant women, children, and slaves who were in the Alamo complex during the battle.

Top 10 Defenders of the Alamo

- 1 Ben Milam
- 2 James Clinton Neill
- 3 James Bowie
- 4 William Barret Travis
- 5 Davy Crockett
- 6 George C. Kimbell
- 7 James B. Bonham
- 8 Juan N. Seguin
- 9 Jose Toribio Losoya
- 10 John W. Smith

Remember The Alamo!

The defeat at the Alamo galvanized the Texans, alerting them to the real danger of Santa Anna's army, and the reality that the war for independence from Mexico was far from finished. Six weeks later, on April 21, Sam Houston led his volunteer army into battle against Santa Anna and the Mexican forces at San Jacinto. Houston caught Santa Anna napping and attacked the Mexican army during their siesta. With the battle cry, "Remember the Alamo!", he defeated the army and captured Santa Anna. Victory at San Jacinto came just six weeks after the gruesome slaughter at the Alamo, and earned Texas its long-sought independence from Mexico. Ever since, "Remember the Alamo!", has served as a popular rallying cry, reminding Texans and Americans of the importance of being willing to fight to protect their freedom.



Detail, Alamo Memorial



Sculpture of Texan soldiers at the Alamo Memorial



TOP 10 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Five missions established by Spain in the early 18th century formed the settlements around which the city of San Antonio grew. They were established between 1718 and 1731 for political as well as religious reasons: Spain wanted to stop France from spreading west beyond Louisiana, and to convert the Native Americans to Roman Catholicism. Threatened by drought, disease, and hostile tribes the Native Americans helped build the missions in exchange for protection.



View of Espada Dam

A lively mariachi Mass (see p62) is held at 12 noon every Sunday at Mission San José.

Free guided tours are offered daily at each mission. Check for timings.

For a fast lunch try Bill Miller Bar-B-Q (see p55) on the corner of Roosevelt Ave. and SE Military Drive near Mission San José.

- Map G6
- Mission Concepción: 807 Mission Rd
- Mission San José: 6701 San José Dr at Mission Rd
- Mission San Juan: 9101 Graf at Ashley
- Mission Espada: 10040 Espada Rd
- Open 9am–5pm daily
- Partial dis. access
- www.nps.gov/saan

Top 10 Features

- 1 Mission Concepción Church
- 2 Frescos at Mission Concepción
- 3 Mission San José
- 4 Native American Quarters at Mission San José
- 5 Mission Espada Church
- 6 Mission San Juan
- 7 San Juan Acequia
- 8 Espada Dam
- 9 Mission Espada Grounds
- 10 Espada Aqueduct

1 Mission Concepción Church

The church at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña is the oldest un-restored stone Catholic church in the US. Built on bedrock, the chapel was completed in 1755.

2 Frescos at Mission Concepción

Some of the colorful frescos here were purely decorative, while others helped to teach Catholicism. Today, the few complete ones (below) show a blend of Christian, Spanish, and Native artistic styles.



Mission Concepción church

3 Mission San José

The largest of the San Antonio missions was founded in 1720 by Franciscan missionary, Father Antonio Margil de Jesús (see p17). It has been restored to look like it did in 1790.



4 Native American Quarters at Mission San José

The huge flat-topped stone walls were built wide enough to house two-room apartments for indigenous families. By 1768, 350 Native Americans lived in the complex. The men worked in the fields, and in other trades necessary to sustain the mission.





5 Mission Espada Church

In 1731, Mission San Francisco de la Espada was relocated from East Texas to its current location along San Antonio River. The church with its three-bell tower (*left*) was completed in 1756. Franciscans live and work in the convento today.



6 Mission San Juan

Established in 1736, the mission (*above*) was surrounded by fertile fields growing corn, beans, and sugarcane. By the mid-1700s it traded goods as far east as Louisiana, and south to Coahuila, Mexico.

7 San Juan Acequia

Missionaries found that the *acequias* brought to Spain by the Romans and Moors also worked well in the Texan heat. Seven miles (11 km) of *acequias* gave water to San Juan, and gateways controlled the water-flow.

Mission Trail

The trail is a 12 mile (19 km) driving route from the Alamo in downtown San Antonio to Mission Espada. Start from Alamo St, drive down South St. Mary's St to Mission Road, which leads to Mission Concepción. Follow the brown National Park signs from here to missions San José, San Juan, and Espada. There is also a 9 mile (14 km) hike-and-bike path along the San Antonio River as it winds south past the missions.



8 Espada Dam

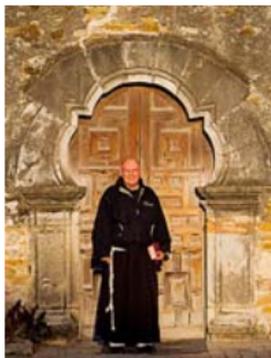
The oldest continuously used Spanish-built diversion dam in Texas has provided water for irrigation since 1745. Engineered by Franciscan missionaries and built by the Native American converts the dam was originally 270 ft (82 m) long and 8 ft (2 m) high.

9 Mission Espada Grounds

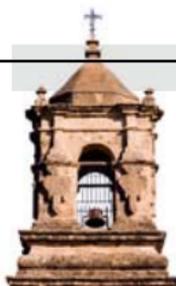
This was the only San Antonio mission where tiles and bricks were made. The bricks made here were of wide, thin, Roman style, and can still be seen in old walls (*below*) and buildings. Most of the buildings were destroyed in a fire.

10 Espada Aqueduct

A remarkable engineering feat, this is the only Spanish colonial aqueduct in the US and was completed in 1745. Water diverted from the river flowed through an *acequia*, and entered the aqueduct to cross Piedras Creek. It continued on, to irrigate the fields of Mission Espada.



The best map for the trail is the National Park Map. Pick one up at the Alamo, Mission Concepción or San José.



Left **Bell Tower Center** Right **Quadrangle** Right **Granary**

TOP 10 Mission San José

1 Church Façade
The imposing façade with its bell tower is famed for its elaborate, asymmetrical appearance. The lavish entryway displays six carved stone statues of saints. Of these, Saint Joseph, the mission's patron saint, stands above the entrance.

2 Carved Symbols
Spanish artisans carved intricate teaching symbols into the façade. The thorn-enclosed heart represents Christ's love for humanity, revealed through his pain. Some of the angels, the heavenly messengers, have Native American features.

3 Rose Window
This window is one of the highlights here. One legend tells of the sculptor lovingly working on "Rosa's Window" for years, lamenting his dead sweetheart.

4 Bell Tower and Stairway
Legend says that when the choir-stairway in the Bell Tower collapsed in 1903, each parish family kept one step until repairs were complete. The stairs were put back in place afterwards.

5 Sacristy Doors
The carved pomegranates on these cedar doors, depicting seeds within the fruit, symbolize the Church's unity, while the red juice is Christ's blood.

6 Convento Ruins
The two-story convento housed the missionaries. Gothic arches were introduced in 1861; the Spanish arches are original.

7 Museum and Soldiers' Quarters
Housed in the former soldiers' quarters, this small museum chronicles the history of the mission from its beginning to the time after it was secularized in 1824.

8 Granary and Diorama
The large granary features external flying buttresses, which supported the long walls. Today, there is an excellent diorama of the mission with a five-minute narration of a typical day.

9 Grist Mill
Wheat was introduced to replace corn, which the Spanish thought inferior. The restored mill still operates, using the unusual horizontal water wheel. The mill was designed to use water from the *acequia* for power.

10 Quadrangle
This large open area inside the mission walls was used for many daily activities. Native women did their baking in the communal ovens located near their apartments, children were instructed in Catholicism, and the men practiced with their rifles as they trained to protect the mission.



Statue at entrance



Top 10 Accomplishments

- 1 Founded 15 Missions in Costa Rica
- 2 Founded 10 Missions in Guatemala
- 3 Founded three Catholic Colleges
- 4 Founded the Mission Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe at Nacogdoches in East Texas, 1716
- 5 Founded Mission Nuestra Senora de los Dolores in East Texas, 1717
- 6 Founded Mission San Miguel de los Adaes in East Texas, 1717
- 7 He struck a rock in East Texas during a time of drought, and water from a spring known as "The Eyes of Father Margil", poured forth to sustain the Mission, in 1718
- 8 Founded Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo in San Antonio, 1720
- 9 He died in Mexico City in the famous Convento Grande de San Francisco, 1726
- 10 He was declared venerable by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836, however, he has not yet been beatified



Gothic and Spanish arches

Father Margil, "Apostle of Texas"

Antonio Margil de Jesús was born in Valencia, Spain, in 1657. His devotion to the church became apparent at an early age and he became a Franciscan in 1673. Margil received holy orders in 1682 and volunteered for an assignment to do missionary work in New Spain in 1683. He was stationed at the famous missionary college of Santa Cruz, Querétaro, but traveled extensively, visiting missions in Yucatan, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and especially in Guatemala earning him the name "Apostle of Guatemala." Margil traveled to East Texas with the expedition of Domingo Ramon in 1716, and became known as the "Apostle of Texas." From his earliest days in New Spain, he always walked barefoot, fasted every day, never ate meat or fish, and adhered to strict self-discipline. He slept for short periods, and prayed through the night. His efforts for the betterment of Native Americans and colonists were crowned with extraordinary success.



Mission chapel



TOP 10 The McNay Art Museum

The impressive McNay Museum, housed in Marion Koogler McNay's stunning Spanish Colonial Revival-style mansion, opened in 1954 as the first museum of modern art in Texas. It has a magnificent compilation of 19th- and 20th-century European and American art, sculpture, one of the best prints and drawings collections, and the amazing Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts featuring set and costume designs and rare books.



Courtyard statue



Gallery, McNay Art Museum

- 🕒 Don't miss the delightful interior courtyard, complete with colorful tilework, fountain, lily pond, and Pierre Auguste Renoir's fabulous bronze statue, *The Washerwoman*.
- 🍽️ For lunch or dinner try the charming French restaurant, *L'Etoile* (p79) located nearby on Broadway.

- Map G4
- 6000 N New Braunfels
- 210-824-5368
- Open 10am-4pm Tue-Fri, 10am-9pm Thu, 10am-5pm Sat, noon-5pm Sun
- Free; suggested donation \$5, occasional charge for special exhibits
- Closed Jan 1, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- Partial dis. access
- www.mcnayart.org

Top 10 Features

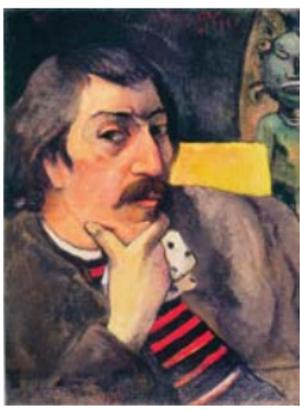
- 1 European Theatre Arts (Tobin Collection)
- 2 American Theatre Arts
- 3 Contemporary Art
- 4 European Paintings
- 5 American Modernism
- 6 Modern Prints and Drawings
- 7 Sunset Hills
- 8 Oppenheimer Galleries
- 9 Southwest Santos
- 10 Modern Sculpture

2 American Theatre Arts

The American portion of the vast Tobin Collection includes works by well-known Broadway designers who created scenes for productions such as *Damn Yankees* and *South Pacific*.

3 Contemporary Art

The diverse paintings, prints, and sculpture on view here focus on American art after 1945. Works by various noted Texan artists are also displayed.

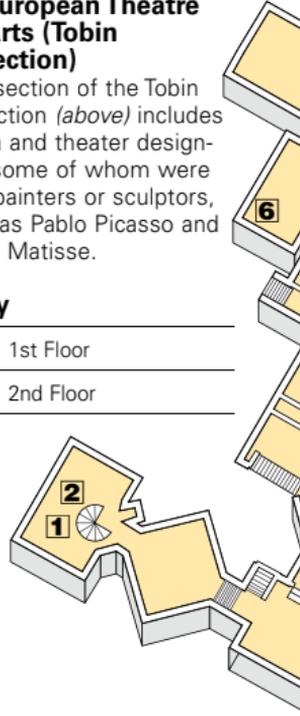


1 European Theatre Arts (Tobin Collection)

This section of the Tobin Collection (*above*) includes opera and theater designers, some of whom were also painters or sculptors, such as Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse.

Key

- 1st Floor
- 2nd Floor



4 European Paintings

Many of the key works in this exceptional collection were selected by McNay herself. She liked to collect transitional or unusual works by famous artists. Displayed here are later works by Cézanne and Van Gogh, a powerful painting by Gauguin (*left*), a Picasso that combines analytic with synthetic Cubism, and paintings by many other famous artists.





5 American Modernism

A rich collection of works by American artists, including Arthur Dove, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Marin, Max Weber, and Edward Hopper, whose *Corn Hill* (left) is one of the most popular paintings at the museum.



6 Modern Prints and Drawings

The focus in this gallery is on 19th-century French and American, 20th-century Mexican and German Expressionist, and post-1960 American prints and drawings. Works by John, Cassatt, Rivera, and Picasso (right) are part of the collection.



7 Sunset Hills

Designed by noted architects, Atlee and Robert Ayres, this 24-room mansion (left) is in itself a work of art. McNay's home until her death in 1950, Sunset Hills is now a modern museum.

9 Southwest Santos

Most of the religious art (known as *santos*) were collected by McNay in the 1920s and 30s, when religious folk-art was being replaced with mass-produced art. On display are *retablos* (paintings) and hand-crafted *bultos* (sculpture).

8 Oppenheimer Galleries

This fascinating collection of Renaissance and medieval sculpture and paintings was donated by the Frederic Oppenheimer family. The rich-hued works feature religious subjects.

Museum Guide

The main entrance is on New Braunfels, just north of Austin Hwy. Parking is free. As you enter the main lobby, pick up the gallery map. On the ground floor are the museum store, print gallery and European, American Contemporary and Tobin Theatre Arts Collections. Upstairs you can see temporary, changing exhibitions.



10 Modern Sculpture

Sculpture enhances every aspect of this museum's collection and many works are displayed in the landscaped grounds. Highlights include works by Henry Moore, George Rickey (above), and Rodin.



TOP 10 San Fernando Cathedral

From the city's earliest days, religious, cultural, and civic events have been held in this grand French Gothic cathedral. Not just a place of worship, San Fernando is today recognized as a symbol of unity for the people of San Antonio. Mexican General Santa Anna (see p37) flew the flag of no mercy from its rooftop at the start of the seige of the Alamo, and it is here that the ashes of the defenders of Alamo are purported to lie.



Window detail



Candles in front of a retablo

Visit the museum to learn about the story of San Fernando's transformation from a simple church to a magnificent cathedral.

Festivities during Holy Week include the Passion Play, special processions, and masses.

The Sunday before Christmas features the centuries-old Las Posadas procession (see p65).

Stop in at the City Centre Café for a bite to eat.

- Map M4
- 115 Main Plaza
- 210-227-1297
- Mass: 8am (Spanish), 5:30pm (Bilingual) Sat; 6am (Spanish), 8am (Spanish), 10am (English/Spanish/Latin), 12 noon (Spanish), 2pm (English), 5pm (Bilingual) Sun; 6:15am (English), 12:05pm (Bilingual) Mon–Fri
- www.sfcathedral.org

Top 10 Features

- 1 Sanctuary and First Church
- 2 Church Tower
- 3 Defenders of the Alamo Sarcophagus
- 4 French Gothic Addition
- 5 Retablos
- 6 Statue of San Antonio
- 7 Statue of San Fernando
- 8 Baptismal Font
- 9 El Cristo Negro
- 10 Stations of the Cross, Windows and Pipe Organ

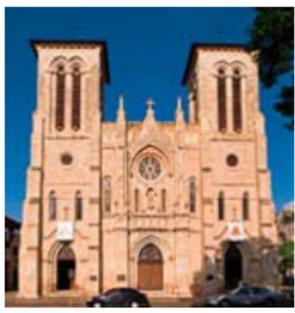
1 Sanctuary and First Church

The original church was built between 1738–1749 and its walls form the cathedral's sanctuary. The area in front of the main *retablo* is the principal chapel (right). On the floor is a marker indicating the city's center.



2 Church Tower

The original tower was used by the Texans to spot the arrival of Santa Anna and the Mexican army in 1836. The tower was removed during the construction of the French Gothic addition in 1968.



3 Defenders of the Alamo Sarcophagus

The marble coffin said to hold the remains of some of the Alamo defenders, is located in a chapel in the southeast corner of the cathedral. The remains were found buried under the sanctuary railing of the original church in 1936.

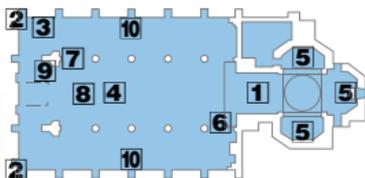
4 French Gothic Addition

In 1968, work began on the massive French Gothic Revival style addition that replaced the front of the original church. Designed by Paris-trained architect, François Giraud, the cathedral was significantly enlarged to contain a new nave with magnificent soaring ceilings.



5 Retablos

Three fabulous 18th-century style *retablos* were created in 2002–3 by Leonardo Soto Recendiz, to replace those lost in the fire of 1828. The splendid central *retablo*, *Jesus Christ, Word and Sacrament* (right), is gilded in 24-carat gold.



9 El Cristo Negro

This replica of the Black Christ brought from Esquipulas, Guatemala, in the 1980s, is one of the most popular devotional shrines in San Fernando. Candles, pictures, and notes are often left here as petitions to God.



10 Stations of the Cross, Windows and Pipe Organ

The carved-stone Stations of the Cross and the wooden pulpit date from 1874. The pipe organ is the oldest in the city, and the nine exquisite stained-glass windows (above), depicting 18 saints, date from 1920.

Cathedral Guide

Enter the cathedral through the central east doors. Ahead is the carved stone baptismal font, with the statue of San Fernando on the left. Straight ahead and through the French Gothic nave is the floor marker indicating the center of San Antonio, under the original dome. The lovely *retablos* are in the sanctuary. To the left of the east entrance is the El Cristo Negro, and the doorway to the sarcophagus of the defenders of the Alamo.



6 Statue of San Antonio

In 1691, missionaries arrived at the San Antonio River on the feast day of St Anthony, a Franciscan who died in Italy in 1231. This statue of San Antonio, patron saint of the city, was created by Agustin Parra of Mexico in 2002.



7 Statue of San Fernando

The beautifully painted bronze statue of San Fernando's patron saint (right), is the oldest statue in the cathedral. The church was named after the King of Castile, Ferdinand III, who reigned in the 13th century.



8 Baptismal Font

This ornate hand-carved stone baptismal font (left) is the oldest religious furnishing in the cathedral, and is believed to have been a gift from Charles III who became King of Spain in 1759.



TOP 10 La Villita National Historic District

San Antonio's first neighborhood offers great shopping, fine dining, and fascinating history. The district was once a military post where families of Spanish soldiers lived in simple adobe huts. The neighborhood became desirable after the 1819 flood destroyed many prominent citizens' homes. European immigrants settled here in the mid-1800s, and today artisans, shops, and restaurants occupy the restored structures.



Arts Village sign



St. Phillip's College

Stop in any shop and ask for the free brochure, "A Walking Tour of La Villita".

For breakfast, lunch, or a quick snack, stop by the Bolivar Café that offers sandwiches, tacos, and ice cream.

- Map N4
- Bordered by E Nueva, Navarro, S Alamo Streets, and the River Walk
- Shops open 10am–6pm daily
- www.lavillita.com
- The Little Church: 210-226-3593
- The Cós House: 210-207-8610
- Bowen/Kirchner House: 210-223-4480
- Losana House: 210-223-4199
- McAlister House and Store: Mustang Greys, 210-222-1894; Guadalajara Grill, 210-222-1992
- St. Phillip's College: 210-226-8752
- Florian House: 210-226-8752
- Faville House: 210-222-8838
- Bolivar Café: 210-224-8400

Top 10 Features

- 1 The Little Church
- 2 The Cós House
- 3 Arneson River Theatre
- 4 McAlister House and Store
- 5 Otto Bombach House
- 6 Bowen/Kirchner House
- 7 St. Phillip's College
- 8 Florian House
- 9 Losana House
- 10 Faville House

1 The Little Church
 This tiny Gothic Revival church (*right*) with a beautiful stained-glass window was built in 1879 using stone blocks from a quarry in Brackenridge Park (see pp32–3). Services were held at this non-denominational church, and today it is a popular venue for weddings.

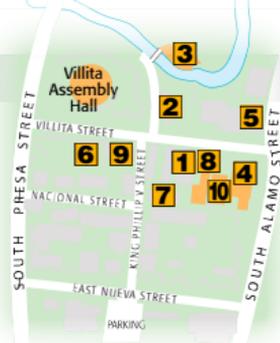


2 The Cós House
 Believed to be the oldest in La Villita, this house (*above*) is where General Martin Perfecto de Cós reportedly signed the Articles of Capitulation for the Mexican Army in 1835. Known as the birthplace of Texan Independence, the house is available for small functions, but is generally closed to the public.

3 Arneson River Theatre
 The San Antonio River runs through this lovely theater, and the grass-covered steps that form the auditorium seats lead down to the River Walk (see pp8–9).

4 McAlister House and Store
 This large limestone building built by Samuel McAllister in 1854 is occupied today by Mustang Greys (*below*), offering Texan apparel, and the Guadalajara Grill.





5 Otto Bombach House

Located on the San Antonio River, this house (*right*) was built in 1847 and is unaltered since its original construction. It has housed many different businesses, but for the past 35 years has been home to the Little Rhein Steakhouse (*see p55*).



9 Losana House

Built by Mariano

Losana, this space has been used for a variety of businesses. Today, Lone Star Mercantile offers a selection of T-shirts, Texan cookbooks, gourmet foods, jewelry, and traditional gifts.



10 Faville House

Built around 1855 by Franklin D. Faville, the house has a typical full-length gable running parallel to its front. Today, Monte Wade Fine Arts Gallery (*above*) presents an excellent selection of contemporary and traditional art by established international artists.

Texas Revolution

Mexican General Cós arrived in San Antonio in October 1835, to end the rebellion. Defeated by the Texans in December, Cós signed the Articles of Capitulation at La Villita, relinquishing Mexico's claims to all lands north of the Rio Grande. Sworn to revenge, Santa Anna headed to San Antonio in 1836 with about 6,000 Mexican troops. He set up his cannon line in La Villita for the Battle of the Alamo.

6 Bowen/Kirchner House

The original house was constructed using caliche blocks, and was built either by postmaster John Bowen after 1851, or by Auguste Kirchner between 1871–73. Villita Stained Glass now sells vividly colored kaleidoscopes, sun-catchers, and glass artworks here.

7 St. Phillip's College

This pretty two-story building from the early 1900s was one of the buildings which housed St. Phillip's College. Today, it houses the Starving Artist Art Gallery which offers a selection of handicrafts, original artwork, and porcelain china.

8 Florian House

Named for Polish immigrant Erasmus Florian, this 1834 building had a dramatically different Victorian wing added after the Civil War. Today, local artists (*below*) display paintings, jewelry, and sculpture here, as part of the River Art Group.





TOP 10 King William Historic District

The city's most lavish and elegant homes are located in King William Historic District, San Antonio's first suburb. The earliest houses, built in the 1860s, were simple dwellings, but by the 1920s were surrounded by extravagant mansions in a variety of differing architectural styles. Many of the finest homes line King William Street, known as the most beautiful residential street in Texas.



Decorative plaque



Guenther House

Pick up a free self-guided walking tour brochure outside the gate of the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Be sure to have breakfast, lunch, or some baked goods in the fabulous Guenther House restaurant.

- Map M6
- Guenther House: 305 E Guenther St; 210-227-1061
- Steves Homestead: 509 King William St; 210-225-5924
- San Antonio Conservation Society: 107 King William St; 210-224-6163
- San Antonio Art League Museum: 130 King William St; 210-223-1140
- Edward Steves, Jr. House: 431 King William St; 210-227-9160
- Kalteyer House: 425 King William St; 210-227-8786
- Norton/Polk/Mathis House: 401 King William St; 210-227-8786

Top 10 Features

- 1 Guenther House
- 2 Steves Homestead
- 3 San Antonio Conservation Society
- 4 King William Park and Bandstand
- 5 Johnson Street Foot Bridge
- 6 Edward Steves, Jr. House
- 7 Kalteyer House
- 8 San Antonio Art League Museum
- 9 River Walk
- 10 Norton/Polk/Mathis House



1 Guenther House

Built in 1860 by Carl Hilmar Guenther, founder of Pioneer Flour Mills. The beautiful parlor (above) and library are open as a house museum, and an excellent restaurant and bakery feature dishes made with Pioneer Flour.

2 Steves Homestead

Built in 1876, this house was designed by Alfred Giles. It showcases antiques (right) from Europe collected by the homeowners, and is today a museum.



3 San Antonio Conservation Society

This society is one of the most active community conservation groups in the US, and helps preserve historic buildings. Founded in 1924 by 13 women, it has grown to 3,500 volunteers, and is now based in the 1870 Anton Wulff House.

4 King William Park and Bandstand

This lovely bandstand was built in 1892 on the grounds of the United States Arsenal. It was moved in 1953 to King William Park, which was acquired by the city in 1901 for payment of back taxes.





TOP 10 SeaWorld San Antonio



The Great White ride

Shamu and his fellow killer whales are the premier attraction at this internationally acclaimed marine park, but they are just the first in a superb array of shows and interactive, educational experiences. At the adventure park the inverted roller-coaster, The Great White, takes riders through corkscrews and high-speed maneuvers along 2,500 ft (762 m) of track. On summer evenings additional shows feature pirates, more killer whales, and circus-style performances.



Children greeting dolphins

🕒 Check the show times schedule as soon as you arrive, as some shows and presentations occur only a few times a day.

Wear a hat and use sunblock, the sun can be intense.

Plan ahead and bring extra clothes in case you get wet at the rides or shows.

It is worthwhile to stay for the summer evening shows.

🍽️ Try Oaks Café and Grill, near the Sea Lion and Otter Stadium, for a quick meal.

- Map D4
- 10500 SeaWorld Dr, 16 miles (25 km) NW of downtown San Antonio
- 800-700-7786
- Open early March–late November 10am. Call or check website as days of operation and closing times vary
- Adm: One-day pass adult \$47, seniors \$44, child 3-9 \$37
- www.seaworld.com

Top 10 Features

- 1 Believe!
- 2 Cannery Row Caper
- 3 Viva!
- 4 Haunted Lighthouse
- 5 Shamu's Happy Harbor
- 6 Rio Loco
- 7 Rockin' Ski Party
- 8 Lost Lagoon
- 9 Texas Splashdown
- 10 Steel Eel

1 Believe!
This stunning theatrical show (*right*) draws the audience into the experience of training and performing with Shamu and other killer whales. The story unfolds as a new, young trainer swims with the whales, builds trust, and participates in the dazzling performance.

2 Cannery Row Caper
A caper with sea lions Clyde and Seamore, this show (*below*) is a takeoff on 1930s detective films. Clyde and Seamore unravel the mystery of the missing walrus against a wharf-side set with water jets.



3 Viva!
This dazzling show presents the acrobats of the sea, including Pacific white-sided dolphins and Beluga whales, in a colorful production. Trained high-divers, aerialists, and synchronized swimmers perform against a dramatic backdrop of water screens, fountains, and waterfalls.

4 Haunted Lighthouse
Four-dimensional effects add to the fun of the film *Haunted Lighthouse*, shown in the Sea Star Theater. It is based on a story by R. L. Stein, author of the children's books *Goosebumps* and *Nightmare Room*. The audience wear 3-D glasses, while audio channels project surround-sound, and the seats shoot water.





5 Shamu's Happy Harbor

This kids' paradise (above) is a huge playground in the center of SeaWorld. A swinging bridge, climbing nets, and square-rigger with water-cannons give children a world of delight.



6 Rio Loco

This exhilarating river ride takes you through an 1,800 ft (549 m) long raging stream with rapids. The river bends and dips when least expected, with the waterfall ensuring that everyone leaves drenched.



7 Rockin' Ski Party

This fast-paced water-ski show (above) is set to the rhythms of rock-and-roll music. Daredevil skiers perform precision acrobatics and stunts as they glide across the scenic Water Ski Lake.



10 Steel Eel

This electrifying hypercoaster ride (above) starts out with an adrenalin pumping 15-story initial drop, then roars over peaks, and goes through valleys and camelbacks as it speeds along 3,700 ft (1,128 m) of radical twists and turns in two minutes.

8 Lost Lagoon

This paradise provides fun for thrill-seekers, sun-worshippers, and water-lovers. Hop in a tube for a river-ride, play in the wave-pool, or scream down the 450 ft (137 m) waterslide.

9 Texas Splashdown

The longest, tallest flume ride in Texas drenches everyone from start to finish. The twisting half-mile (0.8 km) route includes two huge drops and a panoramic view of San Antonio.



Tours and Interaction Programs

Special tours and interactive programs enhance a visit to SeaWorld. Go backstage to talk with a trainer, or step behind-the-scenes on a tour for hands-on interaction with sharks, stingrays, dolphins, and sea lions. In-depth programs are available year-round, such as the Beluga interaction where you put on a wetsuit and slip into the water with a whale.



Extra charges may apply for some of the programs.







TOP 10 San Antonio Botanical Garden & Lucile Halsell Conservatory

Enter the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Botanical Garden through the restored 1896 carriage house and you are immediately engulfed by the brilliant colors and scents of the Texas Rose Garden and the fragrance garden. The high-tech centerpiece is the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, whose gleaming cluster of glass and steel climate-controlled towers shelter indoor jungles of tropical plants, ferns, and palms. The grounds feature water gardens, ponds, and tiled fountains that complement the seasonally changing formal gardens.



Lucile Halsell Conservatory



Detail, Fountain

- Check the calendar for special evening events during the summer. The annual Shakespeare in the Park weekend and the Third Thursday Evening Concert series are held under the stars in the amphitheater.
- Enjoy an exceptional lunch at the Carriage House Kitchen where the chef creates mouth-watering masterpieces daily. Many diners pause to photograph their meal before eating.

- Map G5
- 555 Funston at North New Braunfels Avenue
- 210-207-3250
- Open 9am-5pm daily, closed Christmas and New Year's Day
- Adm: adults \$6; children 3-13 \$3; senior citizens \$4; military & students \$4
- www.sabot.org

Top 10 Features

- 1 Sullivan Carriage House
- 2 Overlook
- 3 Texas Native Trail
- 4 Lucile Halsell Conservatory and Exhibition Room
- 5 Kumamoto En (Japanese Garden)
- 6 Amphitheater
- 7 Desert Pavilion
- 8 Tropical Conservatory
- 9 Palm House
- 10 Fern Grotto and Orangerie

1 Sullivan Carriage House

Designed by noted architect Alfred Giles, this is now the entrance to the gardens, and houses the Carriage House Kitchen restaurant, which offers lunches that are visual as well as culinary artworks.

2 Overlook

From the gazebo at the highest point in the grounds, stunning vistas extend across the city. The spiraling walkway offers views of the conservatory.



3 Texas Native Trail

Three local ecosystems are presented on the trail (below). Southwest Texas includes drought-tolerant shrubs. The East Texas Pineywoods section features pine, magnolia, and dogwood trees around a lake. The Hill Country has live oak, Uvalde maple, and mountain laurel.





4 Lucile Halsell Conservatory and Exhibition Room

This section of the Conservatory (see p43) presents orchids and bromeliads. The range of flowers (left) is amazing as most plants are moved here only when in bloom.

5 Kumamoto En (Japanese Garden)

This garden (below) was designed by Kyoshi Yasui, an expert gardener from Japan. More than 70 symbolic components of traditional Japanese gardens have been incorporated, including a tea-arbor, pond, and waterfall.



6 Amphitheater

This delightful grassy amphitheater in a quiet section of the garden is used for special events, including the annual Shakespeare in the Park and the Concerts Under the Stars series. Both are held in summer.

7 Desert Pavilion

A cactus lover's delight, this hothouse (right) replicates the desert conditions of southern Africa and Mexico. The cone cactus, golden barrel, and fire barrel cactus grow here, with a variety of blooms appearing year-round.

8 Tropical Conservatory

Equatorial rainforest plants thrive in the humid heat of this greenhouse. Fast-growing breadfruit, coffee, and cacao trees compete for light, and the air is filled with the scent of plumeria flowers and cardamom leaves.



9 Palm House

The 65 ft (20 m) tall Palm House (below) is the largest of the hothouses, with a walkway that spirals upward past cycads and palms to an overlook.



10 Fern Grotto and Orangerie

Enter the grotto behind the Orangerie with its citrus fruit trees from around the world. Inside, there is a 2-story waterfall, and the walls look like orchid-and-fern covered limestone cliffs.

Garden Tour

Enter from Funston Street. Pick up a map in the Carriage House and go to Gertie's Garden. The Rose, Formal, and Old-Fashioned Gardens are ahead. Bear to the right into Fountain Plaza. On the right is the Japanese Garden, and farther right is the Fragrant Garden. To the left is the Conservatory. In the courtyard are four hothouses. To the left, the path goes past the overlook and left to the Texas Native Trail.

TOP 10 Brackenridge Park

This park has been a city favorite since its opening in 1899. Walkers, joggers, and bicyclists enjoy the trails that run through the 343-acre scenic park, while children can ride on the miniature Brackenridge Eagle train and families find picnic spots near the playground or along the river. Stone bridges, shaded pathways, and tranquil ponds are highlights of the verdant Japanese Tea Gardens. Nearby, the San Antonio Zoo exhibits more than 3,500 animals from around the world, and the Witte Museum exhibits Native American, Texan, and natural science treasures.



Sculpture, Witte Museum

The Picante Grill is very popular and known for Mexican dishes as well as Tex-Mex cuisine.

Plan to visit the zoo in the morning when the animals are more active.

The hours at the Texas Pioneers, Trail Drivers and Rangers Museum may be irregular.

- Map G4
- Brackenridge Park: main entrance (see pp34–35) 2800 N Broadway 210-207-3000
- San Antonio Zoo: 3903 N St. Mary's St; 210-734-7184
- Japanese Tea Garden: 3800 N St. Mary's St
- Sunken Garden Theater: 3975 N St. Mary's St
- Texas Pioneers, Trail Drivers and Rangers Museum: 210-822-9011
- Brackenridge Golf Course: 2315 Ave B
- Kiddie Park: 3015 Broadway

Top 10 Features

- 1 San Antonio Zoo
- 2 Brackenridge Eagle
- 3 Japanese Tea Garden
- 4 Sunken Garden Theater
- 5 Brackenridge Golf Course
- 6 Playgrounds
- 7 Kiddie Park
- 8 Walking Trails & Bird-Watching
- 9 Witte Museum
- 10 Texas Pioneers, Trail Drivers and Rangers Museum



1 San Antonio Zoo

One of the top zoos in USA, it is also one of the most innovative (see pp34–35). Leading in conservation, it participates in breeding programs for 60 species.

2 Brackenridge Eagle

This miniature railroad (below) runs for 2.5 miles (4 km) through the park. Trains are powered by propane replicas of the 1863 Central Pacific Huntington steam engines.



3 Japanese Tea Garden

These beautiful gardens (above) were built in an old rock quarry. Limestone walls with vines, tall palms, lush greenery, and flowers surround pools carpeted with lily pads and filled with vivid koi fish.

4 Sunken Garden Theater

Opened in the 1930s with a performance of *The Bohemian Girl* by the San Antonio Civic Opera, this old-time favorite is still the venue for summer concerts, and jazz, dance, and drama shows.



5 Brackenridge Golf Course

This historic golf course (*left*) was the original site of the PGA Winter Tour and opened for play in 1916. The challenging course requires accurate tee shots on the tree-lined front nine, while the back nine is open, with tricky wind conditions.



6 Playgrounds

Parents can choose from a small playground at the corner of Mulberry Avenue, or a bigger one behind the Witte Museum.

7 Kiddie Park

Pure Americana, this original 1920s-style amusement park (*below*) is a big hit with kids, and offers rides on a merry-go-round carved in 1918 that plays calliope music.



8 Walking Trails and Bird-Watching

The best walking trails are found in the main section of the park, while the best birding area is found along Avenue A, where sightings of red-shouldered hawk, herons, and black-crested titmouse are common.

10 Texas Pioneers, Trail Drivers and Rangers Museum

This memorial (*right*) honors the Texas Rangers, the first law enforcement agency in Texas, pioneer families who settled in Texas, and the cowboys who drove longhorn cattle north to the railroads.

9 Witte Museum

San Antonio's favorite family museum exhibits present Texan history, science, and ecology with interactive opportunities. The HEB Science Treehouse and the Hertzberg Circus Collection are popular (*see p76*).



George Brackenridge

Philanthropist and businessman George W. Brackenridge (1832–1920) was instrumental in developing the city's civic and educational systems. In 1899, he gave 199 acres of his riverfront estate at the headwaters of the San Antonio River to the city, to establish Brackenridge Park, and he later gave additional land parcels as well. In 1914, he placed animals such as buffalo, elk, deer, monkeys, a pair of lions, and four bears in the park, forming the nucleus of the zoo.



Left Resident jaguar Center A flock of flamingos Right San Antonio Zoo signage

TOP 10 San Antonio Zoo

1 Bears

High rock walls form a rugged, natural backdrop for the spacious bear dens and exhibit areas. The zoo's star attractions, Montana and Flo, the massive grizzlies, are fed every afternoon. On a really hot summer day you may see these bears eating five-gallon frozen "fish-sicles."

2 Gibbon Forest

Playful and active, the gibbons swing from the hanging vines and ropes in their naturally landscaped enclosure. Often noisy, males and females chatter as they raise their young and protect their territory.

3 Cat Grotto

The grotto is home to cats such as jaguars, clouded leopards, and rare snow leopards, who pace or lie in the shade inside their rock-walled enclosures, maintaining a watchful lookout.

4 Amazonia

This lushly planted section along the waterway is home to more than 30 species of tropical animals and a profusion of orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. Here you can see spider monkeys swinging through the trees, giant anteaters along the river banks, and the smallest New World monkey, the pygmy marmoset.

5 Cranes of the World

From a boardwalk along the river you can see large, beautiful whooping cranes, blue cranes, Manchurian cranes, and hooded cranes. The zoo participates in an active breeding program to raise whooping cranes for release into the wild, and exhibits 10 of the 15 varieties of cranes found in the world, 11 of which are endangered species.

6 Africa Live!

Equatorial Africa comes alive in this exciting new exhibit where plants and animals are viewed in a safari-like setting. Hippos and Nile crocodiles can be seen swimming at a fascinating underwater viewing station, while the Nanyuki Market presents storytellers, dancers, and artisans in an Africa-like street market.

7 African Plains

Water trickles down the natural limestone cliffs and flows into a rocky pool as it does on the African plains. This watering hole attracts various species seeking water in an arid, rocky area planted with shrubs and tough grasses. Here ostriches, Grevy's zebra, giraffes, Thompson's gazelle, and the African crowned crane can be seen gathering for a drink.



Addax antelope from the African plains



8 Lory Landing

An Australian rainforest environment in an outdoor aviary is filled with free-flying, nectar-eating lorries whose brilliant plumage ranges from emerald green to fiery orange. At least 40 lorries perch, play, and even hang upside-down here. Buy a small cup of nectar and with very little coaxing the lorries will perch on your hand to feed. Visitors are welcome between 10am and 5pm every day.

9 Hixon Bird House

This circular building has a central free-flight area planted with trees and shrubs around a small pond. The exotic residents are easy to spot and include the Shama thrush, red-throated twin spot, and blue-capped cordon-bleu. Along the outer wall, glass-fronted enclosures display birds from around the world in

close-to-native habitats, including the South American quetzal and the roadrunner from the American Southwest.

10 Tiny Tot Nature Spot

This mini-zoo for children under five and their parents provides hands-on activities in which kids can discover nature by digging in the dirt, watching lady bugs, or crawling into tunnels to watch prairie dogs at play. Activities change daily making every visit a new adventure.



A close encounter at Tiny Tots Nature Spot

Top 10 Conservation Projects

- 1 Whooping Crane Recovery Program
- 2 Attwater's Prairie Chicken Recovery Program
- 3 Endangered Texas Salamanders
- 4 California Condor Project
- 5 Butterfly Conservation Initiative
- 6 The Peregrin Fund
- 7 Grevy's Zebra Census Project
- 8 Tree Kangaroo Conservation Project
- 9 International Snow Leopard Trust
- 10 Latin America Zoo Conservation Outreach

Conservation Efforts

Conservation and education are cornerstones of the San Antonio Zoo's mission, and each year the zoo participates in efforts around the world to help preserve animals and their habitats. Projects include environment preservation, and breeding programs. The zoo houses more than 230 threatened and endangered species, such as the African lion and the black rhinoceros. Some of the threatened species are Texan natives, including the Attwater's prairie chicken and two varieties of Texan salamanders.



Visitors at the rhinoceros enclosure



Left Theodore Roosevelt Center Defenders of the Alamo Sarcophagus Right Memorial, Alamo

TOP 10 Moments in History

1 Discovery by Cabeza de Vaca (1535)

In 1535, de Vaca and three companions stayed with Native Americans while traveling through Texas on their way to Spanish-controlled Mexico. His written account inspired Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition to the Southwest in 1540 in search of the fabled seven cities of gold.

2 Naming of San Antonio (1691)

A small expedition of Spanish explorers and missionaries led by General Domingo de Teran set up camp along a river near a Coahuiltecan Indian village. Father Damien Massanet suggested that they call the place San Antonio as they had arrived on June 13, the feast day of Saint Anthony. Teran agreed and named the river San Antonio as well.

3 Spanish Missions (1718)

Franciscan friars Antonio Olivares and Isidro Espinosa arrived in 1718 to establish the new presidio of San Antonio de Bexar, and set up Mission San Antonio de Valero, which later became known as the Alamo (see pp10–11). The site was chosen for the abundance of water, trees, and wildlife found along the river.

4 Settlement by Canary Islanders (1731)

Fifteen families from the Canary Islands settled here on March 9, 1731, at the invitation of King Phillip V of Spain. They established the area's first village, which they named La Villa de San Fernando. The church of San Fernando (see pp20–21) was placed in the exact center of the village. In 1737, the town was formally named San Antonio.

5 Mexican Rule (1821–1835)

In 1810, Mexico declared independence from Spain, leading to a decade of fighting. Spain finally relinquished control in 1821. Mexico wanted to settle what is now known as Texas, and in 1821, chose to honor a Spanish land grant given to Stephen Austin's father, allowing 300 Anglo families to settle provided they adhered to Mexican law.

6 Mexican Constitution Abolished (1835)

In 1835, Santa Anna established a strong central government, curtailed many important freedoms and abolished the Mexican Constitution. Texans petitioned for independence and Santa Anna sent General Cós to disarm the Texans, but Ben Milam and his volunteers forced Cós to surrender and took control of the Alamo.



Statue of Saint Antonio at the River Walk



7 Texan Revolution (1836)

Santa Anna's response to the defeat was immediate: he launched a massive attack on the Alamo. Meanwhile the governing council voted on March 2, declaring Texas a republic. Just six weeks later at San Jacinto, Sam Houston and his volunteer army captured Santa Anna and achieved a resounding victory.

8 Trail Drive Era (1867–1875)

After the American Civil War, Texan longhorn cattle roamed free across south Texas, having been brought to the area by the Spanish missionaries. A longhorn worth \$2 in Texas was worth \$20 in the north, and so the era of trail drives north along the Chisholm Trail to the railroads began. San Antonio became a lively cattle town. The era ended when barbed wire was introduced in 1875 and the range was fenced.

9 Railroad Arrives (1877)

The arrival of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railroad brought a sustained economic boom. The population increased 70 percent between 1870 and 1890, reaching 20,000. An influx of Anglo-Americans from the southern states altered the existing German and Hispanic culture, and led to new architectural styles as the city grew.

10 HemisFair International Exposition (1968)

In preparation for the 6.3 million visitors who would attend its world fair, the city spent over \$156 million. The River Walk was extended to include the new convention center, arena, and fairgrounds. Two high-rise hotels were built along the River Walk, and many new restaurants and businesses were established.

Top 10 Historical Figures

1 Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (1490–1560)

The first European to explore what is now Texas and the Southwest.

2 Stephen F. Austin (1793–1836)

Responsible for bringing more than 5,600 Anglo settlers into Texas from 1821 to 1831.

3 Antonio López de Santa Anna (1794–1876)

Tough military leader and five-time president of Mexico.

4 Ben Milam (1788–1835)

Led Texas volunteers in combat against Cós.

5 General Martín Perfecto de Cós (1800–1854)

Mexican army general and Santa Anna's brother-in-law.

6 General Sam Houston (1793–1863)

Tennessee governor and president of the short-lived Republic of Texas.

7 José Antonio Navarro (1795–1871)

Served as senator in the Texas legislature under Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the US.

8 Jesse Chisholm (1806–1868)

Indian trader from Tennessee who blazed a trail from Wichita, Kansas, into Texas.

9 Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)

The 26th US president recruited his volunteer cavalry of Rough Riders (*see p38*) at the Menger Bar in 1898.

10 Robert H. H. Hugman (1902–1980)

Visionary architect who planned the River Walk.





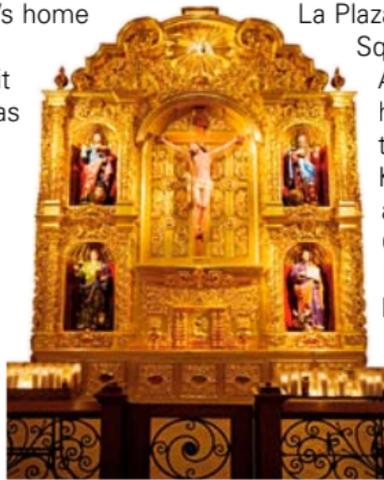
Left Mission San José Center Spanish Governor's Palace Right Chapel façade, the Alamo

TOP 10 Historic Sites

1 The Alamo
 San Antonio's first mission is best known for the 1836 Texas Revolution Battle. Established in 1718 midway between the Spanish capital in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the missions of east Texas, by the 1830s it had become a Mexican military post (see pp10–13).

2 Menger Hotel
 The oldest operating hotel in the city built by German immigrant William Menger, is noteworthy for its magnificent Victorian lobby with antique furnishings and paintings. Theodore Roosevelt (see p37) stayed here in 1898, while he recruited Rough Riders to fight in Cuba during the Spanish-American War (see p115).

3 Spanish Governor's Palace
 Built before 1750, the palace was the presidio captain's home and headquarters. From 1772 to 1782 it was the seat of Texas government for the Spanish Province. This expertly restored building, now a museum, displays antique furnishings.
 ☉ Map L4 • 105 Plaza de Armas • 210-224-0601 • Open 9am–5pm Mon–Sat, 10am–5pm Sun • www.sanantonio.gov/sapar



Retablo at San Fernando Cathedral

4 San Fernando Cathedral
 In February 1836, Mexican General Santa Anna raised a red flag from the top of this church to signal "no quarter, no surrender, and no mercy," to the defenders of the Alamo. A sarcophagus here is believed to hold the remains of the defenders of the Alamo (see pp20–21).

5 Military Plaza
 Until 1865, the Plaza de Armas was used as a parade ground, and for public executions and vigilante lynchings. It became a popular outdoor market after the Civil War, and in the evening young women, Chili Queens, cooked and served chili con carne to the townspeople. ☉ Map L4
 • Bounded by Commerce St, Flores, Dolorosa, Spanish Governor's Palace

6 Main Plaza
 The first settlers, the Canary Islanders, set up homes around La Plaza de Las Islas (The Square of the Islands). A fiesta was held here to celebrate the crowning of King Ferdinand VI, and in 1845, Governor Sam Houston delivered his speech for union with the United States. ☉ Map M4
 • Bounded by Commerce St, Soledad, Houston, Main Ave



Costumed actors present performances at the Governor's Palace on the last Sunday of the month.

7 St. Joseph's Downtown Church

Founded by German Catholic immigrants, the cornerstone of this church was laid in 1868. In 1891, four bells with matching tones were donated, a church spire was added in 1898, and stained-glass windows from Munich installed in 1902. Today, the church is surrounded on three sides by the busy Rivercenter Mall. 📍 *Map N4 • 623 East Commerce St • 210-227-0126*
 • *Mass: 8am; 9:30am (weekly service in Spanish on 2nd Sunday of month), 11am (weekly service in German and Latin on 4th Sunday of month), 12:30pm Sun; noon Mon–Fri; noon, 6:15 pm Sat*



The altar, St. Joseph's Downtown Church

Enchanted Kiss. Displayed inside the recently restored building are period furnishings, articles, photographs, and works by the author. 📍 *Map L4 • Dolorosa at Laredo*

8 Mission San José

The largest and most beautiful of San Antonio's Missions, San José was well-run and successful, earning it the title of the "Queen of Missions." Its walls prevented attacks from marauding Native Americans in the 1700s. Texas' oldest flour mill was built here around 1790. The mill still stands outside the north wall and grinds wheat using the original methods (*see pp14–17*).

9 O. Henry House

Renowned author William Sydney Porter (1862–1910) used the pen-name O. Henry. Best known for the ironic twists of plot in short stories such as *The Gift of the Magi*, he lived and wrote in this quaint limestone house during the 1880s and 90s, using San Antonio as the setting for his famous stories *Fog* and *The*

10 Casa Navarro State Historic Site

This restored residence was the home of José Antonio Navarro (*see p37*), signer of the 1836 Texas Declaration of Independence. The house, and his law office, all have period furnishings. A small museum traces his accomplishments as a lawyer, rancher, politician, and author. In the early 1840s he was captured and imprisoned in Mexico. He escaped to Cuba in 1845 and returned home in time to vote for the annexation of Texas to the United States.

📍 *Map L4 • 228 S Laredo St • 210-226-4801 • Open 10am–4pm Wed–Sun*
 • www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/jose



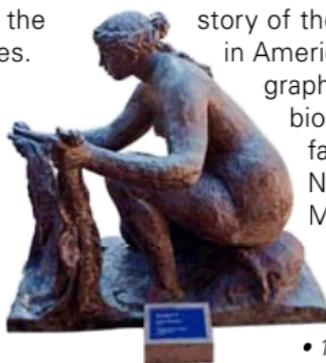


Left **The McNay Art Museum** Center **San Antonio Museum of Art** Right **Institute of Texan Cultures**

TOP 10 Museums

1 The McNay Art Museum

This spectacular Spanish Colonial Revival-style mansion houses a permanent collection of 16,000 works from the 19th and 20th centuries. Well-known European artists such as Rodin, Renoir, Cézanne, Picasso, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Klee, as well as American masters Homer, Whistler, O'Keeffe, Weber, and Hopper, are featured here (see pp18–19).



Rodin sculpture at McNay Art Museum

4 Museo Americano Smithsonian

This vividly hued building in colors of lime and rose tells the story of the Latino experience in America through photography, music, art, and biographical profiles of famous people such as Nobel Laureate Mario Molina. This national center for Latino arts displays Smithsonian exhibits. 📍 Map K4

• 101 S Santa Rosa Blvd
• 210-458-2300 • www.thealameda.org

2 San Antonio Museum of Art

One of the most impressive art museums in Texas, housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery, is best known for the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art, with a collection that includes 4,000 years of pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, and modern art (see p70).

3 Institute of Texan Cultures

Built as the Texas pavilion for the 1968 HemisFair (see p37), this museum pays tribute to the 26 cultural groups that settled in Texas. Docents, who describe life on the range, can be found at the chuck wagon and at the 1914 post office. 📍 Map P6 • 801 S. Bowie St • 210-458-2300 • Open 10am–6pm Tue–Sat, noon–5pm Sun

5 Buckhorn Saloon and Museum

The Buckhorn started as a saloon in 1881, with a standing offer to exchange a shot of beer or whiskey for animal antlers. During Prohibition, it became a museum, and now displays an amazing collection of horns and stuffed animals. You can still have a beer or soda at the original bar. 📍 Map N3 • 318 E Houston St • 210-247-4000 • www.buckhornmuseum.com



Restaurant at Buckhorn Saloon and Museum

6 Witte Museum

This exceptional family museum specializes in history, science, and culture with outstanding permanent and changing displays. The captivating Walk Across Texas exhibit provides a look at the animals and plants that thrive in the many terrains and eco-climates of the state. The noted HEB Science Treehouse is an outstanding children's museum with many interactive exhibits (see p76).

7 Fort Sam Houston

The outstanding US Army Medical Department Museum traces the history of military medicine from 1775 to the present, with exhibits featuring medical instruments, uniforms, and transport vehicles such as a horse-drawn ambulance, and a railroad hospital car. The small Fort Sam Houston Museum chronicles the history of the US Army in San Antonio from 1845, when the post occupied the Alamo, until the present. Exhibits feature army equipment, Rough Riders, and military aviation (see p75).

8 Museum of Western Art

The rich cultural heritage of the American West is showcased through the artworks of contemporary and past masters. Rotating exhibits present the authentic land of hardworking cowboys, proud Native Americans, adventurous explorers, and famous ranches. Heroic life-size bronze statues are scattered across the museum grounds, recreating the eras of both the authentic and the contemporary American West. Map A2 • 1550 Bandera Highway, Kerrville • 830-896-2553 • Open 9am–5pm Tue–Sat, 1–5pm Sun • www.museumofwesternart.org



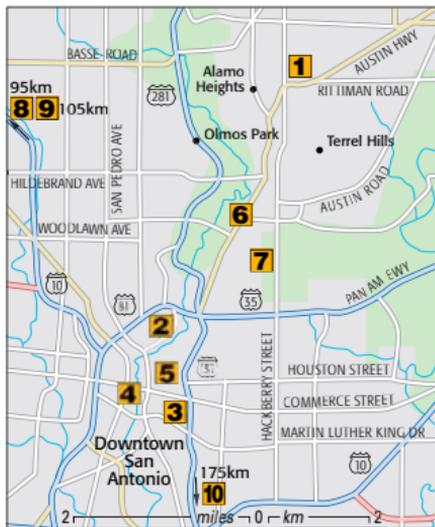
National Museum of the Pacific War exhibit

9 National Museum of the Pacific War

This is the nation's only museum dedicated to the Pacific Theater of World War II and home town hero Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the Allied forces in Central Pacific (see p81).

10 USS Lexington

This floating museum, the 16-deck World War II aircraft carrier USS *Lexington*, offers four self-guiding tours of the ship that pass through the vessel's 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sq m) and 11 decks. Visitors can explore the stairways and passageways used by crewmen to access the main flight deck, hangar deck, and other sections of the 910 ft (277 m) carrier. Map U4 • 2914 North Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi • 361-888-4873 • Open 9am–5pm daily, until 6pm in summer • Adm • www.ussexington.com



Shoes with non-skid soles are recommended for tours on the Lexington. Only the hangar deck is disabled accessible.



Left **Alamodome Center** Spanish **Governor's Palace** Right **Mission San José**

TOP 10 Architectural Highlights

1 Tower Life Building
 Designed by San Antonio native Robert Moss Ayres and completed in 1929, this 41-story Neo-Gothic building still dominates the skyline. The unusual octagonal shaped brick office has carved gargoyles on the upper setbacks to protect the building, and an elaborate marble-walled lobby. It was San Antonio's tallest building until 1968, and the tallest office building until 1989.

📍 *Map M4 • 310 S St. Mary's St*



The glittering Tower Life Building at night

2 Spanish Governor's Palace
 Built in the Spanish Colonial style, this masonry building has a keystone above the entrance with 1749 as the date of construction and the Hapsburg coat of arms. Apart from the San Fernando Cathedral, this is the last major building from the Spanish period still standing in the center of San Antonio (*see p38*).

3 San Fernando Cathedral
 Construction of the oldest cathedral in the US began in 1731 when the cornerstone of the first parish church in Texas was laid by the Canary Islanders. The exact geographical center of San Antonio was located beneath the dome. The original walls remain forming a sanctuary around the altar. Much of the original church was replaced by a grand French Gothic addition in 1874, when Pope Pius IX raised San Antonio to a diocese (*see pp20–21*).

4 Ramada Emily Morgan
 Designed by architect Ralph Cameron, the Gothic Revival detailing of the 1926 Medical Arts Building, now the Ramada Emily Morgan hotel, is unusual in Texas. Seeming taller than its 13 stories, this imposing building has a distinctive sculpted façade. The terra-cotta gargoyles feature many ailments, including toothache, which would have been treated here (*see p115*).

5 Majestic Theatre
 The Majestic was the second largest theater in the nation when it opened in 1929. Designed and built by John Ebersson, it was considered the most modern building in Texas at the time. Its elaborate Spanish Mission, Baroque, and Mediterranean architectural styles blend into an interior world of fantasy. Closed in 1974, the restored theater reopened in 1989 (*see p50*).

6 Tower of the Americas

This striking tower rising 750 ft (229 m) to the antenna tip, was built for the 1968 HemisFair (see p37). Architect O'Neil Ford placed the center of gravity underground, using a base of 2,400 tons of concrete. The top portion, including the restaurant and observation deck, was built on the ground and then raised as the tower was constructed.

📍 *Map P5 • 600 HemisFair Park • 210-207-8615 • Open 9am–10pm Sun–Thu, 9am–11pm Fri–Sat • Adm*

7 Alamodome

This huge, oval-shaped enclosed sports and entertainment arena uses four towers and a steel cable support system to keep the 175-ft (53-m) high dome aloft. Designed by Marmon Mok, this facility can seat up to 72,000 for various events, including concerts, sporting events, trade-shows, and conventions. The venue has two Olympic-size ice rinks for hockey, figure skating, and speed skating. 📍 *Map Q6 • 100 Montana St • 210-207-3663*

8 Mission San José

Known as the “Queen of Missions,” Mission San José is famous for its elaborate Spanish Colonial Baroque architecture, stone sculptures, and carved wooden doors. This massive limestone church was built between 1768 and 1782. The carved stone Rose Window is considered to be the premier example of Spanish Colonial ornamentation in the country (see pp14–17).



Greenhouse, San Antonio Botanical Garden

9 San Antonio Botanical Garden & Lucile Halsell Conservatory

Designed by architect Emilo Ambasz, the seven cylindrical pyramid-shaped greenhouses of the conservatory tower over a pond ringed by flowers and trees. They run 16 ft (5 m) underground to utilize the earth's cooling effect in hot Texan summers (see pp30–31).

10 San Antonio Central Library

Created by architect Ricardo Legorretta, this striking red library opened in 1995. It is modernist in design, with a six-story atrium, angular layout, and outdoor plazas. 📍 *Map M2 • 600 Soledad • 210-207-2500 • Open 11am–5pm Sun, 9am–9pm Mon–Thu, 9am–5pm Fri & Sat • www.sanantonio.gov/library*









Left Padre Island National Seashore Center HemisFair Park Right Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

TOP 10 Parks, Gardens, and Natural Wonders

1 Natural Bridge Caverns

One of Texas' largest caves is named for the 60-ft (18-m) natural bridge near its original entrance. Guided tours lead through massive limestone formations. Map J1 • 26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd • 210-651-6101 • Open year-round 9am-4pm, 9am-7pm Memorial Day to Labor Day • www.naturalbridgecaverns.com



Wildlife Ranch logo

has stone lanterns and water features. Trails through the large Texan native plant area ramble across fields of wildflowers from the Hill Country up to a lake in the Pineywoods section and on to Southwest Texas (see pp30-31).

2 HemisFair Park

An oasis of broad walkways curving through a tree-shaded landscape, the park is dotted with sculpture. Water gardens surround the Tower of the Americas (see p43), and the Schultz House Cottage Garden is filled with plants and butterflies (see p69).

3 San Antonio Botanical Garden

An oasis of beauty and color, these vast flower-filled gardens have roses in hues of pink and cream, and the Japanese garden



Wildflowers in the Botanical Garden

4 Friedrich Wilderness Park

This is a great place to hike and experience the untouched beauty of the Hill Country. This 600-acre nature preserve, just northwest of San Antonio, is a pristine natural area of 5 miles (8 km) of beautiful trails. Creeks, springs, hilltops, and wooded canyons maintain a large population of fascinating native birds and animals. Map E2 • 21395 Milsa St • 210-698-1057 • Open Apr-Sep 8am-8pm, Mar-Oct 8am-5pm • www.fofriedrichpark.org

5 Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

This Texas-style African wildlife safari is a drive-through park where visitors can get close to about 50 species of animals. The park houses many endangered species, such as white rhinos, reticulated giraffes, jaguars, and dama gazelles. Map J1 • 26515 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd • 830-438-7400 • Open 9am-5pm daily, 9am-6:30pm Memorial Day to Labor Day • www.wildliferanchtexas.com



6 Padre Island National Seashore

This stunning barrier island shore of windswept dunes, wild grasslands, marshes teeming with wildlife, and white-sand beaches is the longest expanse of natural, undeveloped beach in the US. Stretching more than 65 miles (104 km) along the coast, it has many recreation activities such as swimming, sunbathing, fishing, and shell-collecting. 📍 *Map C5*

- Corpus Christi • 361-949-8068 • Visitor's Center; open summer 8:30–6pm, rest of the year 9am–4:30pm

7 Cascade Caverns

This fascinating cave is named for the spectacular 100-ft (31-m) cascading waterfall nearby. Open since 1932, the cave has offered shelter to many species through its history, including a mastodon whose bones can still be seen here. The water-formed cavern is a half-mile long and 140 ft (43 m) deep and has rock formations with interesting names such as Skull, Dinosaur, and Giant Turtle. 📍 *Map A2*

- 226 Cascade Caverns Rd, Boerne, I-10 exit 543 • 830-755-8080 • Open 10am–4pm daily • Adm

8 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Elegant whooping cranes, one of the rarest bird species in North America, winter in this preserve founded in 1937 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The refuge also shelters other endangered species, such as the brown pelican and aplomado falcon. Several hiking trails wind through the coastal landscape, and a paved road leads to an observation tower for spotting whooping cranes. 📍 *Map C4*

- Tivoli, 30 miles north of Rockport • 361-286-3559
- Open from sunrise to sunset daily



Rock formations, Cascade Caverns

9 Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

The highlight of this popular hiking, camping, and rock-climbing park is a gigantic mound of pink granite rock more than a square mile in area and rising 425 ft (130 m) above the stream at its base. The one-hour trail to the top offers splendid views across the Hill Country (see p82).

10 Cave Without a Name

The winning entry in a contest to name this cave before it opened to the public in 1939 was "... too pretty to have a name." Hour-long guided tours take keen visitors to see huge clusters of stalactites and stalagmites, fragile soda straws, and sparkling flowstone. The grand finale is a subterranean river flowing over attractive limestone formations. 📍 *Map A2*

- 830-537-4212
- Open 10am–5pm daily • Adm
- www.cavewithoutaname.com



It is advisable to wear comfortable shoes with good traction while visiting caves and caverns as the path may be slippery.



Left Rivercenter Mall Center Shops at El Mercado Right Naegelin's Bakery, New Braunfels

TOP 10 Shopping Areas

1 Market Square
El Mercado, the largest Mexican marketplace north of the border, offers goods typically found in the bigger Mexican border towns. The vivid merchandise ranges from traditional toys and clothing, to authentic crafts, such as ornate leather goods and dazzling jewelry (see p70).



Mexican mask

artists at Village Weavers, and watch glass figures being made at the Glassblower. Map N4

- Village Weavers: 210-222-077
- Glassblower: 210-226-3452

2 Rivercenter Mall
Visitors may find everything they need in the 125 popular stores here. Dillard's and Foley's are the big department stores, and the Dallas Cowboys ProShop carries branded shirts and souvenirs. Map N4 • Dillard's: 210-227-4343 • Foley's: 210-554-6806

- Dallas Cowboys ProShop: 210-223-8200

4 Artisans Alley
Meandering boardwalks and courtyards connect the charming boutique shops here. The English Ivy carries home and garden decor, and you can pamper yourself with luxurious robes at Homebodies. Map F2

- English Ivy: 210-545-5335
- Homebodies: 210-491-0105

3 La Villita
This charming area near the River Walk is filled with art galleries, craft shops, and restaurants housed in pretty historic buildings in a village setting. Buy goods such as hand-woven tapestries from working

5 Fredericksburg
Main Street, and the nearby side streets, are a shopper's mecca. The amazing variety includes art galleries, antique shops, home furnishing stores, and shops selling local crafts. For authentic contemporary cowboy clothes visit Texas Jack's; sample hand-made delicacies at Chocolat. Texas Jack's: Map A1; 830-997-5855

- Chocolat: Map A1; 830-990-9382



Left Village Gallery, Chamade Jewelers, La Villita Right Shopping on Main St, Fredericksburg



6 New Braunfels

Sometimes referred to as the Antique Capital of Texas, this charming town offers great shops in historic buildings. The Frilly Frog stocks clothing and gifts for kids, while Red Rooster Antiques offers a range of new and old items. Naegelin's (see p63), the longest operating bakery in Texas, has excellent kolaches and strudel. 📍 *Frilly Frog: Map B2; 322 W San Antonio St; 830-249-9244* • *Red Rooster Antiques: Map B2; 386 W San Antonio St; 830-609-3311*

7 Boerne

This Hill Country town is full of Southern charm and cute shops. The Alte Stadt Mall offers antiques and crafts, including furniture, silver jewelry, and unique birdhouses. For animal collectibles, check out the menagerie at It's a Jungle In Here. 📍 *Alte Stadt Mall: Map A2; 265 S Main; 830-249-8192* • *It's a Jungle In Here: Map A2; 133 S Main; 830-249-9244*

8 Shopping Malls

The most upscale shopping malls are located near Loop 410, to the north and northwest of downtown. Shops at La Cantera offer sophisticated shopping in landscaped surroundings. A large selection of stores makes North Star Mall a favorite, while Alamo Quarry Market has boutiques, specialty shops and brand-name stores (see p78).

9 Factory Outlet Malls

Two huge outlet malls sit side-by-side, offering a stunning variety of stores. Tanger Outlets is a bargain hunter's



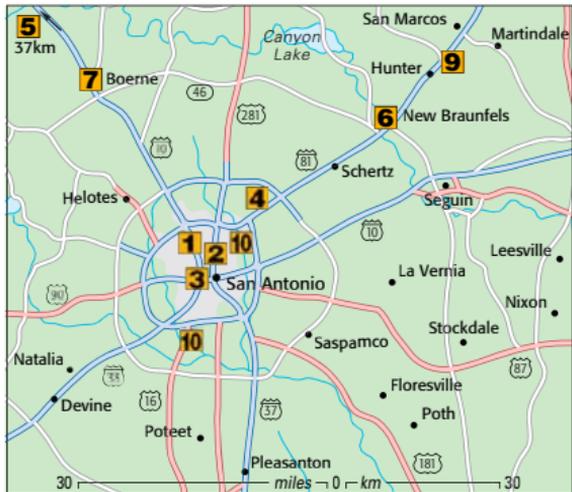
Huge cowboy boots, North Star Mall

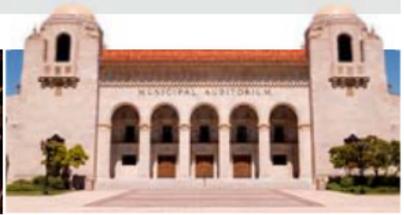
delight, with 100 brand-name stores, including Banana Republic Factory. Prime Outlets has 140 stores, with Calvin Klein and Hugo Boss factory outlets.

📍 *Tanger Outlets: Map B2; I-35, Exit 200 at Centerpoint Rd; 512-396-7446; open 9am-9pm Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun* • *Prime Outlets: Map B2; I-35, Exit 200 at Centerpoint Rd; 512-396-2200; open 10 am-9pm Mon-Sat*

10 Flea Markets

The Flea Mart is a weekend family affair, offering live music, home-made food, clothing, produce, and crafts. Eisenhower Road Flea Market is the largest indoor market, with furniture, jewelry, antiques, and much more. Bussey's (see p78) offers weekend shopping for almost anything imaginable. 📍 *Flea Mart: Map A2; 12280 Hwy 16 South, 210-624-2666; open Sat & Sun* • *Eisenhower Road Flea Market: Map H4; 3903 Eisenhower Road; 210-653-7592; open Wed-Sun*





Left Arneson River Theatre Center Performance, Arneson River Theatre Right Municipal Auditorium

TOP 10 Performing Arts Venues

1 Arneson River Theatre
 This charming open-air theater is located in La Villita. The San Antonio River and the River Walk pass through the theater, separating the stage from the casual seating for 1,000 viewers on the opposite bank (see p8).

2 Carver Community Cultural Center
 This cultural venue offers a stellar line-up of international performers. Since 1929, the center has hosted stars such as Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie. Recent artists include the Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa and premiere jazz vocalist, Diane Schuur. **Map G5 • 215 N Hackberry • 210-207-7211 • www.thecarver.org**

3 Charline McCombs Empire Theatre
 Since 1914 the Empire has hosted live events, including Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, and silent movies starring Lon Chaney and

Charlie Chaplin. It re-opened in 1998 to former glory. **Map M3 • 226 N St. Mary's St • 210-226-5700 • www.majesticempire.com**

4 Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center
 The Guadalupe Theater offers exciting performances, including plays by Grupo Animo. The center sponsors Latino cultural events and performances by visiting and local directors. It also hosts the annual San Antonio Cine Festival and the Tejano Conjunto Festival. **Map F4 • 1300 Guadalupe • 210-271-3151 • www.guadalupe.org**

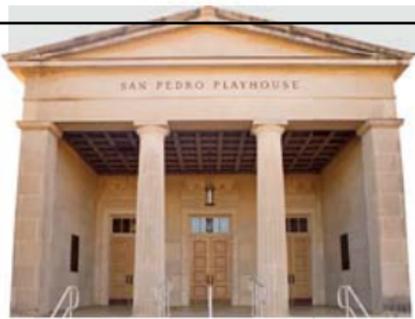
5 Lila Cockrell Theatre
 Part of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Complex, this expansive theater seats 2,500 people on three levels with clear views of the huge stage used for ballet, symphony, and drama events. The theater is comfortable with plush seats and wide spaces between the rows. **Map N4 • 200 E Market St • 210-207-8500**



Arneson River Theatre

6 Majestic Theatre
 One of the most ornate theaters in the US, the Majestic is a fantasy village of towers, stained-glass windows, and a starlit night sky. Renovated in 1989, it is now home to the San Antonio Symphony and traveling Broadway shows. **Map M3 • 226 E Houston St • 210-226-3333 • www.majesticempire.com**





San Pedro Playhouse

7 McAllister Auditorium
This large, multi-level, auditorium-style venue, which seats 1,000, is located on the San Antonio College campus and presents community and college theatrical performances. It also holds an annual fall event. *Map G4*
• 1300 San Pedro • 210-733-2000

8 Municipal Auditorium
Built in 1926 as a memorial to World War I veterans, this large historic building was renovated in the 1980s. The Lyric Opera of San Antonio offers a full season of comedy and famous operas, performed by well-known singers. *Map N3* • 100 Auditorium Circle • 210 207-8500 • www.sanantonio.gov

9 San Pedro Playhouse
The award-winning playhouse has been entertaining San Antonio since 1930. It is the longest running community theater in the US. Recent productions have included *Damm Yankees* and *Cabaret*. Parking is free, and tickets are affordable. *Map G4*
• 800 West Ashby Pl, San Pedro Park at Ashby • 210-733-7258

10 Verizon Wireless Amphitheater
San Antonio's major new concert amphitheater attracts top-billed music acts. There are over 8,000 reserved seats under an open pavilion-style roof, with another 12,000 on the grass slope. *Map J2* • 16765 Lookout Rd, Selma
• 210-657-8300 • www.vwatx.com

Top 10 Movies in San Antonio

1 The Alamo, 1959, 2004
Both were filmed in Texas, but not at the Alamo. John Wayne's 1959 version was much more popular.

2 Miss Congeniality, 2000
A beauty pageant in front of the Alamo with contestant, FBI Agent Sandra Bullock.

3 All The Pretty Horses, 1999
Cowboy Matt Damon woos Penelope Cruz at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

4 The Newton Boys, 1997
Bank robbers Ethan Hawke, Charles Gunning, and Matthew McConaughey make their getaway in a car parked by the St. Anthony Hotel on E. Travis.

5 Pee Wee's Big Adventure, 1985
Paul Reubens as Pee Wee Herman heads to San Antonio to find his bicycle.

6 Cloak and Dagger, 1983
Eleven-year-old Henry Thomas of ET fame finds himself pursued along the River Walk.

7 The Big Brawl, 1980
Jackie Chan shows off his martial arts on stage at the Sunken Garden Theater.

8 Sugarland Express, 1973
Steven Spielberg's first feature film gave San Antonio a minor role.

9 The Getaway, 1972
Steve McQueen drifts down the San Antonio River in this heist film.

10 Wings, 1927
Filmed at Camp Stanley and Kelly Field, it won the first Oscar for best picture.





Left **Feeding dolphins at SeaWorld** Right **Wildbeest at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch**

TOP 10 Children's Attractions

1 SeaWorld San Antonio
Enraptured kids feed dolphins, seals, and lories, and press their faces against the glass tanks to watch whales and dolphins. There is also a huge playground with child-sized rides at Shamu's Happy Harbor, the Banana Cabana Theater, and a shallow lagoon to splash in (see pp26–27).



Believe! show at SeaWorld

2 Six Flags Fiesta Texas
Kids love meeting costumed Bugs Bunny and Looney Tunes characters, and watching them perform. But even better is getting wet at Splashwater Springs! which has shallow lagoons, palm trees that squirt water, and small water slides that look like whales, frogs, and turtles (see pp76–77).

3 Schlitterbahn Water Park
Exploring Hansel & Gretel's Great Forest, kids find a water playground version of the classic German tale with a gingerbread house and trees with mini-slides for toddlers. America's favorite summer waterpark offers six water play areas for young kids.

Children slide through the slow curves of the Cliffhanger Tube Chute and shriek with delight as they experience the thrilling final drop (see p82).

4 Natural Bridge Caverns
Children love the whimsical cavern names, including the 350-ft (108-m) long Hall Of The Mountain King and the stalagmite-filled Sherwood Forest. Parents appreciate the wide, well-lit walkways on this tour. Above ground, they pan for bits of opal, amethyst, and other gems in the sluiceways of the Natural Bridge Mining Company, and for a fee get to keep the stones they find (see p46).

5 Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

Feed animals, including ostriches, zebras, and llamas through the car windows and see many animals up-close. Come early in the day when there are fewer visitors and the animals will stay longer at your car, as they quickly move on to the newest car that comes along. There is also a petting zoo with small animals (see p46).



Panning for gems, Natural Bridge Caverns



6 Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston

This giant petting zoo and park is a favorite place for families to relax beneath the famous clock tower at the US Army's Fort Sam Houston. Kids play joyfully in this park-like expanse inside the stone-walled fortress, and so do the deer, ducks, rabbits, and other small animals that roam freely (see p75).

7 Witte Museum

Experiment with hand-cranked gates and water-wheels to learn how to control the flow of water in a river, or climb into the HEB Science Treehouse to learn about science firsthand. There is a separate nook for the youngest children to play at their own level. Inside the museum are early Texan dinosaur, Egyptian Mummy, and other exhibits (see p76).

8 Magik Children's Theatre

This outstanding repertory theater group produces performances especially for children and families, with 7 to 10 shows each year. Original plays as well as



Merry-go-round ride, Kiddie Park

adaptations are performed. Map N5 • 420 S Alamo at Beethoven Hall in HemisFair Park • 210-227-2751 • www.magiktheatre.org

9 Kiddie Park

Young children laugh with delight on these 1920s-style original amusement park rides. The musical calliope trills as the 1918 antique merry-go-round spins, and the Little Dipper rollercoaster roars up and down the track. Cotton candy, popcorn, and hot dogs are aplenty (see p33).

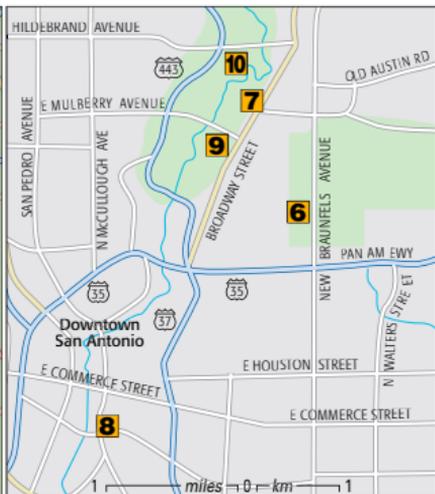
10 San Antonio Zoo

Kids are delighted as they uncover earthworms, brush a goat, or dig up carrots to feed to a guinea pig. Kronkosky's Tiny Tot Nature Spot is designed to educate and entertain children under

five. Older children love the nearby play area where they can run, climb, and explore nature up-close (see pp32–35).



Father and Child sculpture at Witte Museum





Left Sausage platter, typical of German food Center Tacos Right Chili con carne

TOP 10 Texas Style Cuisine

1 Tex-Mex
Extremely popular, the cultural blending of southern Texan and northern Mexican foods is known as Tex-Mex. Tex-Mex dishes are mildly spiced and usually contain a combination of meat and cheddar or Monterrey Jack cheese. The Mexican version, on the other hand, often features goat cheese.

2 Taco
A Tex-Mex sandwich, tacos are served both as a snack and as a main dish. Usually made with fried or soft corn tortillas folded over, tacos contain a beef or chicken filling. Additions may include shredded lettuce, *pico de gallo* (hot salsa), cheese, sour cream, and sometimes guacamole.

3 Tamale
Especially popular during Christmas and New Year, tamales are made from a moist corn dough called *masa* wrapped around a seasoned filling, which is usually shredded pork. Washed corn husks, that need to



Chipotle sauce

be removed before eating, are wrapped around the outside, forming the tamale which is then steamed.

4 Chili
San Antonio claims to be the inventor of the state dish of Texas. Chili was once sold in Military Plaza by the legendary Chili Queens (see p38). Traditionally, chili is a spicy stew with equal amounts of beef and peppers, and is known locally as a "Bowl of Red". It is sometimes called chili con carne, meaning chili with meat. Traditional chili has no beans.

5 Enchilada
Corn or flour tortillas are wrapped around a filling of beef, chicken, cheese, or shrimp, and are served hot, smothered with a spicy-hot chili or mild gravy sauce. Enchiladas are often served with sour cream or guacamole. When ordered as a platter, they are usually accompanied by beans and rice.

6 Fajita
Fajitas are traditionally made with beef skirt steak, a very flavorsome cut of beef. Grilled strips of steak are generally served sizzling hot on a metal platter with flour tortillas, grilled onions and peppers, and condiments such as *pico de gallo*, sour cream, and cheese.



Enchiladas





Barbeque

7 Steaks

The top choice of steak in San Antonio is the Texan sirloin. An aged steak cooked with salt and pepper and other seasonings is a favourite. Chicken-fried steak is also popular.

8 Barbeque

Often spelled Bar-B-Que, or just B-B-Q, a good barbeque place will have stacks of oak, hickory, or mesquite wood to smoke-cook the meat. Sliced beef brisket is the traditional B-B-Q fare, but sausage, pork-ribs, and chicken are also available.

9 German Food

The German influence is evident in the cuisine in San Antonio. Sausage, *sauerkraut*, and potato salad are favorites. Sausage, or *wurst*, is as popular as Tex-Mex food at any local festival. New Braunfels holds an annual Wurstfest (see p65).

10 Beer and Wine

Breweries were established in San Antonio in the mid-1800s by German immigrants. Shiner Beer, a local favorite, is still brewed at the Spoetzl Brewery in nearby Shiner. Several former Texan Hill Country ranches grow French and German grape varieties, producing fine wines with labels such as Fall Creek and Slaughter-Leftwich Vineyards.



Texan wine

Top 10 Texan Restaurants

1 Mi Tierra Café & Bakery

Great Tex-Mex food and bakery. Map K4 • 218 Produce Row • 210-225-1262 • \$\$

2 Panchito's

Known for its big breakfast tacos. Map G4 • 4118 McCullough • 210-821-5338 • \$

3 Casa Rio

Order the excellent Regular Plate. Map N4 • 430 Commerce St • 210-225-6718 • \$\$

4 Aldaco's

Great for authentic Mexican cuisine and Tex-Mex food. Map Q5 • 100 Hoefgen St • 210-222-0561 • \$\$

5 Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

Popular barbeque brisket and chicken. Map L5 • 430 S Santa Rosa • 210-302-1510 • \$

6 Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q

Meats are rubbed with spices and slow-cooked over oak. Map D4 • 10623 Westover Hills Blvd • 210-520-5552 • \$

7 Texas Land & Cattle Steakhouse

Known for its pepper-smoked steak. Map M4 • 201 N St. Mary's St • 210-222-2263 • \$\$\$\$

8 Bohanan's

Some of the best steaks and seafood in San Antonio. Map M3 • 219 E Houston St #275 • 210-472-2600 • \$\$\$\$

9 Little Rhein Steakhouse

Elegant dining on terraces overlooking the river. Map N4 • 231 S. Alamo • 210-225-2111 • \$\$\$\$

10 Schilo's

This exceptional deli serves hearty German food. Map N4 • 424 E Commerce St • 210-223-5338 • \$\$





Zuni Grill

TOP 10 Restaurants**1 Las Canarias Restaurant**

Tall palm trees, soft music, and three dining levels that tier down to the river make Las Canarias one of the most romantic restaurants on the River Walk. ☎ *Map M4* • 112 College St • 210-518-1063 • www.lamansion.com • \$\$\$

2 Le Rêve

This award-winning restaurant serves modern French cuisine prepared with the best seasonal foods from around the world. Dinner is served at a leisurely pace, as all meals are freshly prepared. ☎ *Map M3* • 152 E Pecan St • 210-212-2221 • Open Tue–Sat • www.restaurantlereve.com • \$\$\$\$\$

3 Bistro Vatel

The freshest of ingredients are presented in classic French style here. Choose the three course prix-fixe menu, or select individual dishes. The wine list and the desserts are fabulous. ☎ *Map G4* • 218 E Olmos • 210-828-3141 • Open Tue–Sat • www.bistrovotel.com • \$\$\$



Acenar Restaurant



Azúca sign

4 Acenar

Trendy Acenar adds a Southwest-style zest to Tex-Mex dishes with creatively named entrées such as *enchiladas de mole* or *tinga duck chalupas*. The decor is ultra-modern and the colors bright. ☎ *Map M3* • 146 E Houston at S St. Mary's • 210-222-2362 • Open Mon–Sat • \$\$\$\$\$

5 Azúca

This restaurant is exuberant and passionate. The Nuevo Latino cuisine uses Latin American ingredients to create unique dishes. Elaborate blown glass sculptures, a full bar, Latin wine list, and live music enhance the experience. ☎ *Map G5* • 713 S Alamo • 210-225-5550 • Open Mon–Sat • www.azuca.net • \$\$

6 Zuni Grill

Located at a picturesque bend in the river under tall cypress trees, this eatery serves cuisine more reminiscent of Santa Fe than Texas, with spicy entrées such as scorpion shrimp-stuffed red chilies. The famous cactus margaritas are refreshing. ☎ *Map G5* • 223 Losoya • 210-227-0864 • www.zunigrill.com • \$\$\$\$

7 Silo

Excellent New American-style cuisine, great service, and lovely decor define Silo. Entrées include braised Chilean sea bass on crab saffron risotto, and grilled





Dessert at Silo

Black Angus tenderloin with blue cheese mashed potatoes. Map G4 • 1133 Austin Hwy at Mt Calvary • 210-824-8686 • Open Mon–Sat • www.siloelevatedcuisine.com • \$\$\$\$

8 **Ciao Lavanderia**
This affordable and superb Italian restaurant offers a winning combination of funky decor as well as great food. Entrées range from angel hair pasta topped with a tomato basil sauce, to veal shank with pasta. Map G4 • 226 E Olmos Dr • 210-822-3990 • www.ciaolavanderia.com • \$\$

9 **Francesca's at Sunset**
Luxury dining and great views over the golf course to the Hill Country beyond, set a romantic tone. The menu is inspired by Mark Miller's Santa Fe Coyote Café and features Texan-style Southwestern cuisine. Map D3 • Westin La Cantera, 16641 La Cantera Pkwy • 210-558-6500 • Open Tue–Sat, reservations recommended • \$\$\$\$ • www.westinlacantera.com

10 **La Fonda on Main**
This charming restaurant with a delightful Mexican ranch-style patio, offers huge Tex-Mex platters. Traditional Mexican cuisine is served and includes entrées like Pescado Veracruzana (fresh Gulf fish fillet sautéed in Veracruz sauce). Map G4 • 2415 N Main at Woodlawn • 210-733-0621 • www.weddingssanantonio.com/sites/lafondaonmain • \$\$

Top 10 Cafés, Delis, and Diners

1 **Schilo's**
Favored since 1917, this German deli has great split-pea soup and root beer (see p55).

2 **Gunter Bakery**
Sandwiches, club-style or in combos Map N3 • 205 E Houston St • 210-224-0763 • \$

3 **Twin Sisters**
This café offers fresh, vegetarian entrées. Map N3 • 124 Broadway • 210-822-2265 • Open Mon–Fri • \$

4 **Sip Coffee & Espresso Bar**
This cafe serves fresh panini sandwiches, salads, and soups. Map N3 • 160 E Houston St • 210-222-0149 • \$

5 **Madhatters**
An eclectic menu that includes vegetarian dishes as well as eggs Benedict. Map M6 • 320 Beauregard St • 210-212-4832 • \$\$

6 **Guenther House Restaurant**
Features freshly baked breads and pastries (see p24).

7 **Joseph's Storehouse & Bakery**
Offers creative sandwiches, and delicious entrées. Map G4 • 3420 N St. Mary's • 210-737-3430 • \$\$

8 **Earl Abel's**
This favorite since 1931 serves Texan comfort food all day long. Map G4 • 4210 Broadway • 210-822-3358 • \$

9 **Buckhorn Saloon**
Once a saloon, now a café with a Wild West feel and Texan food (see p40).

10 **Carriage House Kitchen**
Fresh quiches and amazing desserts. Map G4 • 555 Funston • 210-821-6447 • \$



Left Live jazz performance at the Landing Right Rivercenter Comedy Club signage

TOP 10 Nightlife



Casbeer's wall decorations

1 Casbeer's

A favorite since the 1930s, this bar and restaurant has outstanding music that ranges from rock, to bluegrass, to country, and folk. One Sunday a month features a Gospel Brunch with buffet and gospel music.

📍 Map F4 • 1719 Blanco Rd • 210-732-3511 • Open Tue–Sat

2 Kingston Tycoon Flats

Live entertainment five nights a week, with the sounds of jazz, the beat of reggae, or lively guitar and drum wars. The food is good, the atmosphere is fun, and there is also a full bar.

📍 Map G4 • 2926 N St. Mary's St • 210-731-9838 • Open Tue–Sat

3 Gruene Hall

Since 1868 this dance hall has vibrated with the sounds of the great names in country and Western music. This is the place to visit for good music and beer in an old-time atmosphere.

Gospel music and a buffet is held on the second Sunday of the month (see p81).

4 Floore Country Store

Legendary country stars who have performed here include Willie Nelson, Hank Williams, and Ernest Tubbs. This is one of the last of the Texan honky-tonks, with autographed photos, and Western memorabilia. The barbeque is great, and the stage and dance floor are outdoors.

📍 Map D3 • 14492 Old Bandera Rd, Helotes • 210-695-8827

5 White Rabbit

With a crystal-clear sound system turned up loud, this club attracts a mixture of performers, from hard rock acts to alternative bands. Come early as the place fills up quickly at weekends and when a national act is on stage.

📍 Map G4 • 2410 N St. Mary's St • 210-737-2221 • Open Thu–Sat

6 The Landing

Presenting live classical jazz, this renowned club on the River Walk is where the famed Jim Cullum Band improvise in the style reminiscent of pre-WWII jazz ensembles. The evening air is filled with the sounds of period instruments playing jazz (see p8).



Old-world charm of Gruene Hall





Sign, Mad Dogs British Pub

7 Mad Dogs British Pub
Fun rules at this pub with Hong Kong origins. There is live entertainment, with Monday night football and an occasional karaoke night thrown in. The staff wear kilts and the food is good. *Map N4 • 123-19 Losoya St • 210-222-0220*

8 Polly Esther's
Music from the 1970s through the 1990s plays at this popular club. Disco fans celebrate the sounds of Tony Manero. The Culture Club has 80s music, and the "Purple Rain" dance floor is a must-try. At sleek, pulsating Club Expo the sounds run from rap to hip-hop to salsa. *Map N4 • 212 College St • 210-220-1972*

9 Rivercenter Comedy Club
Laughter prevails at this live comedy club. Big-name stand-up acts are frequent, such as Chris Rock and Dennis Miller. The local Oxymorons Improvisational Troupe is hilarious, and the late Saturday night show is targeted at adults. *Map P4 • 849 E Commerce St, Rivercenter Mall • 210-229-1420 • Shows 8:30pm Sun–Thu; 8:30 & 10:45pm Fri; 7:30, 9:45pm, & midnight (adults only)*

10 Salute
This club is a favorite, and the bands play everything from blues, and tejano, to conjunto and jazz with a Latin flair. The clientele is as eclectic as the music, and Thursday nights are popular. *Map G4 • 2801 N St. Mary's St • 210-732-5307 • Open 8pm–2am Wed–Sat*

Top 10 Bars

1 Atomar Bar & Lounge
Chic bar scene with a DJ spinning international music on weekends. *Map G5 • 146 E Houston St • 210-222-2362*

2 Azúca
Latin cocktails and live weekend entertainment, from tangos to Latin bands (see p56).

3 Blue Star Brewing Company
This pub serves award-winning lagers and organic steak. *Map G5 • 1414 S Alamo St • 210-212-5506 • Open 11–12am Mon–Thu, 11–1am Fri–Sat*

4 Cadillac Bar & Restaurant
Attracts lawyers on weekdays but on weekends singles liven the atmosphere. *Map L4 • 212 S Flores St • 210-223-5533*

5 Dirty Nellie's Irish Pub
This pub is a popular River Walk gathering place. *Map N4 • 200 S Alamo at the Hilton Palacio del Rio • 210-222-1400*

6 Howl at the Moon
Famous for the piano sing-along. *Map N4 • 111 W Crockett St • 210-212-4695*

7 Liberty Bar
A friendly restaurant and bar serving Texan and Mexican food. *Map G5 • 328 E Josephine St • 210-227-1187*

8 The Menger Bar
Historic bar where Teddy Roosevelt recruited men for the Rough Riders (see p38).

9 Swig
Sophisticated spot serving fantastic martinis and wine. *Map N4 • 111 W Crockett St • 210-476-0005*

10 Zinc Champagne & Wine Bar
The wine list here is extensive and menu creative. *Map N4 • 209 N Presa St • 210-224-2900*



Left **Golfing greens** Right **Barton Springs, one of the many swimming pools in the area****TOP 10 Outdoor Activities****1 Cycling**

The best biking routes are along the river on the Missions Trail (see p15), and in urban parks such as Brackenridge Park (see pp32–33). The San Antonio Wheelmen offers weekend rides into the Texan Hill Country.

📞 www.sawheelmen.com

2 Golfing

Most of the three-dozen golf courses in San Antonio are open to the public. Choices include Brackenridge and the Quarry Golf Club, with shots across limestone chasms.

Contact the city's Visitors Center for information. 📞 800-447-3372

• www.sanantoniovisit.com

3 Fishing

Fishing spots are near the city, such as Calaveras Lake southeast of town, Canyon Lake north of New Braunfels, and Medina Lake south of Bandera. For surf-fishing, head to Padre Island National Seashore (see p47). Fishing licenses are required for all non-residents.

📞 www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish

**Surf-fishing, South Padre Island Beach****Cycling in San Antonio****4 Swimming**

Most hotels have pools, but you can also go to the Parks and Recreation Department pools in summer. For year-round swimming there is the Palo Alto College Natatorium. 📞 Prks & Recreation Dept: Map G4; 210-207-7275 • Palo Alto College Natatorium: Map A2; 210-921-5234

5 River Sports

Tubing on a Hill Country river on a summer's day is a great pastime. From Guadalupe River State Park, go down the river as it winds under limestone bluffs, or head to Garner State Park and tube beneath the cypress trees bordering the River Frio. 📞 Guadalupe River S Park: Map A2; 830-438-2656 • Garner S Park: Map A2; 830-232-6132

6 Hiking

Hiking is a favorite pastime in the hills northwest of the city. Friedrich Wilderness Park is close to town, while the hike to the granite rock at the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area offers panoramic views (see p82).



7 Tennis

One of the best public tennis facilities in the US, McFarlin Tennis Center, is in San Pedro Park. Reservations are required. The Parks and Recreation Department also manages 140 courts throughout the city.

📍 *Map G5 • McFarlin Tennis Center, 1503 San Pedro Avenue • 210-732-1223*

8 Hockey

The official practice facility for the Rampage, San Antonio's American Hockey League team, is open to the public. Northwoods Ice Center has two ice-sheets, a pro-shop, and restaurant. 📍 *Map G2 • Northwoods Ice Center • www.northwoodsice.net*



Bird-watching

9 Bird-Watching

The San Antonio Audubon Society lists 25 birding spots on their website, including Friedrich Wilderness Park and Brackenridge Park. The Texas Coastal Birding Trail was the nation's first, and tour maps link over 300 birding sites. 📍 *www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_trails/coastal*

10 Water Parks

San Antonians love to get wet, and with four huge water parks nearby, this is easy. At SeaWorld, whales drench you with a flick of a tail, while Six Flags Fiesta offers a Texas shaped pool. Splashtown and Schlitterbahn have many exhilarating slides.

Top 10 Spectator Sports

1 Auto Racing

October through March at the San Antonio Speedway. 📍 *Map A3 • 210-628-1499*

2 Baseball

Minor league San Antonio Missions play from April to September. 📍 *Map E5 • Nelson Wolff Stadium • 210-675-7275*

3 Basketball

The San Antonio Spurs play at the AT&T Center, October through May. 📍 *Map Q5 • 210-444-5819*

4 Collegiate Sports

Four colleges have championship teams such as soccer, baseball, and tennis.

5 Golf Tournaments

The Valero Texas Open at La Cantera and the SBC Championship at Oak Hills. 📍 *La Cantera Golf Club: Map E3; 201-345-3818 • Oak Hills Country Club: Map E3; 210-698-3582*

6 Greyhound Racing

Live dog races are held at the Corpus Christi Race Track. 📍 *Map C4 • 361-289-9333*

7 Horse Racing

Live horse racing at Retama Park from late April through early November. 📍 *Map J2 • 210-651-7000*

8 Ice Hockey

The San Antonio Rampage plays at the AT&T Center from October to April.

9 Rodeo

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo (*see p64*) is a highlight, and rodeos are held near Bandera throughout the year (*see p81*).

10 Running/Marathons

Each fall, runners from around the world attend the YMCA sponsored marathon. 📍 *www.samarathon.org*





Left **Main lodge at Y.O. Ranch** Center **Institute of Texan Cultures** Right **Festive Market Square**

TOP 10 Cultural Experiences

1 Y. O. Ranch
 This working ranch in the charming Hill Country with cowboys, longhorn cattle, and exotic animals offers a variety of activities. Take a horseback ride across the range or go on a guided tour of some exotic animals! There is also a traditional chuck wagon dinner with cowboys, and a three-day cattle drive. 📍 *Map A1 • Y. O. Ranch, Mountain Home, NW of Kerrville • 830-640-3222 • Reservations required • www.yoranch.com*



Cowboy

4 Market Square
 El Mercado is a great place to experience the joyful and romantic Hispanic culture. Serenading mariachis, folk dancing, and the bold hues of Mexican goods create a lively festive atmosphere. Sample some of the 50 varieties of Mexican baked goods at *Mi Terra Café & Bakery (see p55)*, or stop in and see the latest exhibit at the Smithsonian affiliated *Museo Americano (see p40)*.

2 Gruene Hall
 The oldest operating dance hall in Texas remains a popular cultural venue, as it was in the 1880s, when the German settlers came here for entertainment. Singing legends *George Strait*, *Lyle Lovett*, and *Jerry Jeff Walker* began their careers at Gruene Hall. Other country and Western stars who have played here include *The Dixie Chicks*, *Garth Brooks*, and *Jerry Lee Lewis (see p81)*.

3 Rodeo
 Rodeos recreate the Wild West, with cowboys riding horses and bulls, calf-roping, bull-riding, and fancy rope work. *Bandera*, "The Cowboy Capital of the World," has cowboys that ride in rodeos twice a week from late May to Labor Day weekend. The annual rodeo draws national-level competitors and spectators every February (see p81).

5 Mariachi Mass at Mission San José
 This uplifting Catholic Mass is led by the Franciscan priests of Mission San José. Long lines of visitors join the local congregation, many of whose families helped build the church, at the noon Mass every Sunday. This beautiful service is in English with an excellent Spanish choir and is accompanied by a fun mariachi band. Come early as seating is limited (see p14-17).



Annual Stock Show & Rodeo event





Live entertainment, Six Flags Fiesta

6 Six Flags Fiesta Texas

This water park has many cultural aspects. Themed areas include a German town, a Hispanic village, and a Western town. Several times a day the gala show, Teatro Fiesta, presents performances with costumed dancers and joyful mariachi music. And best of all is the Lone Star Spectacular, the laser and fireworks extravaganza named the Best Outdoor Night Show by *Amusement Today* magazine (see p76).

7 Museum of Western Art Kerrville

Rotating exhibits present the cowboys, Native Americans, settlers, and mountain men who created the legends of the exciting era when the West was tamed. The adventures of the Wild West are represented through the artworks created by the nation's premier living artists (see p41).

8 Biergarten Fredericksburg

A Biergarten is the place to go for beer with some Hill Country musical entertainment. Try local beers or indulge in German and European imports. Food is served too, but dishes with German names, often have a big Texan twist.

📍 Map A1 • *Ausländer Restaurant and Biergarten*: 323 E Main, Fredericksburg • 830-997-7714 • www.theauslander.com

9 Naegelin's Bakery

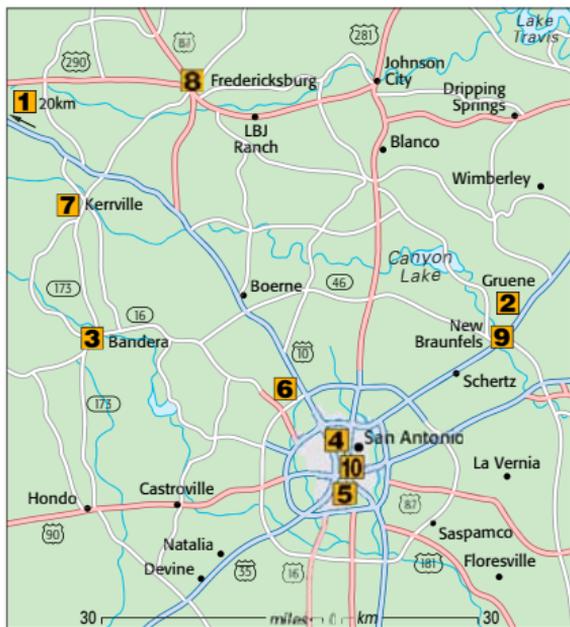
The oldest operating bakery in Texas sells fabulous German and Czech baked goods such as bear claws, cream puffs, and kolaches filled with cheese, fruit, or poppy seeds. 📍 Map B2 • 29 S Sequin Ave, New Braunfels • 830-625-5722

10 Institute of Texan Cultures

This museum offers a fascinating presentation of the 26 ethnic groups that form Texas through historic exhibits and artifacts. Discover the unique Tejano culture formed by generations of Mexican and Spanish descendants living in Texas (see p40).



Texas flag, Institute of Texan Cultures





Left Scenes from Dyeing O' The River Green Right Fiesta San Antonio

TOP 10 Festivals and Events



San Antonio Rodeo

1 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

More than a thousand cowboys and cowgirls entertain crowds for 16 days each February, at one of the largest indoor rodeos in the US. Professionals compete in bronc and bull-riding, calf-roping, and steer-wrestling events.

🌐 www.sarodeo.com

2 Dyeing O' The River Green

The river runs green with dye and is renamed the River Shannon during the annual St. Patrick's day festivities along the River Walk in March. Two parades, one through the downtown streets, and the other floating on the river, feature Irish music (*see pp8-9*).

3 Fiesta San Antonio

San Antonio's oldest and largest festival held each April, honors the memory of the heroes of the Alamo, and celebrates the city's

multicultural heritage. Over 100 events are held including the historic Battle of Flowers Pageant, and the Fiesta Flambeau, one of the country's largest night parades.

🌐 www.fiesta-sa.org

4 Tejano Conjunto Festival

Live performances at Rosedale Park feature bands playing conjunto, the unique Texan style of music combining German accordion with Mexican rhythms. Held annually in May, performers have included Flaco Jimenez, Esteban Jordan, and the Garcia Brothers. 🌐 *Map F5*

5 Return of the Chili Queens

In May, Market Square steps back in time to the days when young women arrived in Military Plaza (*see p38*) to sell chili bowls to passers-by. Every Memorial Day weekend there is mariachi music, and a chili cook-off (*see p70*).

6 Kerrville Folk Festival

Held between late May and early June, this folk music festival gathers hundreds of bands and songwriters for an 18-day extravaganza. Notables such as Guy Clark and the Limelickers have performed here.

🌐 *Map A2 • Quiet Valley Ranch, 9 miles S of Kerrville on Hwy 16 • 830-257-3600 • www.kerrville-music.com*



Local in festive attire





Dance and music celebrations

7 Texas Folklife Festival
A fabulous four-day fiesta of music, dance, and food from more than 40 ethnic groups is held at the Institute of Texan Cultures during the second weekend of June. Performances range from story-telling and hula, Czech, and Mexican dances, to the Cowboy Sunset Serenade with poetry and stories. Map P5
• www.texasfolklifefestival.com

8 Oktoberfest
A three-day celebration of Texan-German heritage with lots of music and fast-paced polka and waltz contests. Delicious German and Tex-Mex foods are available, with local wines as well as 30 varieties of domestic and imported beer. Map A1
• Marktplatz, Fredericksburg • 830-997-4810 • Adm • www.oktoberfestinfbg.com

9 Cine Festival
The largest and oldest Latino film festival in the US, showing cutting-edge films by Latinos. The Latino experience is held at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in November (see p50).

10 Wurstfest
More than 50,000 lbs (22,000 kg) of sausages are consumed to celebrate German heritage in November. Events include an Old Time Melodrama and Wurstfest Regatta on Canyon Lake. Map B2 • Wurstfest Grounds in Landa Park, New Braunfels • www.wurstfest.com

Top 10 Christmas Events

1 Ford Holiday River Parade and Lighting Ceremony

Thousands of colored lights hang over the River Walk.

Map M4 • 210-227-4262

2 Fiestas Navideñas
The annual Blessing of the Animals by a San José priest, at Market Square. Map K4

3 Las Posadas
Actors playing Mary and Joseph search for shelter in a procession from Milam Park to the Cathedral. Map K3

4 Fiesta de Las Luminarias
For nine nights in December 7,000 luminarias light up the River Walk in a 40-year-old Mexican tradition. Map M4

5 Holiday Boat Caroling
Evenings along the River Walk are filled with the sounds of carols. Map M4

6 Holiday River of Lights
A drive to see amazing light displays through Cypress Bend Park. Map B2 • Cypress Bend Park, New Braunfels

7 Special Events
Museums and theaters host special Christmas events.

8 Texas Hill Country Regional Christmas Lighting Trail
Spectacular lighting displays in Hill Country communities, including New Braunfels.

9 Christmas Along the Corridor
The annual Pony Express Ride along the river to deliver a Christmas message.

10 Los Pastores
The Mexican folk play at Mission San José shows the shepherds' journey to find the Christ Child. Map G6



There is an admission charge for some of the events, while others are free.



LAST



IMPRES



USING
LE





AROUND TOWN

Downtown San Antonio
68-73

Beyond Downtown
San Antonio
74-79

Hill Country
80-87

Austin
90-95

South of San Antonio
96-101

SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN'S TOP 10



Left River cruise at the River Walk Right Gallery, San Antonio Museum of Art

Downtown San Antonio

THE HEART AND SOUL OF SAN ANTONIO is centered in the historic downtown area. The city began with the building of the first Spanish mission on the banks of the San Antonio River. That mission, now known as the Alamo, stands today as a legendary memorial to liberty. The modern downtown area is encircled by freeways, and within this boundary lies the crown jewel of San Antonio, El Paseo del Rio, the River Walk. This festive, bustling walkway along the river boasts many of the city's finest restaurants, cafés, clubs, and hotels. Surrounding the Alamo and the River Walk is a vibrant, multicultural city with a fascinating history and abundant historic sites.

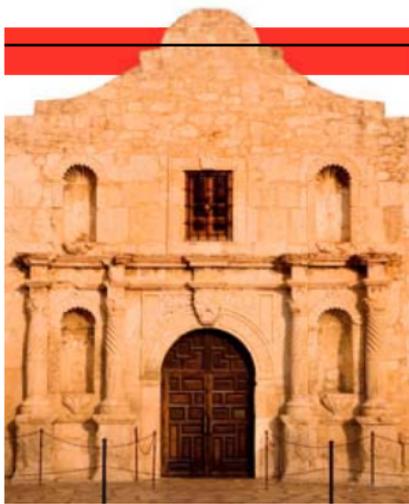


Skyline, San Antonio

Market Square, the exquisite Governor's Palace, and San Fernando Cathedral date from the Spanish era. The King William Historic District and St. Joseph's Church are reminders of the waves of German and European settlers who arrived in the 1800s. And then there are the legends of cattle drives and cowboys, found at the Buckhorn Saloon and Menger Hotel.

- TOP 10 Sights**
- 1 The Alamo
 - 2 River Walk
 - 3 La Villita National Historic District
 - 4 HemisFair Park
 - 5 San Fernando Cathedral
 - 6 Spanish Governor's Palace
 - 7 Market Square
 - 8 San Antonio Museum of Art
 - 9 Majestic Theatre
 - 10 Aztec On The River





Chapel façade, the Alamo

1 The Alamo

The Alamo is the most visited historic site in Texas, maintained as the Shrine of Texas Liberty in honor of the men who fought here against incredible odds during the 1836 Texas Revolution. Although millions visit each year, the Alamo has a quiet, chapel-like atmosphere. The chapel was built in 1744, part of the mission established by the Spanish along the San Antonio River in 1718. By the mid-1700s, the mission had become a thriving community with farmlands, a cattle ranch, and a granary (see pp10–13).

2 River Walk

The fascinating River Walk attracts far more visitors each year than any other place in San Antonio. The atmosphere here is strikingly different from the rest of the downtown area. A popular way to experience the River Walk is by dining at the waters' edge and listening to the sounds of jazz and mariachi music at night. The most informative is to take a river cruise to see attractions that include the tall Torch of Friendship and the Tower of the Americas. A lovely walk takes in the length of the pathway, through the vibrant restaurant area and the quiet green spaces (see pp8–9).

3 La Villita National Historic District

The Little Village, La Villita, sits above the San Antonio River and became a popular place to live following the flood of 1819, which destroyed many homes in the low-lying land near the plaza. By 1880, German and French immigrants had converted this former military area into a village whose cultural mix is reflected in the variety of architectural styles found here. Today, this village offers brightly colored craft shops, art galleries, and some of the best dining in San Antonio (see pp22–23).

4 HemisFair Park

HemisFair Park is an urban oasis with fountains, shady walkways, and a children's playground. The Institute of Texan Cultures (see p40) presents the fascinating peoples and cultures of Texas in 26 exhibits, one for each of the ethnic groups that settled in Texas. A special exhibit, Footprints and Imprints, showcases famous Texans by displaying a pair of their boots. 📍 Map N5 • Bounded by Alamo, Bowie, Market, and Durango Streets • 210-223-3101



Tower of the Americas, HemisFair Park

Torch of Friendship

Fifty tons of gracefully curving modernistic red steel dominate the skyline and capture the eye in downtown San Antonio. A gift to the city, this sculpture by renowned Mexican sculptor Sebastian symbolizes the friendship, shared history, and cultural entwinement of the United States and Mexico. The placement of the sculpture in San Antonio honors the importance of the city to both countries.

5 San Fernando Cathedral

The magnificent San Fernando Cathedral is the oldest Roman Catholic cathedral sanctuary in the US. This is where James Bowie was married in 1831, and where General Santa Anna flew the red flag of no mercy in 1836. Streams of visitors come to savor the cathedral's spiritual serenity, view the incredible *retablos* and religious artifacts, and see the sarcophagus, that reputedly holds the remains of the defenders of the Alamo (see pp20–21).

6 Spanish Governor's Palace

This restored home of the Spanish officials who resided in San Antonio in the 1700s, is today furnished with 18th-century antiques, and is the only early aristocratic Spanish home remaining in Texas. The original doors are carved with seashells, dragons, and flowers, symbols of Spanish exploration in the New World. Of particular interest are an early map of the Villa de San Fernando in the main room, an 18th-century table, and a hand-carved chest made in Madrid c.1720 (see p38).



Detail, San Fernando Cathedral • www.samuseum.org



Pottery shop at El Mercado, Market Square

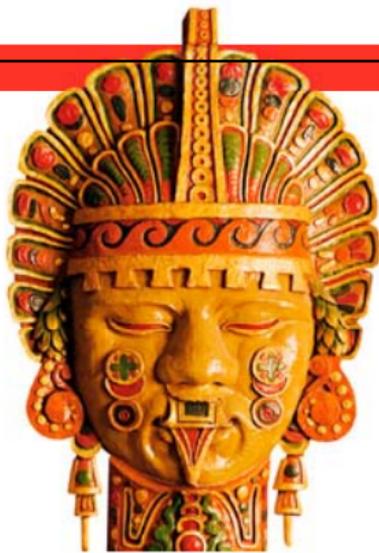
7 Market Square

Until the early 1900s, the festive open-air market where San Antonio housewives bought their bread and meat was held at Military Plaza. When plans for the new City Hall were finalized, the market moved to El Mercado in Market Square. Some of San Antonio's most popular Mexican restaurants are located here. Vibrant festivals, mariachi music, and lively folk dancing occur most weekends and evenings. The new Museo Americano is located at the entrance to Market Square 📍 *Map K4 • 514 W Commerce • 210-207-8600 • Open summer: 10am–8pm; winter: 10am–6pm • www.marketsquaresa.com*

8 San Antonio Museum of Art

This ultra-modern museum presents art through the centuries from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, Europe, and Latin America. Its folk art gallery displays a rich mix of art in every medium imaginable. The new Asian wing includes Chinese bronzes, jade, Japanese armor, and the only intact Tibetan sand mandala in the US. 📍 *Map P1 • 200 W Jones Ave • 210-978-8100 • Open 1–8pm Tue, 10am–5pm Wed, noon–6pm Sun*





Lobby detail, Aztec Theater

9 Majestic Theatre

One of the finest examples of the lavish theaters built in the 1920s to house vaudeville shows and the emerging silent movies, the Majestic is stylishly elegant. Moorish-Baroque styles predominate, with ornate decorations, plaster sculpture, and faux woodwork. It seats 2,400 under a simulated night sky. Restored in the early 1990s, it is the home of the San Antonio Symphony, which presents a full season of popular and classical concerts here (see p50).

10 Aztec On The River

Abandoned for years, this once magnificent 1926 silent-movie palace has undergone a phenomenal restoration and opened in 2006. Meticulously restored to its former grandeur using its original paint colors, Aztec and Mayan culture is featured throughout, with huge Aztec-mask wall sconces, plaster sculptures, giant urns, massive columns, and colorful murals. The theater area offers a big screen movie experience that begins with a 10-minute presentation of Aztec history accompanied by music played on a Wurlitzer organ. A free animatronics sound and light show is offered in the main lobby (see p8).

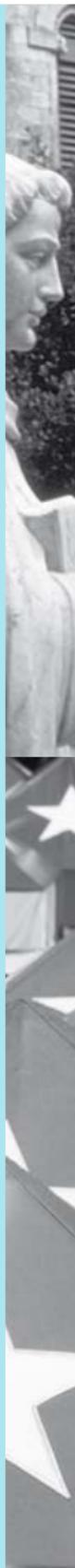
A River Walk to La Villita and the Alamo

Early Morning

Start at the Torch of Friendship, and walk down the stairs on to the **River Walk** (see pp8–9). Head south to the Arneson River Theatre. The arched bridge ahead links the theater's stage on the opposite bank to the audience seating on this side. It is named Rosita's Bridge for singer Rosita Fernandez. The next section of the River Walk is BOWENS ISLAND with the **Tower Life Building** (see p42). Follow the river to the left (south) at the intersection along the west of the **King William Historic District** (see pp24–25). At Johnson St, cross the bridge, and go south along the river to the Guenther House Restaurant (see p24), next to the Pioneer Flour Tower. Enjoy breakfast at this historic home and visit the small museum upstairs.

Late Morning

Exit the restaurant and turn right on Guenther St. Turn left on to King William St (see p24). At 509, Steves Homestead, take the docent-led tour. Go along this historic street, pass by King William Park and the San Antonio Art League Museum. Turn left on to St. Mary's St, then right on to Durango and another left on Alamo St. **HemisFair Park** (see p69) is right across the street. Ahead on your left is the **La Villita National Historic District** (see pp22–23). Stop to see the historic district, or pause for some shopping. Continue on Alamo St to the **Alamo** (see pp10–13) and see the film in the Long Barrack Museum. Then head over to the River Walk for a relaxing lunch.





Left **Colorful hand-made pottery Center SW School of Art & Craft** Right **Teapot, Mexico Lindo**

TOP 10 Places to Shop

1 Market Square

Many shops offer colorful Mexican goods, from jewelry and fabrics to sombreros and bright tin and paper items (see p70).

2 La Villita

The Village Gallery specializes in hand-made pottery, while Artistic Endeavors features Southwest artists. ☎ *The Village Gallery: Map N5; 210-226-0404 • Artistic Endeavors: Map N5; 210-222-2497*

3 Blue Star Arts Complex

This group of former warehouses with shops such as the San Angel Folk Art offers international folk and modern art.

☎ *Map G5 • 116 Blue Star • 210-227-6960*

4 Southwest School of Art and Craft

An exceptional shop with arts and crafts in various media by international professionals. ☎ *Map M2*

• *Ursuline Campus, 300 Augusta St • 210-224-1848 • Open 10am–5pm Mon–Sat*

5 Rivercenter Mall

Foley's and Dillard's department stores are the anchor stores of downtown's largest and most convenient mall (see p48).

6 ArtPace

This cutting-edge gallery displays art works all year round, with special exhibitions of new works by professional artists-in-residence. ☎ *Map M3 • 445 N Main Ave • 210-212-4900 • Open noon–5pm Wed–Sun, noon–8pm Thu*

7 El Sol Studios

Authentic high-quality Mexican folk art and Latin American antiques are sold here, including a large selection of Day of the Dead artifacts. ☎ *Map M6*

• *936 S Alamo St • 210-226-9700*

8 Menger Hotel Shops

Shops here offer clothing and collectibles. J. Adelman sells art, antique, and estate jewelry, while Kings X has a fantastic range of toy-soldiers. ☎ *Map N4*

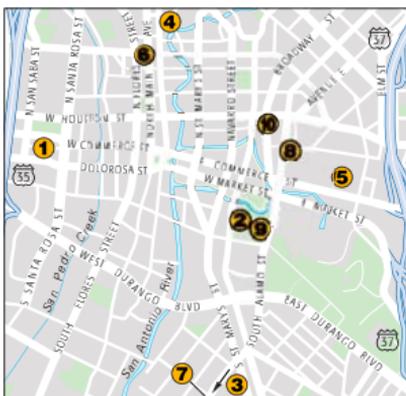
9 Chamade Jewelers

This shop offers fine jewelry by international artists, with dazzling diamonds from Europe and brilliant turquoise from Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni reservations.

☎ *Map N5 • 504 Villita St • 210-224-7753*

10 Mexico Lindo

Wall-hangings from Huichol, woodcarvings from Olinalá, and jewelry with preserved miniature flowers mounted with pewter, fill this shop. ☎ *Map N3 • 110 Broadway St 100 • 210-225-3463*





Outside dining at Boudro's

TOP 10 Places to Eat

1 Biga on the Banks

This award-winning restaurant serves some of the River Walk's best food. Entrées include sesame tempura-crusted swordfish. Map M4 • 203 S. Mary's St • 210-225-0722 • \$\$\$\$



Biga sign

2 Pesca on the River

The finest wild fish is flown in from around the world, and an exceptional selection of vintage wines is served. Map M4 • 212 W Crockett St • 210-396-5817 • \$\$\$\$

3 Boudro's

A local favorite for New American cuisine made from fresh Texan beef, Gulf seafood, and Hill Country produce. Map N4 • 421 E Commerce St • 210-224-8484 • \$\$

4 Paesano's Riverwalk

Classic Mediterranean and Italian cuisine, and fine wines are the trademark here. The shrimp Paesano is legendary. Map N4 • 111 W Crockett • 210-227-2782 • \$\$\$\$

5 Fig Tree

Continental cuisine by candlelight sets the elegant tone. The menu features *filet mignon*, rack of lamb, and lobster. Map N4 • 515 Villita • 210-224-1976 • \$\$\$

6 Rosario's Mexican Café y Cantina

This popular restaurant offers excellent tortilla soup, *enchiladas*

Price Categories

For a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of wine (or equivalent meal), including taxes and extra charges.

\$	under \$20
\$\$	\$20–40
\$\$\$	\$40–55
\$\$\$\$	\$55–80
\$\$\$\$\$	over \$80

de mole, and tasty pork tips in chili sauce. Map M6 • 910 S Alamo St, King William • 210-223-1806 • \$

7 King Willie's Barbeque

This popular barbeque spot in Southtown offers pecan and oak-smoked brisket with Texas Red Neck sauce. Map M6 • 943 S Alamo St, King William • 210-277-1689 • \$

8 Republic of Texas

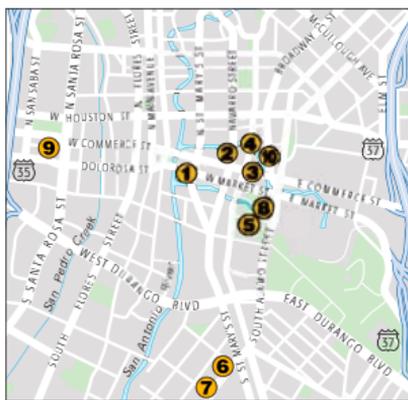
Popular Texan and Tex-Mex dishes are served along the River Walk. Map N4 • 526 River Walk St • 210-226-6256 • \$\$

9 La Margarita Mexican Restaurant and Oyster Bar

The special fajitas at this New Orleans-style restaurant are served with a super-hot *pico de gallo* sauce. Map L4 • 120 Produce Row, Market Square • 210-227-7140 • \$\$

10 Lone Star Café

This popular River Walk café serves old-fashioned Texan country cooking and Tex-Mex dishes. Map N4 • 237 Losoya • 210-223-9374 • \$\$



Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open daily, accept credit cards, and serve vegetarian dishes.



Left Sculpture at the McNay Art Museum Right Sunset Station

Beyond Downtown San Antonio

THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER ORIGINATES FROM DOZENS OF SPRINGS located in and near Brackenridge Park four miles (six km) north of the Alamo. For over 11,000 years people have visited and lived in this area, drawn by the river's fresh water. The Spanish built their missions to the south of the Alamo, diverting water from the river to their fields. The Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston was built northeast of downtown in 1876, and this army base has grown exponentially over the years. In the 1890s, the area that now includes Brackenridge Park, the Witte Museum, and San Antonio Botanical Garden, began to develop into one of the city's finest neighborhoods. Broadway is a major street here, lined by fine restaurants and shops.



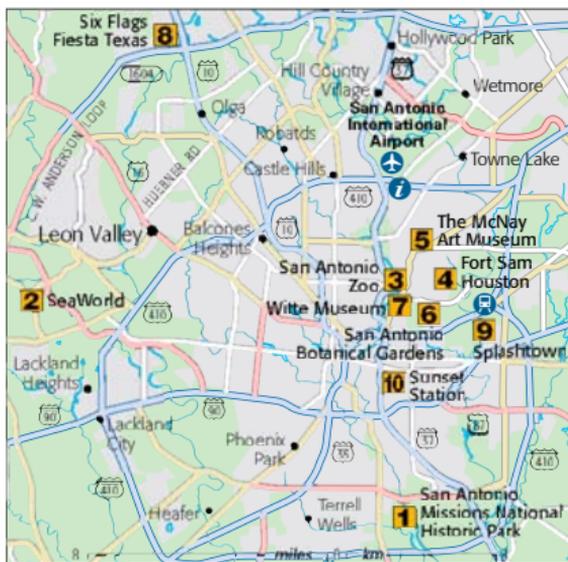
San Antonio Botanical Garden



Clock tower, Fort Sam Houston

TOP 10 Sights

- 1 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- 2 SeaWorld San Antonio
- 3 San Antonio Zoo
- 4 Fort Sam Houston
- 5 The McNay Art Museum
- 6 San Antonio Botanical Garden
- 7 Witte Museum
- 8 Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- 9 Splashtown
- 10 Sunset Station



1 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

By the 1750s, hundreds of Native American converts lived and worked in the Spanish missions. Each was a complete agricultural community with irrigation systems and extensive land holdings. Today, the National Park Service presents different aspects of mission life here, making a visit to each mission unique (see pp14–17).

2 SeaWorld San Antonio

Located 16 miles (26 km) northwest of downtown, the world's largest marine-life park offers rides, non-stop entertainment, and educational opportunities. The killer whale show Believe! is a must-see, and at Coral Reef, thousands of Indian and Pacific Ocean fish create a stunning display of colors in the 300,000-gallon tank (see pp26–27).

3 San Antonio Zoo

Over 750 species from five continents thrive in one of the nation's foremost zoos. Set within the dramatic limestone cliffs and outcroppings of an old quarry, the landscaping varies from desert-like regions to wetlands along the San Antonio River. The Africa Live! exhibit takes advantage of this



Hixon Bird House, San Antonio Zoo

setting, presenting a spectrum of African animals by habitat, from river-bound hippos to animals of the dry savannah (see pp34–35).

4 Fort Sam Houston

The birthplace of military aviation, this active military installation is also the headquarters of the Fifth Army, and home to both the Army Medical Command and the Brookes Army Medical Center. Generals John J. "Blackjack" Pershing and Dwight Eisenhower served here. The famous Native American, Geronimo, was imprisoned in the Quadrangle in 1886. The US Army Medical Department Museum, is situated here and features an impressive medical collection.

📍 Map G5 • Fort Sam Houston Museum: 210-221-1886; open 10am–4pm Wed–Sun
 • Quadrangle: open 8am–5pm Mon–Fri
 • US Army Medical Dept Museum: 210-221-6277; open 10am–4pm Tue–Sat



A ride at SeaWorld San Antonio



Entrance to the Witte Museum

5 The McNay Art Museum This superb museum features paintings and sculpture by artists such as O’Keeffe and Rivera. The collection of prints and drawings includes works by artists such as Goya, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Martin. The Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts takes a unique look at theater through an extensive collection of costume design and stage art (see pp18–19).

6 San Antonio Botanical Garden A short distance northeast of downtown, flora and fauna from around the world fill every corner of this stunning paradise. The Lucile Halsell Conservatory houses radically different collections, including an Alpine terrain of edelweiss and lewisias, and the Exhibition Room with orchids and bromeliads (see pp30–31).

7 Witte Museum This excellent museum has many special exhibits such as Texas Wild, featuring the ecology of Texas, and Ancient Texans, presenting the life of Natives along the Pecos River over 4,000 years ago. Popular with children is the HEB Science Treehouse, with its outstanding science exhibits. Air Power and Bernoulli’s Bench

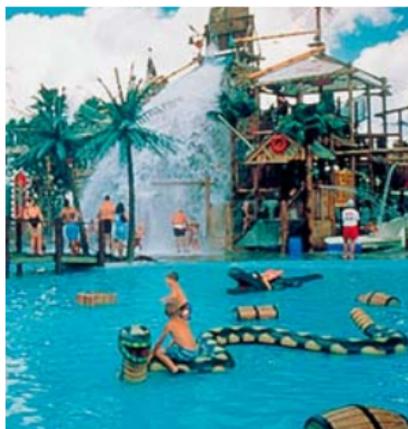
Fort Sam Houston

The US Army leased quarters in San Antonio until 1876, when the Quadrangle was built. By 1882 the army had selected the city for a garrison, and in 1890 the post was renamed for General Sam Houston (see p75). Military aviation began here in 1910, and after World War II the fort became the Army’s main medical training facility, and today is the world’s largest medical training facility.

feature experiments that place objects in streams of moving air, and there is also an Archimedes screw and waterwheels. The Witte houses the famous Hertzberg Circus Collection, and displays portions of it in the exhibits area.

📍 Map G4 • 3801 Broadway • 210-357-1900 • Open 10am–5pm Mon, Wed–Sat; 10am–8pm Tue; noon–5pm Sun • Adm • www.witemuseum.org

8 Six Flags Fiesta Texas This 200-acre theme park nestled within an old quarry adds thrilling new rides every year. Centrifugal force keeps two-person tubes whirling around the sides of the 40 ft (12 m) diameter Whirlpool, before the final 50 ft (15 m) splashdown. Xcelleration combines BMX bikes, bungee artists, and acrobats into a visually



Snake ride at Six Flags Fiesta Texas





The grand staircase, Sunset Station

explosive performance. 📍 *Map E2*
• 17000 I-10 W at Loop 1604 • 210-697-5050 • Open late May–mid-Aug 10am daily, Mar–May & mid-Aug–Oct Sat & Sun only, closed Nov–Feb • Adm • www.sixflags.com

9 Splashtown

This 20-acre waterpark offers more than 50 attractions for all age groups as well as the area's largest wave pool. The rides vary from white-knuckled tube rides to lazy river spills. The seven-story Lone Star Lunge leaves you screaming down the length of two football fields. There are also Sunday concerts and Dive-In Movies on Friday evenings. 📍 *Map H5* • 210-227-1400 • Open mid Apr–early Sep & late May–mid Aug daily, open at 11am closing times vary • Adm

10 Sunset Station

Built in 1902, and housed in the former Southern Pacific Depot, this complex has indoor and outdoor music venues and restaurants. Restored in 1999, the station's fabulous 19th-century architecture includes a huge rose window, wood dance floor, and grand staircase. The surrounding area was a thriving African-American community in the first half of the 1900s, and famous entertainers including Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong have performed here. During World War II, the depot was a hub for military personnel. 📍 *Map Q5*
• 210-474-7640 • www.sunset-station.com

A Drive to the Sights Along Broadway

Morning

🕒 Start your day at the **San Antonio Zoo** at 9am when the animals are active, and before the crowds arrive. After about two hours, leave the zoo and get on to N St. Mary's. Turn left on E Mulberry to Broadway and turn left again. Turn right on Funston and turn left into the **San Antonio Botanical Garden**. Enjoy the beautiful flower gardens and stunning conservatory for an hour or two, and then have a relaxed lunch at the fabulous Carriage House Kitchen (see p57).

After Lunch

Turn right out of the parking lot and drive to Broadway and turn right. Drive north on Broadway to the **Witte Museum**, turn left and park. Take an hour to see the HEB Science Treehouse and the interesting exhibits here. Next door is the **Texas Pioneers, Trail Drivers and Rangers Museum** (see p33). Continue heading north along Broadway and branch off to the right at Austin Hwy, then turn left on to New Braunfels and immediately turn right into the parking lot of the **McNay Art Museum** (see p18). Enjoy the museum exhibits, relax in the courtyard, and see the sculpture in the grounds. Return to Broadway and continue north to E Basse and turn left, driving past the popular Quarry Golf Club. Turn right into the **Alamo Quarry Market** (see p78) to browse and shop. 🕒 Canyon Café (see p79) serves Southwest-style food and is a great place for a snack or dinner.



Pick up the Sunset Station Historic Walking Tour brochure from the kiosk on the plaza.



Left Sheplers Western Wear Center Merchandise at Artisans Alley Right Tanger Outlet Center

TOP 10 Places to Shop

- 1 Bussey's Flea Market**
This sprawling flea market has about 500 vendors selling antiques, crafts, jewelry, and local produce. Open Saturday and Sunday. *Map B2 • 18738 I-35 N, New Braunfels • 210-651-6830*
- 2 Alamo Quarry Market**
Housed in a former quarry, these trendy stores include the Whole Earth Provision Company and the fabulous Lucchese Boot Company for Western wear. *Map G4 • 255 E Basse Rd • 210-824-8885*
- 3 Artisans Alley**
An array of exclusive shops and boutiques offers a selection of fine jewelry, clothing, art, and home decor items. Stop by the Hacienda Gallery for turquoise and silver jewelry. *Map F2 • Hacienda Gallery • 210-404-1470*
- 4 The Shops at La Cantera**
San Antonio's newest mall offers 150 stores in a village-like setting. Major retailers include Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, and Dillard's. *Map E2 • 15900 La Cantera Pkwy • 210-582-6255*



Prime Outlet mall, San Marcos

- 5 North Star Mall**
This high-fashion mall offers shoppers about 200 specialty stores under one roof. *Map F3 • 7400 San Pedro • 210-342-2325*
- 6 Crossroads of San Antonio**
This indoor mall has a movie theater and 60 stores, including Super Target, Burlington Coat Factory, Stein Mart, and Hobby Lobby. *Map F4 • 4522 Fredericksburg Rd • 210-735-9137*
- 7 Center for Antiques**
Over 100 antique dealers display knick-knacks, fine art, furniture, kitchenware, clocks, and china. *Map G3 • 8505 Broadway • 210-804-6300*
- 8 Los Patios**
An eclectic selection of casual and elegant clothing, fine jewelry, leather, and garden art is found here. *Map G4 • 2015 NE Loop 410 • 210-655-6171*
- 9 Prime Outlets and Tanger Outlet Center**
Look for leading stores such as Neiman Marcus Last Call Clearance Center or Salvatore Ferragamo Company Store at these two giant factory outlet malls in San Marcos. *Map B2*
- 10 Sheplers Western Wear**
The best place to find a huge selection of Western wear, from boots and hats to housewares. *Map E4 • 6201 NW Loop 410 • 210-681-8230*





Interior of Massimo restaurant

Price Categories

For a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of wine (or equivalent meal), including taxes and extra charges.

\$ under \$20
 \$\$ \$20–40
 \$\$\$ \$40–55
 \$\$\$\$ \$55–80
 \$\$\$\$\$ over \$80

TOP 10 Places to Eat

- 1 Massimo**
 The gnocchi and risotto are very popular dishes at this top-rated Italian restaurant, which also offers an impressive Italian wine list. Map G4 • 1896 Nacogdoches Rd • 210-342-8556 • \$\$\$\$
- 2 Joseph's Storehouse**
 This delightful eatery serves fresh food and bakery items, made from whole-grain and natural ingredients (see p57).
- 3 Demo's**
 The *souvlaki* and *spanakopita* are highly recommended. There is dancing on the first Saturday of the month when a Greek band plays. Map G5 • 2501 N St. Mary's St • 210-732-7777 • \$\$
- 4 Bolo's Rotisserie Grill**
 One of San Antonio's finest restaurants, Bolo's serves acclaimed Hill Country cuisine with French touches. Select from over 20 fine wines available by the glass. Map F4 • 9821 Colonnade Blvd • 210-691-8888 • \$\$\$\$
- 5 Fire Bowl Café**
 Fresh soups, salads, savory noodle bowls, and stir-fry entrées are the big draw here. Map G4 • 255 E Basse Rd, Alamo Quarry Market • 210-829-0887 • \$\$
- 6 Canyon Café**
 Housed in an attractively remodeled old quarry building, this café serves creative salads and Tex-Mex entrées. Try the

popular blackened fish tacos.

Map G4 • Alamo Quarry Shopping Center • 210-821-3738 • \$\$\$

- 7 L'Etoile**
 This fine restaurant serves contemporary French cuisine in a casual atmosphere. The rack of lamb, escargot, and Norwegian salmon are all excellent. Map G4 • 6106 Broadway • 210-826-4551 • \$\$\$\$

- 8 Stockyards Café**
 The oldest continuously operating café in Texas offers hearty fare, including steaks, ribs, and fried catfish. Map B2 • 1716 S San Marcos • 210-271-9471 • \$\$

- 9 Picante Grill**
 This popular place serves old Mexican favorites, as well as Tex-Mex, Latin American, and Caribbean cuisine. Map G4 • 3810 Broadway • 210-822-3797 • \$\$

- 10 Frederick's**
 A delightful combination of French and Asian cuisine is on offer, including delicious baked bass and crab salad. Map G4 • 7701 Broadway • 210-828-9050 • \$\$\$\$



L'Etoile restaurant



Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open daily, accept credit cards, and serve vegetarian dishes.



Left Historic Gruene Hall Right Vintage car collection, LBJ Ranch

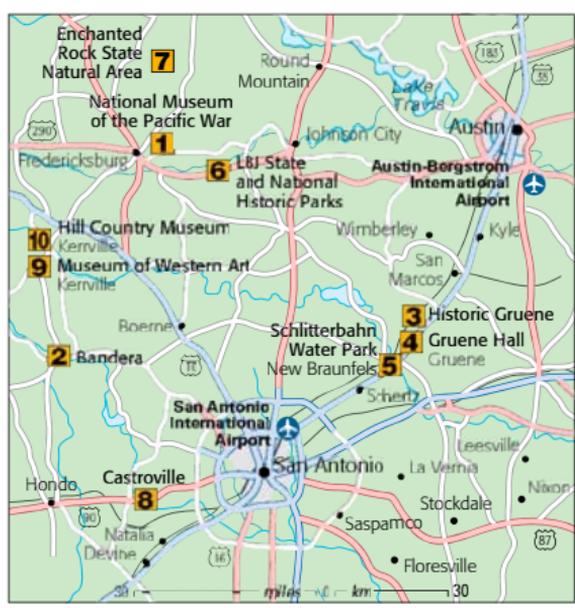
Hill Country

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY IS RENOWNED for its scenic beauty, charming small towns, and the springtime profusion of wildflowers. The rock-strewn hills are high enough to offer relief from the hot Texan summers, and the sparkling clear rivers make tubing down a cool stream a favorite activity. In April, bluebonnets and other wildflowers blanket the fields in shades of blue, red, and gold. Many of the small towns retain and celebrate their early heritage: New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, and Boerne were settled by German immigrants, Castroville pioneers came from Alsace in France, and Bandera is the center of ranch and cowboy lore. Hill Country is a favorite Texan getaway spot, offering dude ranches, quaint inns, B&Bs in picturesque towns, and large secluded resorts with comfortable amenities. Scenic roads curve around hills and cross streams as they lead to fine wineries, underground caverns, and state parks.



Bluebonnets in full bloom

- TOP 10 Sights**
- 1 National Museum of the Pacific War
 - 2 Bandera
 - 3 Historic Gruene
 - 4 Gruene Hall
 - 5 Schlitterbahn Water Park
 - 6 LBJ State and National Historic Parks
 - 7 Enchanted Rock State Natural Area
 - 8 Castroville
 - 9 Museum of Western Art
 - 10 Hill Country Museum



1 National Museum of the Pacific War

Housed in the historic Nimitz Hotel, this museum traces US military activities in the South Pacific during World War II. Major exhibits include the hangar deck of an American aircraft carrier and a PT boat base. The Japanese Garden of Peace and the Memorial Wall honor individuals and military units of the Pacific Theater. 📍 *Map A1*
 • 340 E Main St, Fredericksburg • 830-997-4379 • Open 9am–5pm daily • Adm
 • www.nimitz-museum.org

2 Bandera

The self-proclaimed “Cowboy Capital of the World” offers ranches for overnight stays with meals, tours, and horseback riding. Rodeos are held several times a week in the summer, and there are plenty of opportunities to dance the Texas two-step in historic dance halls. It’s a good place to shop for cowboy clothes and saddles. 📍 *Map A2* • *Bandera Texas Convention and Visitors Bureau* • 800-364-3833
 • www.banderacowboycapital.com

3 Historic Gruene

Buildings from the late 1800s, when cotton was king, have been restored to house charming specialty shops and restaurants. Weekends are



Street scene, Bandera

bustling when visitors come to raft or tube down the river, shop for antiques, or sample great Texan wines at The Grapevine (see p86). The town is on the National Register of Historic Places. 📍 *Map B2* • 830-629-5077 • www.gruenetexas.com

4 Gruene Hall

The legendary launchpad for notable musicians such as George Strait and Lyle Lovett, Gruene Hall is the oldest continually operating dance hall in Texas. Reputed Texan and national performers continue to grace the stage of this rustic dance hall. Baseball great Nolan Ryan celebrated his 50th birthday here, and the dance scene from the 1996 film *Michael*, starring John Travolta, was filmed here. 📍 *Map B2* • 1281 Gruene Rd, New Braunfels • 830-606-1281



Souvenir shop, Gruene

Wine Country

Scattered across the Hill Country are more than a dozen fine wineries, which produce many award-winning wines. These wineries also offer wine-tasting opportunities and sponsor related events throughout the year. Maps are available with self-guided driving tours through the beautiful countryside to the wineries for special themed events such as Wine and Wildflowers in April, Harvest in August, and Holiday during December.



Museum at the LBJ Ranch

5 Schlitterbahn Water Park

This popular waterpark has wet and wild rides for every age group. There are three uphill water coasters, nine tube chutes, and 17 water slides, as well as the Boogie Bahn body-boarding ride. The six-story Master Blaster uphill water coaster ride has often been voted America's Best Waterpark Ride.  Map B2 • 381 E Austin St, New Braunfels • 830-625-2351

- Open May–mid Sep (call for timings)
- Adm • www.schlitterbahn.com

6 LBJ State and National Historic Parks

The 36th president, Lyndon Baines Johnson, was born here in 1908 and his former residence and ranch are now a National Historical Park. There are daily bus tours of the Texas White House, that provide an in-depth look at the ranch. LBJ was

buried here in the Johnson Family Cemetery in 1973.  Map A1 • Stonewall, LBJ National Historic Parks at LBJ Ranch • 830-644-2252 • Bus tours 10am–4pm, self-guided tour 5pm–dusk • Adm • www.nps.gov/lyjo

7 Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

This rounded dome of pink granite rock is one of the nation's largest batholiths. The giant cracks on its surface have been created by the continuous heating and cooling of the rock, which continues today. It is believed that the eerie noises heard from the rock on dark cool nights are the result of the cooling process.  Map A1 • 18 miles (29 km) N of Fredericksburg • 915-247-3903 • Adm • www.tpwd.state.tx.us

8 Castrovilla

One of the most culturally fascinating towns in Texas, Castrovilla was settled in 1844. Frenchman Henri Castro was contracted by the Republic of Texas to bring European settlers into Texas, and brought in pioneers from Alsace in France. The historic town still has more than 50 original Alsatian-style buildings housing antique shops, bakeries, and restaurants. The historic Landmark Inn, with its



Enchanted Rock State Natural Area





Art display, Museum of Western Art

small museum, is a good place to begin exploring the town.

📍 *Map A2 • 802 London St • 830-538-3142 • www.castroville.com • Landmark Inn State Historic Site: 830-931-2133*

9 Museum of Western Art
Originally featuring only the works of contemporary Cowboy Artists of America, the museum has expanded to include a wide variety of 20th-century Western art. Rotating exhibits focus on the legends, romance, and reality of historic and present-day cowboys, settlers, and Native Americans. The museum also maintains a Western art and history library. A children's gallery features an interactive Journey West with hands-on activities and even a Go West wagon to ride in (see p41).

10 Hill Country Museum
Captain Charles Scheiner lived in this mansion built between 1879 and 1896. Scheiner, a Texas Ranger at 16, later became a banker and philanthropist. The two-story intricately carved exterior has graceful arches, curved porches, and twin towers. The house also has a parquet floor made of 10 different hardwoods, and original pocket doors, a replica of those at Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. 📍 *Map A2 • 226 Earl Garrett St, Kerrville • 830-896-8633 • Open 10am–4:30 pm Mon–Sat • Adm • www.kerrdowntown.com/hillcountrymuseum/*

A Walk Down Main Street Fredericksburg

Morning

🕒 Start at historic Nimitz Hotel (328 E Main St) which hosted stagecoach travelers in the 1860s. Head west along the wide Main Street. The small building at 242 E Main St, originally the White Elephant Saloon, was a "gentleman's resort" in 1888. Today, it's one of the many shops and historical buildings that line the street. At 115 W Main St, explore the majestic Old Gillespie County Courthouse, built in 1882. Across the street is the Marktplatz, the venue for the Oktoberfest (see p65) celebrations. Explore the exhibits in the octagonal-shaped **Vereins Kirche** (see p87), one of the first public buildings built in this German town. The west end of Main Street offers a selection of shops and boutiques for browsing. Stop at one of the bakeries, or grab a lunch at Bejas Grill (209 E Main St) which serves salads and Southwestern entrées.

Afternoon

Two of the most historic buildings in Fredericksburg, the Rudolph Itz Saloon and Home, are located at 320 W Main St. Spend at least an hour at the **Pioneer Museum**, (309 W Main St) with its fine collection of old homes, stores, and galleries. Of special interest is The Weber House, built in 1904, an excellent example of the "Sunday houses" built as weekend townhouses by rural German settlers. Nearby, is **Cuvee Wine Market & Bistro** (see p85), a delightful place for a glass of wine, snack, or full meal.





Left Wildseed Farms Center LBJ National Park Right Wildflowers, San Antonio Botanical Garden

TOP 10 Places to See Wildflowers

1 Wildseed Farms
Springtime visitors are more than likely to see Texas bluebonnets, red corn poppies, phlox, and a gorgeous array of other flowers at the USA's largest working wildflower farm. Map A1 • 100 Legacy Dr • 800-848-0078 • Open 9:30am–6pm daily

2 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
The best year-round place to spot and gather information about wildflowers. The spring wildflower displays present a rainbow of colors (see p92).

3 San Antonio Botanical Garden
Walk through fields of spring blooms in the Hill Country section of the Texas Native area. Fall colors are some of the best in the state (see pp30–31).

4 Fredericksburg to Enchanted Rock
This breathtaking route is a joy all year round, with masses of wildflowers in spring and great views the rest of the year. The hour-long drive follows Hwy 965 from Fredericksburg past Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (see p82) to Hwy 16. Map A1

5 Bandera Scenic Drive
This 85-mile (137-km) loop offers majestic vistas as the road twists up and around the hills, crossing the Medina and Sabinal Rivers many times. Map A2

6 Willow City Loop
Located between Fredericksburg and Llano off Hwy 16, this 16-mile (26-km) loop drive through unfenced ranch land offers spectacular spring wildflowers, canyon views, and wildlife. Map A1

7 Devils Backbone, Wimberley to Blanco
One of the most scenic drives in Texas winds for 24 miles (39 km) along Hwy 32 offering stunning Hill Country vistas and fields of bluebonnets in April. Map B1

8 Riverside Nature Center
A lovely old farm along the sparkling Guadalupe River has been transformed into an urban wildflower and native plant sanctuary. Walking trails meander through fields of vividly-hued wildflowers and local flora and fauna. Map A2 • 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville • 830-257-4837

9 LBJ National Park at LBJ Ranch
An incredible profusion of colorful flowers fills the park in spring (see p82).

10 Boerne Walk
Cibolo Wilderness Trail in Boerne City Park offers walking trails that wind through natural habitats, including prairie and marshlands. The trails lead past native plants and wildflowers of the Hill Country. Map A2 • Boerne Chamber • 830-249-8000





Interior, Huisache Grill

Price Categories

For a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of wine (or equivalent meal), including taxes and extra charges.

\$	under \$20
\$\$	\$20–40
\$\$\$	\$40–55
\$\$\$\$	\$55–80
\$\$\$\$\$	over \$80

TOP 10 Places to Eat

1 The Limestone Grill
 Located in the historic Ye Kendall Inn, this fine dining restaurant serves New American cuisine with Southwestern, Cajun, and European influences. The wine list includes rare wines and vintages. 📍 *Map A2 • 128 W Blanco Rd, Boerne • 830-249-2138 • \$\$\$*

2 OST Restaurant
 Enjoy good Texan and Tex-Mex country cooking at this restaurant named after the Old Spanish Trail. The decor honors Western movie stars. 📍 *Map A2 • Bandera • 830-796-3836 • \$*

3 Rails – Café at the Depot
 One of Hill Country's finest restaurants serves light lunches and dinners with daily entrée specials. Accompaniments include delectable desserts. 📍 *Map A2 • 615 Schreiner St, Kerrville • 830-257-3877 • Closed Sun • \$\$*

4 Francisco's
 This cozy restaurant is a very popular lunch spot. Dinner is served only on weekends. 📍 *Map A2 • 201 Earl Garrett St, Kerrville • 830-257-2995 • Closed Sun • \$\$*

5 Friedhelm's Bavarian Inn
 Best known for its platters of *sauerbraten* and *schnitzel* served with dumplings, gingersnap gravy, and *sauerkraut*. The beer list includes German imports. 📍 *Map A1 • 905 W Main St, Fredericksburg • 830-997-6300 • Closed Mon • \$\$*

6 Cuvee Wine Market and Bistro
 This award-winning restaurant serves up contemporary American cuisine made from fresh local ingredients. 📍 *Map A1 • 342 W Main St, Fredericksburg • 830-990-1600 • Closed Mon • \$\$\$\$*

7 Altdorf Biergarten
 Housed in a historic limestone building on Main Street, the Altdorf's menu ranges from sausage and *schnitzel* to Tex-Mex and burgers. A large selection of beers is available. 📍 *Map A1 • Fredericksburg • 830-997-7865 • \$\$*

8 New Braunfels Smokehouse
 This bustling restaurant offers a variety of hickory-smoked meats. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner with Shiner beer on tap. 📍 *Map B2 • 140 Hwy 46 S, New Braunfels • 830-625-2416 • \$\$*

9 Huisache Grill
 Classic and upscale American cuisine with a choice of affordable wine and beer is on offer at this modern restaurant. 📍 *Map B2 • 303 W San Antonio St, New Braunfels • 830-620-9001 • \$\$\$*

10 Centerpoint Station
 This Texan hamburger eatery is tucked away in an antique shop. Soups, salads, baked potatoes, and sandwiches, along with great ice cream shakes are also available here. 📍 *Map B2 • 3946 IH-35 S • 512-392-1103 • \$*



Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open daily, accept credit cards, and serve vegetarian dishes.



Period items at Forke's Store, Conservation Plaza

TOP 10 New Braunfels

1 Sophienburg Museum and Archives

An excellent place to learn about the history of New Braunfels and its early German settlers.

📍 Map B2 • 401 W Coll St • 830-629-1572 • Open 10am–4pm Tue–Sat

2 Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture

This 1859 home has a unique collection of furniture hand-crafted by early German settlers.

📍 Map B2 • 1370 Church Hill Dr • 830-629-6504 • Open early Feb–late Nov 1–4pm

3 Conservacion Plaza

A village of nine restored mid-1800s buildings includes a school, barn, and garden with 50 varieties of antique roses.

📍 Map B2 • 1300 Church Hill Dr • 830-629-2943 • Open 10am–2:30 pm Tue–Fri, 2–5pm Sat & Sun

4 Lindheimer Home

One of the oldest houses in New Braunfels belonged to renowned botanist Ferdinand J. Lindheimer. It contains memorabilia and a garden filled with his plant discoveries.

📍 Map B2 • 491 Comal Ave • 830-629-2943

5 Landa Park

A recreation park that includes a spring-fed pool, a miniature train, paddle-boats, and tubing down the river.

📍 Map B2 • 110 Golf Course Rd • 830-608-2160

6 Schlitterbahn Water Park

Located on the beautiful Comal River, this seasonal waterpark features 40 fun-filled and action-packed rides (see p82).

7 Texas Ski Ranch

Water skiing, wake boarding, motocross, and skate boarding facilities are on offer here.

📍 Map B2 • 6700 I-35 N • 830-627-2843 • Open 10am–8pm Tue–Thu, 10am–9pm Fri–Sat, 10am–6pm Sun

8 Gruene Hall

One of the best known performance halls, local singers and touring acts stage live shows here (see p81).

9 Snake Farm & Exotic Animal Park

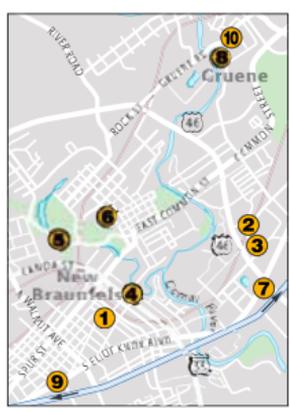
A unique park to see and learn about native venomous snakes, crocodiles, and other reptiles.

📍 Map B2 • 5640 Interstate Hwy 35 S New Braunfels • 830-608-9270 • Open 10am–6pm Memorial Day to Labour Day • www.txsnakefarm.com

10 The Grapevine

This charming wine-tasting room is the perfect place to enjoy a glass of wine and a plate of cheese after shopping.

📍 Map B2 • 1612 Hunter Rd, Gruene Historic District • 830-606-0093 • Open 10am–7pm; summer 10am–9pm Mon–Sat • www.grapevineingruene.com





Left National Museum of the Pacific War Center Pioneer Museum Right Eatery at Fredericksburg

TOP 10 Fredericksburg

1 National Museum of the Pacific War

The museum boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, and artifacts in use during the Pacific War (see p81).

2 Main Street

More than 100 specialty shops, bakeries, and restaurants are housed in historic buildings. Attractions include the historic Pioneer Museum. Map A1

3 Vereins Kirche Museum

This octagonal structure is a replica of the 1847 Society Hall used as a church, fort, and school. Exhibits tell the story of the German settlers.

Map A1 • Center of Markplatz, 100 W Main St
• 830-997-7832 • Open
10am–4pm Mon–Sat,
1–4pm Sun



Vereins Kirche Museum

4 Pioneer Museum Complex

This complex of historic buildings includes the 1849 eight-room, furnished Henry Kammlah home and an old Methodist Church.

Map A1 • 309 W Main St • 830-990-8441 • Open 10am–5pm Mon–Sat,
1–5pm Sun

5 Fort Martin Scott

One of the first frontier army posts in Texas. Historical displays reveal fascinating details about various aspects of the Wild West.

Map A1 • 1606 E Main St • 830-997-9895 • Open 10am–5pm Tue–Sun

6 LBJ State and National Historical Parks

Bus tours offer insights into President Johnson's working ranch and Texas White House (see p82).

7 Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area

Over a million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from an old abandoned railroad tunnel, spiral upward, soaring over the Hill Country to feed on insects. Rangers offer nightly educational programs about the bats.

Map A1 • South of Fredericksburg, Old Antonio Rd • 866-978-2287 • Open year-round sunrise to sunset; bat viewing May–Oct • www.tpwd.state.tx.us

8 Wildseed Farms

A chance to walk through wildflower fields and browse over 90 types of seed (see p84).

9 Wineries

Nearby wineries offer a broad selection of Texan wines. Map A1
• www.texaswinetrail.com

10 Fredericksburg Herb Farm

Stroll through the well-tended herb gardens filled with flowering, culinary, and ornamental herbs. The gift shop offers herbal products. Map A1
• 407 Whitney • 830-997-8615 • Open 9:30am–5pm Mon–Thu, 9am–9pm Fri & Sat, noon–4pm Sun • www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com









Left **Bullock Texas State History Museum** Right **Horse and carriage on East 6th Street**

Austin

G LEAMING MODERN GLASS AND STEEL SKYSCRAPERS *and the stately red granite dome of the largest state capitol building in the US* dominate the skyline of downtown Austin. Vibrant and cosmopolitan, the city is best known for the diverse live music scene found along 6th Street and in the Warehouse District. Austin is also well-known for its high-tech industry and the sprawling University of Texas, with the fabulous Blanton Art Museum and LBJ Library. The city is laid-back, unpretentious, and, at times, even quirky. An active

young population inhabits Austin – you will find them biking and jogging in the parks and green spaces along the river and the creek downtown.



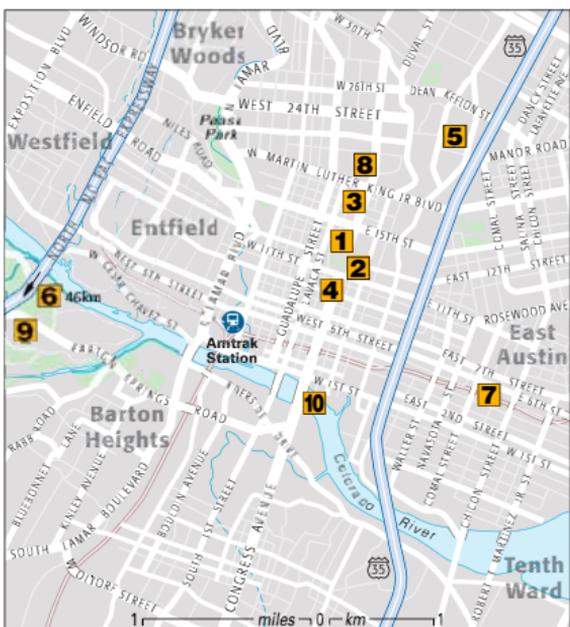
Downtown Austin



Austin skyline and Town Lake

TOP 10 Sights

- 1 State Capitol
- 2 Capitol Complex Visitors Center
- 3 Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
- 4 Governor's Mansion
- 5 LBJ Library and Museum
- 6 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- 7 East 6th Street
- 8 Blanton Museum of Art
- 9 Zilker Park Barton Springs Pool and Botanical Gardens
- 10 Congress Avenue Bridge Bat Colony





Dome interior, Texas State Capitol

features, a special effects show, and Austin's only IMAX theater, reveal the history of Texas. Visitors are greeted by a gigantic 35-ft (10.7-m) bronze Lone Star sculpture at the entrance and the floor of the rotunda features an intricate depiction of a campfire scene.

1 State Capitol

The grandeur of the Capitol makes it widely recognized as one of the country's finest capitol buildings. Views of its red granite dome, visible throughout much of the city, are protected from future obstruction by state law. Built in 1888, the building was enlarged in 1993 by a huge underground Capitol Extension, followed by a comprehensive restoration of the original building in 1995. *Map T2* • 11th & Congress St • 512-463-0063 • Open 7am–10pm Mon–Fri; 9am–8pm Sat & Sun • www.tspb.state.tx.us

2 Capitol Complex Visitors Center

The oldest state office building in Texas, built in 1857, was once the headquarters of the General Land Office. Today, its exhibits tell stories of Texas, the Capitol, and the Land Office. Short-story author, William Sydney Porter (*see p39*), worked here and the spiral staircase that appears in *Murder at the Land Office* can be seen here. *Map T2* • 112 E 11th St • 512-305-8400 • Open 9am–5pm Mon–Sat; noon–5pm Sun • www.tspb.state.tx.us

3 Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Three floors of exhibits, including dramatic murals, interactive

Map T2 • 1800 N Congress Ave • 512-936-8746 • Open 9am–6pm Mon–Sat; noon–6pm Sun • Adm • www.thestoryoftexas.com

4 Governor's Mansion

This majestic brick mansion, which has served as the official state residence of Texas governors since 1856, is considered the most historic home in Texas. It is also the oldest continuously occupied executive mansion west of the Mississippi River. The Sam Houston Bedroom, named after its former occupant, displays a beautiful four-poster mahogany bed and other memorabilia from his life. *Map T2* • 1010 Colorado St • 512-463-5516 • Open 10am–noon Mon–Thu • Reservations mandatory; must be made at least one business day in advance • www.governor.state.tx.us/mansion

Moonlight Towers

Austin is the only city in the world that still uses the 1894 Moonlight Towers, which originally illuminated a 3,000-ft (914.4-m) circle with carbon-arc lamps. The lights mounted on these 165-ft (50.3-m) tall industrial-looking triangular shaped towers were converted to mercury-vapor lamps in the 1930s. Many of the 17 remaining towers are located in the downtown area near the Capitol building.





Signage along East 6th Street

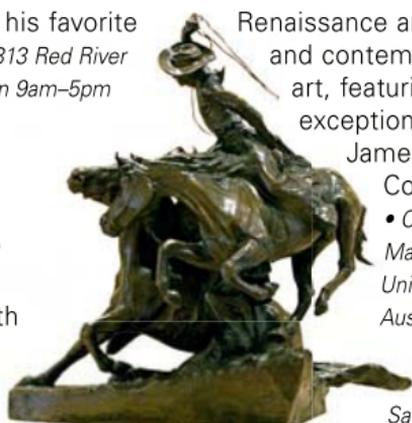
5 LBJ Library and Museum
 This museum and library offers insights into the turbulent life and political career of the 36th president, Lyndon Baines Johnson. Exhibits ranging from his youth to his inauguration as president following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, to his Great Society program and his retirement at his ranch (see p82) are displayed here. Do not miss the 7/8 scale replica of his Oval Office, his 1968 presidential limousine, and a life-size animatronic version of LBJ telling some of his favorite stories. ☎ Map T1 • 2313 Red River St • 512-721-0200 • Open 9am–5pm • www.lbjlib.utexas.edu

6 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
 Dedicated to the preservation of North America's native plants and wildflowers, this center was the vision of Lady Bird Johnson, wife

of LBJ, who founded it in 1982 with actress Helen Hayes. Though open year-round, spring is the peak season, when most of the 500 species of plants are in bloom. Over the years, the center has become one of the leading research institutions in the country. ☎ Map B1 • 4801 La Crosse Ave • 512-292-4100 • Open 9am–5:30pm Tue–Sat; noon–5:30pm Sun; mid-Mar–Apr 9am–5:30pm daily • www.wildflower.org

7 East 6th Street
 Once known as Pecan Street, East 6th Street is the center of Austin's celebrated live music scene. On weekends the street closes to traffic, creating an outdoor pedestrian mall that includes more than 70 nightclubs offering a dazzling array of live entertainment from jazz and rock to rhythm and blues. Some of the legendary venues include Maggie Mae's, Emo's (see p94), and Esther's Follies comedy club (see p94). ☎ Map U3

8 Blanton Museum of Art
 The Blanton's collection of over 17,000 works spans the art history of Western civilization. Among the distinguished exhibits on view are the Latin American Art section, the Suida-Manning Collection of French and Italian Renaissance and Baroque art, and contemporary American art, featuring the exceptional Mari and James Michener Collection. ☎ Map T1 • Congress Ave & Martin Luther King Blvd, University of Texas at Austin • 512-471-7324 • Open 10am–5pm Tue, Wed, Fri, & Sat; 10am–8pm Thu; 1–5pm Sun • www.blantonmuseum.org



Sculpture at Blanton Museum of Art



9 Zilker Park Barton Springs Pool and Botanical Gardens

A variety of recreational facilities such as a golf course, athletic fields, hiking trails, the spring-fed Barton Springs Pool, and the enchanting Zilker Botanical Garden, make this Austin's most loved park. Also, from April through August the park's amphitheater hosts concerts including performances by the Austin Symphony, Austin Civic Orchestra, and Shakespeare in the Park. 📍 *Map R2 • 2100 Barton Springs Rd • 512-472-4914*
 • www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker



Bat Sculpture, Congress Avenue Bridge Bat Colony

10 Congress Avenue Bridge Bat Colony

Crowds gather at sunset from April through October to watch the world's largest urban bat colony soar over Austin skies, as they emerge from the bridge each night to feed on airborne insects. These Mexican free-tailed bats first took up residence under Congress Avenue Bridge when it was reconstructed in 1980 and return every spring to nest. Favorite viewing spots include the Town Lake, which even offers bat-watching cruises, and the Austin American-Stateman's bat observation area at 305 S Congress Avenue. 📍 *Map T3 • Austin American-Stateman's Bat Hot Line: 512-416-5700*

A Walk Down Congress Street

Morning

🕒 Start at the **Blanton Museum of Art** and enjoy the exhibits before walking south down Congress St to the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** (see p91). The Story of Texas café on the second floor is great for soups and sandwiches.

Afternoon

🕒 Continue down Congress St to the **State Capitol** (see p91) and take the 45-minute guided tour. Then continue south to 11th St and turn left to explore the **Capitol Complex Visitors Center** (see p91). Return to Congress St and go farther south. The brick and limestone Old Bakery and Emporium (at 1006 Congress), built in 1876, now houses a gift shop and lunch-time sandwich shop. The Jacob Larmour Block (906–920 Congress) was built in 1876 in the Italianate style. Little City, (116 Congress), is a favorite coffeehouse. At the intersection of Congress and 9th St, look west (right) to see one of the **Moonlight Towers** (see p91). At 823 Congress is the contemporary Austin Museum of Art. The Paramount Theater, (713 Congress), is a movie and performing arts venue. The Arthouse at Jones Center, (700 Congress), is a cutting-edge performing arts venue. Turn left on to East 6th St, and Austin's live music and historic district begins at Brazos St. Walk through the lobby of the legendary **Driskill Hotel** (see p119) on the corner of 6th and Brazos. 🍴 Enjoy a meal at the hotel's café and bakery.





Left **Maggie Mae's Center** Right **Bourbon Rocks** **311 Club**

TOP 10 Live Music Venues

1 Antone's
Home of the blues for more than a quarter of a century, Antone's is the place to hear established musicians as well as newcomers. *Map T2* • 213 W 5th St • 512-320-8424 • Adm

2 Bourbon Rocks
Reminiscent of Bourbon Street in New Orleans, this warehouse-style club brings a new element to 6th Street. *Map T2* • 508 E 6th St • 512-236-1707

3 Broken Spoke
This famous Texan honky-tonk got its start in 1964 when Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys graced its stage. Traditional country music is still the main draw here. *Map R3* • 3201 S Lamar Blvd • 512-442-6189 • Adm

4 Continental Club
A 1950s-style Austin classic, that features some of the best rockabilly, country, and swing music. *Map T3* • 1315 S Congress Ave • 512-441-2444 • Adm

5 Elephant Room
Traditional jazz music performed by local musicians as well as traveling groups, fills this basement club. *Map T2* • 315 Congress Ave • 512-473-2279 • Adm

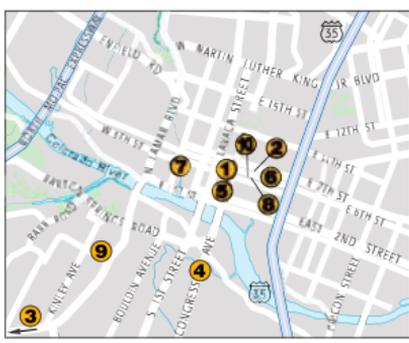
6 Emo's
Emo's has been drawing rock bands to its two stages since the early 1990s. *Map T2* • 603 Red River St • 512-477-3667

7 La Zona Rosa
An eclectic venue that plays everything from blues and jazz to rock and Latin music. Recent shows included Joss Stone and Patti Smith. *Map S2* • 612 W 4th St • 512-472-2293 • Adm

8 Maggie Mae's
For over two decades Maggie Mae's has hosted original music artistes in Austin. This is the place to hear the latest rock 'n' roll. *Map T2* • 512 Trinity St • 512-478-8541 • Adm

9 Saxon Pub
One of Austin's favorite listening rooms features the best singer-songwriters in town. Famous musicians are known to drop by when in the city. *Map S3* • 1320 S Lamar Blvd • 512-448-2552 • Adm

10 311 Club
With live blues seven nights a week, this revered bar still brings in some of the greatest names on the rhythm and blues circuit. *Map T2* • 311 E 6th St • 512-477-1630 • Adm



Esther's Follies on 525 E 6th St (512-320-055) has entertained for more than 20 years with comedy, parodies, and magic acts.


Shoreline Grill

TOP 10 Places to Eat

1 Driskill Grill

Inside opulent Driskill Hotel, this elegant restaurant offers New American fusion-style cuisine and a fine wine list. Map T2 • 604 Brazos St • 512-391-7162 • Closed Sun & Mon • \$\$\$\$

2 Castle Hill Café

A trendy garden café with a creative New American menu featuring innovative dishes such as shrimp enchiladas in a tomatillo-poblano verde sauce. Map S2 • 1101 West 5th St • 512-476-0728 • Closed Sun • \$\$\$

3 Shoreline Grill

Trademark entrées such as prime rib and crab cakes, and award-winning bread pudding make this a popular lunch and dinner spot. Map T3 • 98 San Jacinto Blvd • 512-477-3300 • \$\$\$

4 Threadgill's World Headquarters

Enjoy home-style Texan cooking along with a splendid collection of Austin music memorabilia at this restaurant near the site of the legendary Armadillo World Headquarters. Map T3 • 301 Riverside Dr • 512-451-9305 • \$\$

5 Jeffrey's

Contemporary Texan cuisine prepared with the freshest seasonal ingredients. Delectable entrées include Alaskan halibut with orange champagne cream. An extensive wine list. Map R1 • 1204 W Lynn • 512-477-5584 • \$\$\$

Price Categories

For a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of wine (or equivalent meal), including taxes and extra charges.

\$	under \$20
\$\$	\$20–40
\$\$\$	\$40–55
\$\$\$\$	\$55–80
\$\$\$\$\$	over \$80

6 Iron Cactus Grill

Mexican-inspired menu including steak, pork, and seafood. The bar is noted for its margaritas and tequila. Map T2 • 512-472-9240 • Closed Sun • \$\$

7 Katz's

A 24-hour New York-style deli serving great food. Popular with late night revelers. Map S2 • 618 W 6th St • 512-472-2037 • \$

8 Manuel's

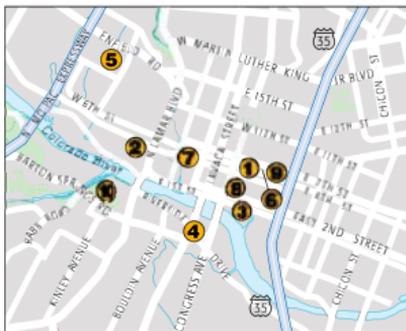
Sizzling fajitas and grilled pork tenderloins are among the Mexican favorites. Jazz brunch on Sundays. Map T2 • 310 Congress Ave • 512-472-7555 • \$

9 Boiling Pot

Spicy Cajun-style boiled seafood served in a casual, family atmosphere. Map T2 • 700 E 6th St • 512-472-0985 • \$

10 Chuy's

A hip Austin favorite filled with Elvis tributes. Try one of Chuy's special smoked chicken enchiladas. Map S2 • 1728 Barton Springs Rd • 512-474-4452 • \$



Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open daily, accept credit cards, and serve vegetarian dishes.



Left Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History Right Padre Island National Seashore

South of San Antonio

THE MODERN CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, with its gleaming skyscrapers, resort hotels, and lovely vistas across the bay, is an ideal getaway for the entire family. The Texas State Aquarium is one of the best in the country, while touring the USS Lexington offers a fascinating look at the US Navy's famous aircraft carrier. Other sights include the Museum of Science and History, which displays recreations of the Spanish ships that brought



World War II aircraft carrier, USS Lexington

Christopher Columbus to the New World, and the Botanical Gardens. The natural wonders of the Texas Gulf coast and the barrier islands draw people all year round. The area is a birders' paradise with more than 500 species and some of the country's best birding spots. Above all, the subtropical climate, sandy beaches, sunshine-filled days, and cooling breezes make this a perfect outdoor destination for fishing, cruising, and wind-surfing.

TOP 10 Sights

- 1 King Ranch, King Ranch Visitor Center
- 2 King Ranch Museum and Saddle Shop
- 3 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
- 4 Texas Maritime Museum
- 5 Texas State Aquarium Corpus Christi
- 6 USS Lexington
- 7 Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
- 8 Padre Island National Seashore
- 9 South Padre Island
- 10 Museums of Port Isabel





Saddle shop, King Ranch Museum

1 King Ranch, King Ranch Visitor Center

Rio Grande riverboat captain, Richard King, purchased land in 1853 to set up a ranch here. More land was acquired over the years and today this working ranch is one of the nation's largest. It has 2,000 miles (3,219 km) of fences, 60,000 head of cattle, cowboys that ride pick-up trucks as well as horses, and also offers several fascinating tours. 📍 *Map B4 • Hwy 141 West, Kingsville • 361-592-8055 • Open 9am–4pm Mon–Sat, noon–5pm Sun • www.king-ranch.com*

2 King Ranch Museum and Saddle Shop

This museum showcases the history of King Ranch. A highlight is an excellent series of photographs of life on the ranch by award-winning photographer Toni Frissell. Other exhibits include saddles from around the world, vintage cars, and antique carriages. Also visit the nearby King Ranch Saddle Shop, established in the mid-1800s, for top-notch leather goods. Though the shop has expanded over the years, it still produces saddles that are functional and elegant. 📍 *Map B4 • King Ranch Museum: 405 M 6th St, Kingsville; 361-595-1881; open 10am–4pm Mon–Sat, 1–5pm Sun • King Ranch Saddle Shop: 201 E Kleberg Ave, Kingsville; 800-282-5464; open 10am–6pm Mon–Sat; www.krsaddleshop.com*

3 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Best known for its famous winter resident, the majestic whooping crane, this coastal wildlife refuge lies along a major bird-migration route. More than 350 species arrive here every winter, making this a paradise for bird-watchers and naturalists (*see p47*).

4 Texas Maritime Museum

The Gulf coast is showcased through interesting exhibits in this two-story museum with a lighthouse observation deck. Salvage from shipwrecks along the coast include coins from a 1535 Spanish treasure ship and navigation tools from the 1686 French ship, *La Belle*. Other exhibits focus on sports fishing, coastal settlements, and off-shore oil exploration. 📍 *Map C4 • 1202 Navigation Circle, Rockport • 361-729-6644 • Open 10am–4pm Tue–Sat, 1–4pm Sun • Adm • www.texasmaritimemuseum.org*



Whooping crane, Aransas Wildlife Refuge



For more information on tours and admission charges, call King Ranch, King Ranch Visitor Center.



Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

5 Texas State Aquarium Corpus Christi

One of the nation's top-rated aquariums reveals the amazing underwater world of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Fascinating exhibits and touch pools display more than 4,000 marine animals. Exhibits offer touch tanks, views of schooling fish, sea turtles, and intriguing creatures such as the porcupine fish with human-size eyes that live at more than seven fathoms deep. The huge Island of Steel exhibit recreates the Gulf of Mexico reef habitat found around a steel oil rig.

📍 *Map U4 • 2710 N Shoreline Blvd • 361-881-1200 • Open 9am–5pm; summer: 9am–6pm • Adm • www.texasstateaquarium.org*

Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail

More than 500 species of birds spend part of the year along the Gulf coast near Corpus Christi, making this a very popular destination for bird-watchers. All of the best-known and local birding hotspots are identified on the Central Texas Coast map, which provides driving directions as well as descriptions of many of the common birds. Many viewing spots have boardwalks, parking pullouts or observation platforms for getting a closer look at the birds.

6 USS Lexington

Now a floating naval museum, this World War II aircraft carrier, called "The Blue Ghost" by the Japanese, participated in major Pacific operations. Special museum exhibits display artifacts from each era of the carrier's eventful 40-year history (*see p41*).

7 Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

This museum presents the history of the Gulf Coast through exhibits on the region's marine, human, and natural history. On view are treasures from a convoy of Spanish ships wrecked in 1554, the Western Hemisphere's oldest scientifically excavated shipwreck. Reproductions of Columbus' ships, built by the Spanish government to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the New World, can be toured daily.

📍 *Map T4 • 1900 N Chaparral St, Corpus Christi • 361-826-4650 • Open 10am–5pm Tue–Sat, noon–5pm Sun • Adm • www.ccmuseum.com*

8 Padre Island National Seashore

This stunning natural preserve and Gulf-side playground is a beach lover's dream. Saltwater fishing is popular year-round, with surf-casting for red drum,



Fishing, Padre Island National Seashore





Sign of South Padre Island

black drum, and sea trout from the sandy shore, or boat-fishing in shallow Laguna Madre for flounder. Camping is permitted along this entire stretch of beach (see p47).

9 South Padre Island One of the most popular Texan beach resorts is located at the southern tip of South Padre Island. Five miles (8 km) of beautifully groomed beaches and 29 miles (47 km) of wild Gulf coast sand beaches offer spectacular sunsets, excellent sports fishing, wind-surfing, and exceptional birding. Fall brings world-class fishing, while winter attracts bird-watchers. Map C6 • 800-767-2373 • www.sopadre.com

10 Museums of Port Isabel Three museums jointly tell the history of this quaint seaside town. The Point Isabel Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keepers Cottage date from 1852 when the lighthouse was built to guide ships through the barrier islands. Today, it's the only one open to visitors in Texas. The Treasures of the Gulf Museum showcases three 1554 Spanish shipwrecks through murals, artifacts, and displays. The Port Isabel Historic Museum is housed in the 1899 Champion Building and offers two floors of exhibits, including a collection of Mexican artifacts from the Mexican War of 1846–48. Map C6 • 317 E Railroad Ave • 956-943-7602 • Open 10am–4pm Tue–Sat • Adm • www.portisabelmuseums.com

A Driving Tour of the Padre Island National Seashore

Morning:

Start early at Padre Island. See the exhibits at the Visitor Center, then walk along Malaquite Beach. Back on the highway, drive northeast on the Texas Coastal Birding Trail, TX-P22, which becomes Park Rd 22/JFK Memorial Causeway. Turn right on TX-361 and drive north toward Port Aransas for 17 miles (28 km). The drive along Mustang Island, named for wild horses brought by the Spanish, offers splendid views of Corpus Christi Bay. Explore the **Mustang Island State Park** (see p100). Continue into town on S Alister St to **Pelican's Landing** (see p101) for lunch.

Afternoon:

Continue along N Alister St and turn left on W Cotter Ave. Stop at the Visitors' Information Center at 421 for information on the hot birding spots nearby. Continue to the ferry terminal and cross to the mainland. Stay on Hwy 361 into Aransas Pass and try a piece of home-made pie at the **Bakery Café** (see p101). Continue on Hwy 361 to the intersection with Hwy 181 and turn left toward Corpus Christi. Just after you cross the long bridge, exit at Burelson St and turn left under the overpass, right on Surfside and follow the signs to the **Texas State Aquarium**. Take an hour to see the exhibits, and then drive north on Shoreline for two blocks to relive World War II Pacific War history aboard the USS *Lexington*. Dine at **Landry's Seafood** (see p101) in Corpus Christi.



A Texas fishing license can be purchased at the Malaquite Visitor Center. For details visit www.nps.gov/pais or call 361-949-8068.



Left **USS Lexington** Center **Texas State Aquarium** Right **Gugenheim House, Heritage Park**

TOP 10 Corpus Christi

1 Texas State Aquarium

Fascinating, interactive exhibits of marine life found in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean (see p98).

2 USS Lexington

This famous World War II aircraft carrier is docked permanently on the southern tip of Corpus Christi Beach (see p41).

3 Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

The marine and natural history exhibits here include artifacts from the 1554 Spanish galleons and reproductions of Columbus' fleet (see p98).

4 Padre Island National Seashore

The world's longest barrier island extends for 113 miles (182 km) along the magnificent Texas Gulf Coast (see p47).

5 Mustang Island

Exceptional bird-watching and fishing draw visitors to Port Aransas and the beautiful beaches of this island. Map C4 • 361-749-5919 • www.portaransas.org

6 Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens

These gardens, also a nature preserve, bloom with exotic orchids, brilliant

hibiscus, roses, and tropical plumeria nearly all year. Map C4 • 8545 S Staples • 361-852-2100 • Open 9am–5pm Tue–Sun • Adm • www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

7 Downtown Waterfront and Waterfront Cruise

Green spaces and a two-mile (3-km) waterfront walkway open the city to the bay. The adjacent marina is the departure point for fishing and cruise boats. Map U5

8 Art Museum of South Texas

Diverse and frequently changing works by Texan artists. Map U4 • 1902 Shoreline Blvd • 361-825-3500 • Open 10am–5pm Tue–Sat; 1–5pm Sun • Adm • www.stia.org

9 Centennial House

Built in 1849, this house-museum depicts the life of a wealthy Corpus Christi family in the 1850s. Map T6 • 411 Upper Broadway • 361-882-8691 • Open 10am–2pm Thu • www.ccahs.com

10 Heritage Park

The ten beautifully restored Victorian houses nestled in this park are an excellent introduction to the city's architectural history. Map T5 • 1581 N Chaparral • 361-883-0639 • Docent tours: 10:30am Mon, Thu, & Fri • Adm





Water Street Oyster Bar

Price Categories

For a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of wine (or equivalent meal), including taxes and extra charges.	\$	under \$20
	\$\$	\$20–40
	\$\$\$	\$40–55
	\$\$\$\$	\$55–80
	\$\$\$\$\$	over \$80

TOP 10 Places to Eat
1 Catfish Charlie's

A bayou-style seafood place with Southern favorites such as fried Mississippi catfish. *Map C4* • 5830 McArdele Rd • 361-993-0363 • \$

2 Republic of Texas Bar & Grill

Fine dining on the 20th floor of Bayfront Tower. An extensive wine list. *Map U5* • 900 N Shoreline Blvd, Omni Corpus Christi • 361-886-3515 • \$\$\$\$

3 Landry's Seafood

Enjoy superbly prepared seafood on a floating waterside houseboat. *Map U5* • 600 N Shoreline Blvd • 361-882-6666 • \$\$

4 Snoopy's Pier

A popular local choice for its rustic decor, casual patio dining, and delicious fried shrimp. *Map C4* • 13313 S Padre Island Dr • 361-949-8815 • \$\$ • *No credit cards*

5 Water Street Seafood Company & Oyster Bar

This is a downtown favorite for seafood and oysters served with original in-house sauces. *Map C4* • 309 N Water St • 361-882-8683 • \$\$

6 Trout Street Bar & Grill

Upscale yet casual dining on the Port Aransas boardwalk. Specials include fresh seafood and steaks. *Map C4* • 104 W Cotter, Port Aransas • 361-749-7800 • \$\$

7 Bakery Café

Stop by for home-made baked goods and the legendary banana cream pie, or opt for the hearty daily specials. *Map C4* • 434 S Commercial & Port Aransas Hwy, Aransas Pass • 361-758-3511 • \$

8 Pelican's Landing

Try your hand at catching some seafood and have it prepared the way you like it. *Map C4* • 337 N Alister St, Port Aransas • 361-749-6405 • \$\$



Sign for Snoopy's Pier

9 Sea Ranch

One of the best places for spectacular sunsets and pan-grilled red snapper, the house specialty. *Map C6* • 1

Padre Blvd, Sea Ranch Marina, S Padre Island • 956-761-1314 • \$\$

10 Amberjack's Bayside Bar and Grill

Extensive menu which includes fresh, seasoned seafood, steaks, and pasta. *Map C6* • 209 W Amberjack, S Padre Island • 956-761-6500 • \$\$



Water Street Seafood Company



Unless otherwise stated, all restaurants are open daily, accept credit cards, and serve vegetarian dishes.





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SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN'S TOP 10



Left Visitors at SeaWorld San Antonio Right Colorful Fiesta San Antonio

TOP 10 Planning Your Trip

1 Tourist Offices

Before arriving, contact the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau for an information pack. The Texas Department of Tourism also sends out valuable information, including a state map and the *Texas State Travel Guide*. Stop by the Visitor Information Center for maps, lists of current events, and discount coupons.

2 Media

The *San Antonio Express-News* is the only daily newspaper. Several free monthly publications are also available – the *Rio* for events along the River Walk, the *Fiesta* and *Qué Pasa* for articles, event calendars, and coupons. *Current*, a free weekly, is the best source for what's playing at clubs and nightspots.

3 Internet

Websites offer helpful information and tips about vacations, festivals, city services, transport, hotels, and restaurants.

4 Maps

A free map that highlights all major freeways and attractions is available from the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau. The *San Antonio Illustrated Souvenir Map* is excellent for navigating downtown and the River Walk. You can find detailed street maps in

many stores or at the Auto Club office.

5 Visas and Identification

For visa information, all international travelers should check with their embassy or the US Department of State website well ahead of their arrival date.

6 Insurance

Obtain travel and medical insurance before arriving in the US as medical care is very expensive. When renting a car, make sure that adequate insurance coverage for accident and theft is included.

7 When to Go

San Antonio is a year-round destination. Summer is the busiest season, when attractions such as SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas are open with extended hours daily. Spring and fall are when most of the major festivals are scheduled. Christmas time is popular, when visitors come to see the brilliantly decorated River Walk. January, February, and early March are the slowest months.

8 What to Take

Casual dress is the best option. Summers are hot and humid, while spring and fall have warm days and cool nights. January and February can turn cold, but are often

pleasant during the day. Rain may be expected at any time of the year.

9 How Long to Stay

San Antonio's sights can be seen in four days or less. The River Walk is best enjoyed with several short visits, while outings to SeaWorld and the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park tend to take all day. Allow a few days to explore Hill Country, Austin, or the Gulf Coast.

10 Traveling with Children

Most attractions in San Antonio are suitable for children. Some of the large resorts and sights offer special children's programs. A *San Antonio Kids Directory* is available at the San Antonio Visitor Information Center.

Directory

Tourist Offices

- *San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau*: 203 S St. Mary's St; 210-207-6700; www.sanantoniovisit.com
- *San Antonio Visitor Information Center*: 317 Alamo Plaza; 210-207-6748
- *Texas Department of Tourism*: 800-452-9292; www.traveltext.com

Auto Club Maps

- *AAA Office*: 13415 San Pedro Ave; 210-499-0222





Left Entrance to San Antonio International Airport Right Greyhound bus

TOP 10 Getting to San Antonio & Austin

1 By Air

San Antonio International Airport is located 8 miles (13 km) north of downtown. Many major domestic carriers have flights to San Antonio, but the only non-stop international flights fly to and from Mexico. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is located on the site of the former Bergstrom Air Force Base, in southeast Austin on Texas Hwy 71. It is 8 miles (13 km) southeast of downtown.

2 Customs

People 21 years or over, are allowed to bring one liter (0.26 gallons) of beer, wine, or liquor and 200 cigarettes. Meats, fresh produce, and plants are prohibited. US citizens may bring in \$400 worth of gifts, non-citizens only \$100 worth. Cash exceeding \$10,000 must be declared. Medication containing habit-forming drugs must be identified and accompanied by a prescription.

3 Getting into Town

Information on how to get around is available at booths in front of the airports. Options include car rentals, taxis, shared-ride shuttles, limousines, public transport, and courtesy vehicles.

4 Shuttles and Courtesy Vehicles

For hotels nearby that offer courtesy shuttles,

check the boards inside the baggage claim areas. SATRANS provides shared-ride shuttle services, with departures to downtown hotels approximately every 15 minutes. Call ahead to reserve.

5 Taxis

Taxis are available at the airports. Up to four people may share a taxi. Charges will be as per the metered distance.

6 Limo Services

San Antonio offers more than two dozen suppliers of limousine services to choose from. Options available range from airport pick-ups to personal chauffeurs. Call ahead to schedule a suitable pick-up.

7 Bus

The most economical (\$0.80) way to get to downtown San Antonio from the airport is to take the VIA Metropolitan Transit Route 2 bus at Terminal 2. To get around Austin, the Capital Metro buses are easily available.

8 Amtrak Trains

The Texas Eagle travels daily between San Antonio and Chicago via Austin, Fort Worth, Little Rock, and St. Louis. The Sunset Ltd. heads east to Orlando via Houston, Lafayette, and New Orleans. It also travels west to Los Angeles via El Paso and Tucson.

9 Greyhound Buses

Greyhound buses operate 24 hours daily, and cover most of the US and Canada. The North America Discovery Pass offers unlimited travel at a low price.

10 Car

San Antonio is centrally located along I-10, with Tucson, Phoenix, and Los Angeles to the west. To the east, I-10 leads to Houston, Baton Rouge, and Jacksonville. The I-35 connects to Austin, which is 64 miles (103 km) to the north of San Antonio, and I-37 leads south to Corpus Christi.

Directory

Airports

- San Antonio International Airport: 210-207-3411
- Austin-Bergstrom International Airport: 512-530-2242

Shuttles and Courtesy Vehicles

- SATRANS: 210-281-9900

Taxis

- Yellow Checker Cab: 210-222-2222

Limousine Services

- VIP Limousine Service: 210-359-1115

Amtrak Train

- 210-223-3226

Greyhound Buses

- 210-270-5834; www.greyhound.com





Left Rio River Taxi Right Walking along the River Walk

TOP 10 Getting Around

1 VIA Streetcar

Brightly colored VIA Streetcars – trolleys that travel along four downtown routes – make it easy to get to the major attractions. They run from early morning till late in the evening, cost \$80 a ride, and come by frequently. Find out more at any VIA Information Center.

2 VIA Buses

San Antonio has an extensive and affordable VIA bus system. Route 7, the Sightseer Special, travels between downtown and the major attractions to the north, such as San Antonio Zoo, Witte Museum, and the Botanical Garden, while Route 2 travels between the airport, North Star Mall, and downtown.

3 River Cruise

A cruise is an exceptional way to get an overview of the River Walk. The River Cruise barges offer a narrated tour of the downtown area (see pp8-9).

4 Rio River Taxi

The River Taxi offers a convenient way to get from one part of the River Walk to another. Tickets are available onboard the taxi, or at the Rio ticket locations.

5 Car

A car is unnecessary downtown since the attractions are within

walking distance of each other. Also, the streetcar system is excellent and inexpensive while parking is a challenge. Beyond downtown, however, a car is most practical. The major national car rental firms have counters at the airport and offices throughout the city.

6 Bicycle

San Antonio has very few bike lanes. Though traffic is generally considerate of cyclists, it is safest to avoid busy streets. Mission Trail (see pp14–15), however, is an exception, as it is well-marked and very bicycle friendly.

7 Walking

Walking is an excellent way to explore downtown San Antonio. Popular sights such as the Alamo, La Villita, King William, San Fernando Cathedral, and the Market Square, are clustered around the River Walk area.

8 Tours

See the highlights of San Antonio on a guided bus or trolley tour. Join a walking or Segway tour of the downtown area. Take a self-paced cell-phone tour or an evening walking tour featuring ghosts and legends.

9 Parking

In downtown San Antonio it is easiest to park in one of the

numerous parking lots.

The most convenient, although the most expensive, is the parking garage at Rivercenter Mall. There are cheaper parking garages between Commerce and Market Streets. The parking lots just north of the Alamo charge \$5 a day, but keep exact change. Get a map of parking lots and garages from the VIA Information Center.

10 Tripper Pass

The VIA Day Tripper Pass costs \$3 and offers unlimited rides on all streetcars and buses, except the express buses. Buy the pass at any VIA Information Center.

Directory

VIA Downtown Information Center

• 210-362-2020; www.viainfo.net

Rio River Taxi

• 210-244-5700

Rental Cars

• Alamo: 800-462-5266; www.alamo.com
 • Avis: 210-826-6332; www.avis.com
 • Enterprise: 210-348-6806; www.enterprise.com
 • Hertz: 800-654-3131; www.hertz.com
 • National: 800-227-7368; www.nationalcar.com
 • Thrifty: 210-341-4677; www.thrifty.com



**PARK AT
YOUR OWN
RISK**
We Are Not
Responsible
For Theft Or
Damage to
Your Vehicle



NO WEAPONS
SOLITARIOS WILL BE ARRESTED
FOR CARRYING WEAPONS.

**NO SE PERMITE
PORTAR ARMAS**
LOS SOLITARIOS SERAN ARRESTADOS
POR CARRYING WEAPONS OF OFFENSE.

Left Theft warning Center Prickly Pear cactus Right Handgun warning

TOP 10 Things to Avoid

1 Driving Downtown

One-way streets, heavy traffic, and hordes of pedestrians in the downtown area make it difficult to navigate by car, especially during rush hour. It is much easier and safer to park the car and then walk or take a streetcar.

2 Driving at Rush Hour

The Loop 410 freeway can be very frustrating during the morning or afternoon rush hour. Consult a map before driving any distance as some of the major freeways, including Interstates 10 and 35, change direction in the downtown area.

3 Speed Limits

The highway speed limits in the San Antonio area are very generous, and Texans drive fast. Speed limits are often lower at night, and can change suddenly near small towns. Speed traps are common in the small towns surrounding San Antonio as well as in the Hill Country.

4 Crime

San Antonio is a friendly city and most crime is limited to theft and car break-ins. The River Walk area is heavily patrolled by city police, but the poorer areas south and west of downtown are not. It is

wise to observe a few guidelines to minimize the risk of crime. Don't walk around at night, and never carry large amounts of cash, wear expensive jewelry, or keep your wallet in your back pocket. Sling handbags and cameras over one shoulder with the strap across your body. Keep your passport separate from your cash and traveler's checks, and store valuables in hotel safes when available.

5 Sun

The sun is very intense in this subtropical climate. Apply sunscreen liberally when outdoors, and wear a wide-brimmed hat for added protection. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the glare.

6 Temperature Change

Temperatures can change rapidly here and it is common for the nights to be cold and the days hot in spring, fall, and winter.

7 Violent Weather

Though infrequent, thunderstorms, tornados, and hailstorms are part of the Texas weather pattern. Check weather reports daily for early storm warnings.

8 Flash Floods

The area along the San Antonio River is low lying, and when heavy rainstorms occur, some

areas may flood. Check with the rangers at the National Park about road conditions. Avoid driving on unfamiliar country roads during heavy rains.

9 Scratches

Cactus and sharp scrubby plants are common in the Texas countryside. The thorns may scratch or get caught in your clothes if you walk too close. Wear long sturdy pants and high boots for protection while hiking.

10 Bites

Of all common insect bites, a fire ant's bite is the most painful. They can be encountered in the city as well as in the country, so be very careful when walking in grassy areas and parks, such as the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. In the country watch out for snakes and scorpions. Rattlesnakes have diamond-shaped markings and their bite is poisonous enough to be life threatening. They may be encountered in the morning and evening when they seek a warm and sunny ledge or path. Rattlesnakes generally do not strike unless threatened, so give them a wide berth. Scorpion stings can also be very serious, especially for children. If bitten or stung by rattlesnakes or scorpions, seek medical help immediately.



For current information on the weather, check www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx or call 830-606-3617.



Left Airline counters Center Visitor Information Center sign Right Musicians at River Walk

TOP 10 Budget Tips

1 Airline Deals

The best deals are usually found on an airline's own website. Always compare prices for various airlines on travel websites before choosing a flight.

2 Hotel Discounts

Room rates fluctuate widely depending on the time of year and whether festivals or conventions are being held or not. Check any of the hotels' own websites, or speak with their reservations departments for details on the best deals.

3 Free Museums

Two of the best museums in San Antonio, The McNay Art Museum and the Fort Sam Houston US Army Medical Department Museum, are always free. Also free on Tuesday afternoons and evenings are the San Antonio Museum of Art from 4–9pm and the Witte from 3–8pm.

4 Coupons

The San Antonio Visitor Information Center (see p104) is a great source for discount coupons for restaurants, hotels, and attractions. Free monthly magazines such as *Fiesta* and *Qué Pasa* (see p104) also have coupons. Check the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau website for eCoupons and SAVE coupons.

5 Entertainment and Attractions

Most of San Antonio's Top Ten attractions, such as the Alamo and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, are free. Visit Market Square for free entertainment or enjoy live music along the River Walk.

6 Parking

Parking is most expensive downtown. Arrive early in the morning, before rush hour, to park in one of the self-pay lots north of the Alamo near the Post Office. During fiestas or other major events check with VIA for park and ride bus options (see p106).

7 Travel Passes

Take advantage of unlimited rides on the streetcars and all buses, except the express bus, with the one-day VIA Tripper Pass. Purchase online or at any VIA Center (see p106).

8 Off-Season Travel

April through October is the busiest time of the year and hotel rates will be high. Late August and early September are less busy than other warm weather months while January and February are the slowest months of the year. During the rest of the year you can obtain lower hotel rates by calling ahead to avoid major festivals, holidays, and large conventions.

9 Package Deals

Travel websites often offer package deals that include airfare, hotel, and a rental car. The San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau website has a Savings section with deals on SeaWorld San Antonio, golf, spa visits, and many more. When making hotel reservations ask about special deals.

10 Day Passes

SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas offer two-day passes that are heavily discounted for the second day.

Directory

Airlines

- American: 800-433-7300; www.aa.com
- Continental: 800-525-0280; www.continental.com
- Delta: 800-221-1212; www.delta.com
- Mexicana: 800-531-7921; www.mexicana.com
- Southwest: 800-435-9792; www.southwest.com

Travel Websites

- www.expedia.com
- www.travelocity.com
- www.orbitz.com

Coupons

- San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau
- www.sanantoniovisit.com
 - SAVE • www.sasave.com





Left Handicapped parking sign Center Yellow cab Right City visitor information agent

TOP 10 Special Needs Tips

1 Disabled Parking

Reserved parking spaces are marked by a blue and white wheelchair logo on the pavement and by a sign. A special disabled placard must be displayed in the car at all times.

2 Hotels and Restaurants

Major hotels will have accessible accommodation. Always call in advance to reserve an ADA compliant room, and discuss specific needs. When making restaurant reservations, specify that you require access, and clarify the accessibility available.

3 River Walk

The River Walk is wheelchair accessible, with a limited number of elevators, ramps, and restrooms. These are indicated in *San Antonio's Accessible River Walk* which is available on the Disability Access Office website. The free *Rio* magazine also has a map that indicates the level of ADA compliance for restaurants, attractions, and services that are on and near the River Walk.

4 River Cruise and Taxi

All the River Cruise and River Taxi barges are equipped to carry passengers in wheelchairs and have the required ramps.

5 Bus Service

Most VIA buses are equipped with accessibility features and extra aid, including lift or ramp activation, as well as securing wheelchairs, is provided (*see p106*). Check the Disability Access Office website for wheelchair size and weight limits. A few of the downtown streetcars are also wheelchair accessible.

6 Taxis and Airport Shuttle

Yellow Checker Cab offers a wheelchair accessible taxi service when requested by phone. Prior arrangements can also be made with SATRANS for ADA compliant airport shuttle vehicles (*see p105*).

7 San Antonio Disability Access Office

San Antonio strives to provide excellent accessibility and much progress has been made throughout the city to comply with the intent of the law.

8 Travel Agencies

Numerous travel agencies offer packages and itineraries suitable for travelers with disabilities. The Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality maintains a list of agencies that support a broad range of special needs. Flying Wheels Travel

specializes in world-wide travel for people with disabilities.

9 Travelers Assistance

The Access-Able Travel Source and the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality are two national organizations which offer travel advice to those with disabilities. Advice ranges from how to rent specially adapted cars to qualifying for parking permits.

10 Make Reservations and Ask

Always call ahead to specify personal requirements. Many attractions have alternate entrances with ramps, or will provide special assistance when asked. In general, people will go out of their way to help.

Directory

Disability Access Office

- 210-207-7245; www.sanantonio.gov/ada

Travel Agencies

- *Flying Wheels Travel*: 507-451-5005; www.flyingwheelstravel.com

Travelers Assistance

- *Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality*: 212-447-7284; www.sath.org
- *Access-Able Travel Source*: 303-232-2979; www.access-able.com





Left **Police officers** Center **Restroom sign** Right **Walk-in medical clinic**

TOP 10 Security and Health

1 Embassies & Consulates

International visitors who lose a passport, or have an emergency, should contact their embassy or consulate. All embassies are located in Washington, DC but some countries have their consulates in other cities too. Check the Washington, DC Embassy Directory Assistance to locate the consulate closest to you.

2 Keeping Documents Safe

Before leaving home, make photocopies of all important documents, such as your passport and visa, as well as serial numbers of traveler's checks and credit cards, in the event they are stolen or lost (*see p111*).

3 Emergencies

Dial 911 for all medical, police, and fire emergencies. Provide the details of your location. Calling 911 is free from any phone.

4 Hospitals

San Antonio has very good hospitals with emergency rooms. It's a good idea to call your insurance provider for a referral to a local clinic or medical doctor.

5 Walk-in Clinics

Texas MedClinics are privately owned walk-in clinics, located all over the area. They specialize

in occupational medicine and treat all minor medical needs and emergencies. Service is prompt and the costs are comparatively lesser than at a hospital emergency room.

6 Pharmacies

Pharmacies are located throughout the area, many of which have evening hours, but if you require one late at night, there are several 24-hour CVS and Walgreen's pharmacies.

7 Car Accident

Call 911 if anyone is injured. Drivers must exchange driver's license information and all vehicle insurance details. If you are in a rental car, report all accidents to the agency immediately. Contact the police if the property damage appears to be over \$500, or if you require a police report.

8 Seatbelts

Texas law requires the driver and all front-seat passengers to wear seatbelts. All backseat passengers under 16 must wear seatbelts. Children under four or under 36 inches (91.4 cm) in height must be secured in a car safety seat. If renting a car, request a child safety seat in advance.

9 Public Restrooms

All major attractions have public restrooms,

as do gas stations and restaurants. Shopping centers, public buildings, libraries, and large hotels are other places to try.

10 Safety

Most areas of the city are reasonably safe, with a very strong police presence downtown, particularly near the River Walk. Minimize risk by walking in well-lit areas and traveling on heavily used streets. Best avoid areas south and west of downtown where crime rates are higher.

Directory

Embassy Assistance

- Washington, DC Embassy Directory Assistance: 202-555-1212; www.embassy.org/embassies

Hospitals

- Baptist Medical Center: 210-297-7000
- University Health System: 210-358-4000

Texas MedClinics

- Blanco Clinic (North Central San Antonio): 210-341-5588
- Southeast Military Drive Clinic (South Central San Antonio): 210-927-5580

Police Non-Emergency

- San Antonio Police: 210-335-6000
- Texas Highway Patrol: 210-531-2220





Left Public pay-phone Center Mail boxes Right Wells Fargo Bank ATM

TOP 10 Banking and Communications

1 Exchange

It is best to exchange your money before you arrive in the US. Though banks provide the best exchange rates, not all exchange money, or will exchange only certain currencies. For daily expenses, use credit cards, traveler's checks in US dollars, and ATMs for cash withdrawals.

2 ATMs

There are many 24-hour ATMs in San Antonio and the surrounding area. Look on the back of your ATM or credit card to clarify which banking network it is associated with. ATMs inside convenience stores or malls charge you for the convenience, as does your own bank if you go outside its network.

3 Banks

Many major banks can be found in the greater San Antonio area. Banking hours are generally 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Most banks are open Saturday mornings and those in malls are open on Sundays as well.

4 Traveler's Checks

By far the safest form of money, traveler's checks in US currency are accepted almost everywhere in the city. Change is given in cash. Lost or stolen traveler's checks are easily replaced.

5 Telephone

Before using a phone at a hotel, ask about specific charges for local and long-distance calls. Coin-operated pay phones can be found at hotels, and at some restaurants and gas stations, but very few of them take incoming calls.

6 Phone Cards

Pre-paid telephone cards are easily available. Read the fine print before buying one. Be aware of the minimum calling charge, especially for international calls.

7 Internet

Most hotel rooms are wired for Internet access, but check to see if the service is dial-up or not. Many of the larger hotels have business centers with Internet access. Many coffee shops offer wireless Internet access, but you will need to have a laptop with you.

8 Post Offices

Normal post office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Some branches open on Saturday mornings until noon. Stamps are either available from machines in the post office lobby, which have signs that indicate the cost of postage for domestic and international locations, or from the clerks behind the counter. Hotels will often post letters for you.

9 Shipping

A UPS franchise is the best option for boxes, packing materials, and tape to prepare items for shipping domestically. PacMail is a full-service agent for FedEx and DHL domestic and international courier and shipping services. They pack or ship even large and bulky items.

10 Courier Services

International and domestic packages can be shipped from either DHL or FedEx offices located in San Antonio. Packages can also be sent through the post office or an independent UPS franchise, usually at a lower cost but with a longer delivery time.

Directory

ThomasCook and Mastercard

- Check Replacement & Stolen Credit Cards: 800-223-9920

VISA

- Check Replacement: 800-227-6811
- Stolen Credit Cards: 800-336-8472

Diner's Club

- Check Replacement & Stolen Credit Cards: 800-234-6377

Shipping & Courier Services

- UPS: 800-742-5877
- FedEx: 800-463-3339
- DHL: 800-225-5345
- PacMail: 210-804-1725





Left **Hats on sale** Center **Shop, Market Square** Right **River Art Gallery**

TOP 10 Shopping Tips

1 Shopping Hours

Hours for shops, specialty stores, and boutiques may vary, but they are generally open from 9 or 10am to 5:30 or 6pm Monday through Saturday. Some are either closed on Sunday or open for shorter hours. Most of the shopping malls are open from 10am–9pm Monday to Saturday and from noon–6pm on Sunday.

2 24-Hour Stores

Several major chains have 24-hour stores in San Antonio, such as CVS, Walgreen's, HEB Grocery Stores, and Wal-Mart Supercenter. All of these stores offer a large selection of items as well as convenience. Wal-Mart offers some of the lowest cost merchandise in the city. You can find practical clothing for the entire family as well as sunglasses, carryalls, and even souvenirs, though they will be more often than not made in China. ☎ **HEB:** Map F3; 9900 Wurzbach Road; 210-696-0794 • **Wal-Mart Supercenter:** Map G6; 1200 SE Military Dr; 210-921-0800; www.walmart.com.

3 Sales Tax

The current sales tax rate in San Antonio is 8.125 percent. Food items at grocery stores are not taxed, but non-food items, prepared food, and drinks are.

4 Shopping Malls

Glitzy shopping malls in San Antonio, such as the Rivercenter Mall, North Star Mall, and Shops at La Cantera, offer an incredible selection of merchandise. Visitors from Mexico, Texas, and the Southwest come here to shop for everything from clothing and electronics to high fashion and luxury items.

5 Outlet Centers

San Antonio's out-of-town outlet malls are huge and offer a dazzling array of items. Many of them are of high quality and have standard pricing, but you can find great bargains on last year's merchandise. The factory clearance stores have tempting offers for the bargain-hunter. The outlet malls in San Marcos are among the largest in the country.

6 Texan Wear

Hats and boots are the two critical components for dressing Texan. These can be purchased readymade or custom-ordered. Belts, shirts, accessories, and jeans complete the look. It is fun to browse and shop at the specialty stores where the selection is huge, and the variety of colors and styles is dazzling. ☎ **Boot Hill:** Map N4; **Rivercenter Mall:** 210-223-6634 • **Paris**

Hatters: Map N3; 119 Broadway; 210-223-3453; www.parishatters.com

7 Museum Stores

San Antonio's museums (see pp40–41) offer some of the most unique shops in the city. The merchandise reflects the museums' collections, so selections vary from Western kitsch at the Buckhorn (see p40) to Asian imports at the San Antonio Museum of Art (see p70).

8 Senior Discounts

Senior discounts are offered at some movie halls, attractions, hotels, restaurants, and shops. The age at which senior status begins may vary from 55 to 65. Some retail outlets offer discount days. Have an AARP card or ID ready.

9 Souvenirs

Mexican souvenirs are extremely popular, and most visitors head to Market Square where the selection is extensive. Be aware that the quality varies, and definitely check where the merchandise was actually made.

10 Returns

Most stores accept returns in like-new condition, unless the item was purchased on sale. Enquire about the return policy, and whether the refund is in cash or store-credit.





Left **Camping at Enchanted Rock State Recreation Area** Right **Busy downtown deli**

TOP 10 Eating and Accommodations Tips

1 **Early Bird Specials**

Dining at restaurants that offer early-bird specials, between 4:30 and 6:30pm, can prove to be cost-effective. The menu is often limited to a few entrées but the quality and service are the same.

2 **Lunches**

Entrées on lunch menus are often less expensive than in the evening, and many restaurants offer daily lunch specials. Budget-watchers who enjoy fine dining can lunch at upscale restaurants and save money.

3 **Alcohol Age Limit**

The legal drinking age in Texas is 21. Under-age drinking is allowed if the person is with a legal-age parent or spouse, with documentation proving the relationship. Open containers in public or in vehicles are prohibited.

4 **Cheap Eats**

Barbeque and Tex-Mex restaurants are the most economical dining option. For budget meals in the downtown area, try the many cafés (see p57) or the food court at the Rivercenter Mall, where good options include salads, entrées, and fast food. River Walk restaurants are some of the most expensive in the city. Many locals also like to choose from the restaurants along

Broadway, north of downtown, for lower cost dining options.

5 **Tipping**

Tips help ensure prompt and courteous service. In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip waitstaff 15–20 percent of the check, and bartenders 10–15 percent. In hotels, bellhops receive \$1 or more per bag, room cleaning \$1–2 daily, valet parking \$1 each time. The concierge or doorman are tipped only when they perform a special service.

6 **Taxes**

Hotel rooms in San Antonio have a 16.75 percent tax rate, while the sales tax on restaurant meals is lower, at 8.125 percent.

7 **Motel Chains**

Motel chains offer standardized accommodations. They can be found throughout San Antonio, but the lowest priced ones are usually near the major freeways or the airport. Those near the River Walk are more expensive.

8 **Accommodations Guide**

One of the best ways to find accommodations to fit a specific personal requirement, such as a pet-friendly hotel or an exercise-room onsite, is to check the free *Texas Accommodations*

Guide, which is sent out with requests for Texas travel information.

9 **Extended Stay**

Some hotels and motels offer kitchenettes and suites that can be an economical alternative to eating out. The kitchen may either be minimal, with just a microwave and refrigerator, or full-size. Many also offer guest laundry facilities. Always ask what amenities are included.

10 **Camping**

There are many camping choices available near San Antonio. Large RV resorts with full hookups, swimming pools, and playgrounds are found near SeaWorld. Outside of San Antonio, in the Hill Country, Texas State Parks offer tent camping with limited hookups for RVs, while private RV resorts offer full-hookups.

Directory

Camping

- *Texas State Parks*: www.tpwd.state.tx.us
- *Blazing Star*: 210-680-7827; www.blazingstarrv.com
- *Admiralty RV Resort*: 210-647-7878; www.admiraltyrvresort.com
- *Tejas Valley*: 210-679-7715; www.tejasvalleyrvpark.com



Left Watermark Hotel & Spa Center Westin Riverwalk Inn Right La Mansión del Río

TOP 10 Luxury Hotels

1 Hotel Valencia Riverwalk

Located on a popular stretch of the River Walk, near the Majestic Theatre, the Valencia offers chic, contemporary amenities. ☎ *Map M3* • 50 E Houston St • 210-227-9700 • www.hotelvalencia.com • \$\$\$\$\$

2 Marriott Rivercenter

This gleaming high-rise hotel is a favorite with conventioners, business travelers, and shoppers for its luxurious rooms in traditional decor and relaxing color schemes. ☎ *Map P4* • 101 Bowie St • 210-223-1000 • www.marriott.com/satrc • \$\$\$\$\$

3 Hyatt Regency San Antonio

The most talked-about hotel in San Antonio has a dramatic 16-story atrium lobby with a bit of the San Antonio River running through it. Rooms are luxurious yet Texas-casual. The Hyatt is also home to the legendary jazz venue, The Landing. ☎ *Map N4* • 123 Losoya St • 210-222-1234 • www.sanantonioregency.hyatt.com • \$\$\$\$

4 Watermark Hotel & Spa

Reputed to have some of the finest rooms in all of San Antonio as well as a superb spa. The hotel's Southwest Texas-style decor with contemporary touches creates an

inviting ambience.

The rooftop pool offers sweeping views of the city. ☎ *Map M4* • 212 W Crockett St • 210-396-5800 • www.watermarkhotel.com • \$\$\$\$\$

5 Westin Riverwalk Inn

A heady mix of Westin's signature opulence, with a Spanish Colonial theme. A classical guitarist plays Latin ballads on Fridays and Saturdays, and "La Merienda," a Latin version of high tea is also on offer, Tuesday through Saturday. ☎ *Map M4* • 420 W Market St • 210-224-6500 • www.westin.com/riverwalk • \$\$\$\$\$

6 La Mansión del Río

A Spanish hacienda-style hotel with a beautiful interior courtyard. Some rooms have balconies overlooking either the river or the courtyard. Guests may also use the spa at the Watermark Hotel across the river. ☎ *Map M4* • 112 College St • 210-518-1000 • www.lamansion.com • \$\$\$\$\$

7 Marriott Riverwalk

Located on the River Walk, this first-class hotel offers great service and comfortable rooms with balconies, luxurious bedding, and high-speed Internet access. ☎ *Map M4* • 711 E Riverwalk • 210-224-4555 • www.marriott.com/satdt • \$\$\$\$\$

8 Hotel Contessa

The hotel's stunning five-story atrium lobby looks out on the San Antonio River. The all-suites guest rooms are contemporary and spacious, and have floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the city or the river. Adding to the hotel's allure is its location, just minutes from the restaurants and clubs along the River Walk. ☎ *Map N4* • 306 W Market St • 210-229-9222 • www.thehotelcontessa.com • \$\$\$\$

9 Omni San Antonio

Sophisticated comfort and service are the hallmark of this hotel conveniently located near SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Families will appreciate the Omni Kids program. ☎ *Map F3* • 9821 Colonnade Blvd • 210-691-8888 • www.omnihotels.com • \$\$\$

10 Hilton Palacio Del Rio

Built for the 1967 HemisFair, each of the Hilton's guest rooms have Spanish decor and private balconies with eye-catching downtown or River Walk views. Its expansive lobby is flooded with soft light from the river, enhancing the beauty of the brass and onyx details. ☎ *Map N4* • 200 S Alamo St • 210-222-1400 • www.palaciodelrio.hilton.com • \$\$\$





Menger Hotel atrium

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast if included), taxes and extra charges.	\$ under \$100
	\$\$ \$100–150
	\$\$\$ \$150–200
	\$\$\$\$ \$200–250
	\$\$\$\$\$ over \$250

TOP 10 Historic Hotels, Inns, and B&Bs

1 Menger Hotel

Located next to the Alamo, this Victorian-style hotel was built in 1859 and has hosted many famous people throughout its long history. The Menger Bar is also a legendary San Antonio tavern. **Map N4 • 204 Alamo Plaza • 210-223-4361 • www.mengerhotel.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

2 Oge House

A spectacular antebellum mansion located in the King William Historic District. Classically decorated with period antiques, it is known for its majestic verandas where one can enjoy breakfast. **Map M6 • 209 Washington St • 210-223-2353 • No dis. access • www.ogeinn.com • \$\$\$**

3 Emily Morgan

Once the Medical Arts building, this luxury hotel combines chic elegance with cozy touches. Exceptional service and proximity to the River Walk and downtown attractions make it a very popular choice. **Map N3 • 705 E Houston St • 210-225-8486 • www.emilymorganhotel.com • \$\$\$**

4 Marriott Plaza San Antonio

Beautifully landscaped grounds with strolling peacocks and historic buildings create an oasis of comfort near La Villita.

The hotel is elegant and sophisticated. **Map N5 • 555 S Alamo St • 210-229-1000 • www.plazasa.com • \$\$\$**

5 Riverwalk Vista

A charming boutique hotel housed in the historic 1883 brick Dullnick building downtown. The contemporary restoration combines high ceilings, polished pine floors, and large windows with antiques, and whimsical touches such as a teddy bear on the bed. **Map N4 • 262 Losoya at the River Walk • 210-223-3200 • www.sanantonio.com/riverwalkvista • \$\$\$**

6 St. Anthony Hotel

Now one of the Wyndham Historic Hotels, the St. Anthony, the world's first air-conditioned hotel, provides European-style elegance with its lavish carpets and French Empire antiques. The guest rooms are formal yet comfortable with modern amenities and high-speed Internet access. **Map N3 • 300 East Travis • 210-227-4392 • st-anthony.wyndham-hotels.com • \$\$\$**

7 Noble Inns – Jackson House

This traditional B&B, housed in the historic home built for Moses Jackson in 1894, offers an elegant Victorian experience, complete with a library, home-

made breakfast served in the dining room, with afternoon refreshments of fruits and desserts, and an evening sherry in the parlor. **Map M6 • 107 Madison St • 210-225-4045 • www.nobleinns.com • \$\$\$**

8 Fairmont Hotel

This historic hotel built in 1906 entered the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the largest structure ever moved on wheels, when it was shifted along the river to its present location in 1985. **Map N4 • 401 S Alamo St • 210-224-8800 • www.thefairmounthotel-sanantonio.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

9 Brackenridge House

The rooms at this cozy B&B are a mix of modern and antique – with clawfoot tubs, wireless Internet, microwave, and small refrigerator. **Map M6 • 230 Madison • 210-271-3442 • No dis. access • www.brackenridgehouse.com • \$\$\$**

10 The Columns on Alamo

Victorian charm fills this 1892 Greek Revival home. Some rooms have fireplaces or jacuzzi tubs for two. The friendly innkeepers will also help plan your day. **Map M6 • 1037 S Alamo St • 210-271-3245 • No dis. access • www.columnssanantonio.com • \$\$\$**

Left **Mayan Dude Ranch Center** Riding, **Dixie Dude Ranch** Right **Silver Spur Guest Ranch**

TOP 10 Resorts and Ranches

1 Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort

This bright, spacious country-style resort offers family activities including golf, spa facilities, fitness, and tubing on the river. They also offer supervised kids programs in the summer. **Map D4 • 9800 Hyatt Resort Drive • 210-647-1234 • www.hillcountry.hyatt.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

2 Westin La Cantera

An elegant hilltop resort, set in a former limestone quarry, this hotel has two award-winning golf courses, a spa, and health club. The architecture reflects the ethnic diversity of Texan culture, embracing Spanish, European, and Texan details. The library, restaurant, and meeting rooms are named in honor of Texan legends. **Map E2 • 16641 La Cantera Pkwy • 210-558-6500 • www.westinlacantera.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

3 Radisson Hill Country Resort & Spa

This family-friendly hotel has an excellent spa and swimming pool. Located close to SeaWorld and several golf courses, the Radisson offers packages that include two-day passes and transportation to SeaWorld. **Map D4 • 9800 Westover Hills • 210-509-9800 • www.radisson.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

4 Dixie Dude Ranch

Guests are treated like old friends at this laid-back working ranch. Campfire sing-alongs and dancing are part of the fun at the ranch. **Map A2 • Bandera • 830-796-4481 • No vegetarian food • No dis. access • www.dixieduderanch.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

5 Mayan Dude Ranch

This Hill Country ranch has been in operation for 50 years. Efficiently run by the Hicks family, meals include many Texan favorites and there are plenty of activities on offer. **Map A2 • Bandera • 830-796-3312 • No vegetarian food • No dis. access • www.mayanranch.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

6 Silver Spur Guest Ranch

Recently remodeled and under new management, the Silver Spur has large modern rooms, meals at the lodge, horseback rides, and more. **Map A2 • 9266 Bandera Creek Road, Bandera • 830-796-3037 • No vegetarian food • No dis. access • www.ssranch.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

7 Y.O. Ranch

The rustic cabins at this game ranch have pine walls decorated with antlers, and rocking chairs on the porch. Meals are inclusive, but the horseback riding, game ranch tours, photo

safaris, and hunting are all extra. **Map A2 • Y O Ranch, Mountain Home, NW of Kerrville • 830-640-3222 • No vegetarian food • No dis. access • www.yoranch.net • \$\$\$\$\$**

8 Guadalupe River Ranch Resort & Spa

Once the Texas home of Academy Award-winning actress Olivia de Havilland, best known for her role as Melanie in *Gone With the Wind*, today this rustic ranch is a favorite for family reunions and vacations. Spa treatments and tubing on the Guadalupe River are extras here. **Map A2 • PO Box 877, Boerne • 800-460-2005 • www.guadalupeverranch.com • \$\$\$\$**

9 Lake Austin Spa Resort

An oasis of tranquility and luxury, this world-class spa and fitness resort sits on a beautiful lake in the Hill Country. **Map B1 • 1705 S Quinlan Park Rd, Austin • 512-372-7300 • www.lakeaustin.com • \$\$\$\$\$**

10 Barton Creek Resort and Spa

A grand Texan-style resort in the Hill Country, with four championship golf courses, a spa, and plenty of places to find solitude. **Map B1 • 8212 Barton Club Dr, Austin • 512-329-4000 • www.bartoncreek.com • \$\$\$\$\$**





Amerisuites Riverwalk

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast included), taxes and extra charges.	\$ under \$100
	\$\$ \$100–150
	\$\$\$ \$150–200
	\$\$\$\$ \$200–250
	\$\$\$\$\$ over \$250

TOP 10 Mid-Range Hotels
1 Drury Inn & Suites San Antonio Riverwalk

Housed in the beautifully restored Petroleum Commerce Building, this inn has lots of extras – free hot breakfasts, free drinks and snacks in the evening, and 60 minutes of free long-distance calls. *Map M4* • 201 N St. Mary's St • 210-212-5200 • www.druryhotels.com • \$\$\$

2 Amerisuites Riverwalk

Close to all the downtown attractions, rooms here have high-speed Internet access, microwaves, and refrigerators. There is also a 24-hour fitness center, breakfast buffet, and parking. *Map M5* • 601 S St. Mary's St • 210-227-6854 • www.amerisuites.com • \$\$\$

3 Crockett Hotel

Built in 1909, this hotel is located near the Alamo on part of the 1836 battlefield. Guest rooms are decorated with pine furnishings and the outdoor pool and hot-tub are surrounded by beautiful landscaping. *Map G5* • 320 Bonhan St • 210-225-6500 • www.crocketthotel.com • \$\$

4 Havana Riverwalk Inn

This unique boutique hotel is filled with *objects d'art* from around the world. The hotel's 27

rooms are reminiscent of a European hotel in Havana, India, or Africa in the 1920s. *Map M2* • 1015 Navarro St • 210-222-2008 • www.havanariverwalkinn.com • \$\$\$

5 Homewood Suites by Hilton

This all-suites hotel offers large one and two-bedroom suites with full kitchens. Other conveniences include an on-site laundry, fitness center, business center, and a store that sells microwave dinners and snacks. *Map M4* • 432 W Market St • 210-222-1515 • www.homewoodsuitesriverwalk.com • \$\$\$\$

6 O'Brien Historic Hotel

This charming boutique hotel recently upgraded its guest rooms and offers luxurious beds and linens. Some rooms have a shared balcony and there is an on-site business center. *Map M5* • 116 Navarro St • 210-527-6058 • www.obrienhotel.com • \$

7 El Tropicano

El Tropicano was the first hotel built along the River Walk in 1962. Its bold design and bright tropical colors set it apart from the rest of the accommodations here. It also has lively Latin entertainment and offers salsa dance lessons to its

guests. *Map M4* • 110 Lexington Ave • 210-223-9461 • www.eltropicanohotel.com • \$\$

8 Beckmann Inn and Carriage House

This 1886 home in the King William Historic District was built by Albert Beckmann as a wedding gift for his bride. Beautifully landscaped grounds, a wraparound porch, and sunroom are highlights of the house. *Map F5* • 222 E Guenther St • 210-229-1449 • *No dis. access* • www.beckmanninn.com • \$\$\$

9 The Inn at Craig Place

Designed by Alfred Giles in 1891, this inn has sparkling wood floors, a library, parlor, and sunporch. Luxury and exceptional service are reflected in its rooms and the three-course gourmet breakfast. *Map G4* • 117 W Craig Place • 210-736-1017 • *No dis. access* • www.craigplace.com • \$\$\$

10 Doubletree Hotel San Antonio Airport

This Spanish Colonial hotel wraps around a landscaped courtyard with fountains and a swimming pool. Rooms have high-speed Internet access and dual phone lines. *Map F3* • 37 NE Loop 410 • 210-366-2424 • www.doubletree.com • \$\$\$



Left La Quinta Inn & Suites Airport Right Comfort Suites Central

TOP 10 Budget Hotels

1 Best Western Sunset Suites

An all-suites hotel in a beautifully converted turn-of-the-19th century building located close to the River Walk. Lots of extras, including free parking, buffet breakfast, fitness center, and Internet access. Map Q5 • 1103 E Commerce St • 210-223-4400 • www.bestwesternsunsetsuites.com • \$\$

2 Bonner Garden B&B

This lovely two-story Italian villa surrounded by gardens was built in 1910 by noted architect Atlee B. Ayers. The furnishings are a mix of antiques and modern comfort. Map G4 • 145 E Argarita Ave • 210-733-4222 • No dis. access • www.bonnergarden.com • \$\$

3 Bullis House Inn

Decorated in southern Texas-style, the rooms in this Neo-Classical mansion are furnished with antique reproductions in rich shades of burgundy, green, gold, and blue. Some rooms have shared bathrooms. Map G5 • 621 Pierce St • 210-223-9426 • No dis. access • www.bullishouseinn.com • \$

4 Alamo Travelodge

Located just five blocks north of the Alamo with free parking and an outdoor swimming pool.

The VIA streetcar and bus, and tour buses stop in front of the hotel.

Map G5 • 405 Broadway • 210-222-1000 • www.travelodge.com • \$

5 La Quinta Inn & Suites Airport

This inn offers a free airport shuttle service. Spacious rooms have quality linen, microwaves, and refrigerators. Guests also enjoy access to the fitness room, pool, and a free breakfast.

Map G3 • 850 Halm Blvd • 210-342-3738 • www.lq.com • \$\$

6 Red Roof Inn Downtown

Great downtown location and exceptional value for money. Guest rooms are comfortable, children under 18 stay for free and some rooms offer a microwave and small refrigerator for an additional charge. Map P4 • 1011 E Houston • 210-229-9975 • www.redroof.com • \$

7 Microtel Inn & Suites

Microtel is one of the most respected chain hotels. It offers a free Continental breakfast with waffles, an exercise room, outdoor pool, guest laundry, and a shady picnic area with BBQ grill. All rooms have free high-speed Internet. Map H5 • 3911 I-35 N • 210-231-0123 • www.microtelinn.com • \$

8 Comfort Suites Central

A favorite with those requiring extended stays, this all-suites hotel chain offers comfortable and attractive guest rooms with a separate living area, microwave, and refrigerator. Additional facilities include an outdoor pool, hot tub, guest laundry, and a free Continental breakfast. Map F4 • 6901 I-10 W • 210-738-1100 • www.choicehotels.com • \$\$

9 Courtyard by Marriott-Airport

Spacious rooms with a contemporary sitting area, large work space, and deluxe bedding make this a popular chain hotel. The outdoor pool and whirlpool are set in a nicely landscaped courtyard with deck chairs. There is also a complimentary airport shuttle, breakfast buffet, and parking. Map G3 • 8615 Broadway Street • 210-828-7200 • www.courtyard.com/satca • \$\$

10 Quality Inn Airport

This inn is known for its clean rooms and friendly service. The guest rooms are spacious with comfortable beds, above average room decor, and high-speed Internet access. There is on-site parking and a complimentary airport shuttle service. Map G3 • 542 NE Loop 410 • 210-930-3300 • \$





Runnymede B&B

Price Categories

For a standard, double room per night (with breakfast if included), taxes and extra charges.	\$ under \$100
	\$ \$ \$100-150
	\$ \$ \$ \$150-200
	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$200-250
	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ over \$250

TOP 10 Staying Outside San Antonio
1 Radisson Resort South Padre Island

The inviting beachside location on South Padre Island is the highlight of this resort. Enjoy the outdoor pools, beach access, sundeck, and lit tennis courts. *Map C6* • 500 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island • 956-761-6511 • www.radisson.com/southpadretx • \$\$\$\$

2 Camp David Bed & Breakfast

Nestled in landscaped grounds with large pecan trees, these five private cottages have king-size beds, full kitchens, and gas fireplaces. The breakfast is served in the courtyard or at the cottage. *Map A1* • 708 W Main, Fredericksburg • 830-997-7797 • No dis. access • www.campdavidbb.com • \$\$

3 Runnymede B&B

Surrounded by the beautiful Hill Country, this English-style country inn offers guests the choice of either private cottages or attractive guest rooms at the inn. *Map A1* • 184 Fullbrook Lane, Fredericksburg • 830-997-5612 • No dis. access • www.runnymede.countrynn.com • \$\$

4 Faust Hotel

Built in 1929 but now completely renovated, the Faust prides itself on

its 1930s ambience. Each floor is decorated with a different color theme. The rooms are small, but furnished with antiques. *Map B2* • 240 S Seguin Ave, New Braunfels • 830-625-7791 • No dis. access • www.fausthotel.com • \$\$

5 Gruene Homestead Inn

This charming inn offers a broad selection of room sizes, styles, and amenities. Choose from rooms with country decor, antiques and lace, or a cozy attic room. *Map B2* • 832 Gruene Road, New Braunfels • 830-606-0216 • No dis. access • www.gruenehomesteadinn.com • \$\$\$

6 Omni Bayfront Hotel

Rooms at this high-rise bay-front hotel have cherry wood furnishings and attractive artwork. Some have balconies and bay views. There is a health club with sauna and whirlpool. *Map U5* • 900 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi • 361-887-1600 • www.omnihotels.com • \$\$\$

7 Holiday Inn Sunspree North Gulf Beach Resort

A beachfront hotel with an outdoor pool and bar service, tennis courts, and a fitness room. The lobby features huge freshwater aquariums. Rooms have

Internet access, a microwave, and a refrigerator. *Map C4* • 15202 Windward Dr, North Padre Island, Corpus Christi • 361-949-8041 • www.sunspreeresorts.com • \$\$\$

8 The Driskill

The magnificent lobby with marble floors, three-story columns, and stained-glass dome ceiling exudes opulence. The Driskill's finely appointed rooms include terry robes and luxury bedding. *Map T2* • 604 Brazos St, Austin • 512-474-5911 • www.driskillhotel.com • \$\$\$\$

9 Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake

The signature atrium lobby is impressive, but the real attraction is the proximity to Town Lake. Guests can rent paddle boats, canoes, and bikes. *Map T3* • 208 Barton Springs Road, Austin • 512-477-1234 • www.austin.hyatt.com • \$\$\$

10 Mansion at Judges Hill

Classic, romantic charm is the highlight here. The columned mansion at the hotel's heart was built in 1900. The rooms are modern yet gracious, with brocade fabrics and solid furnishings. *Map T2* • 1900 Rio Grande, Austin • 512-495-1800 • www.mansionatjudgeshill.com • \$\$\$\$



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Acknowledgements

The Author

Nancy Mikula's passion has been to explore America and discover its little-known attractions. Her articles on travel and history have appeared in numerous publications in the USA and Canada. She has authored Dorling Kindersley's Eyewitness Top 10 guide to Santa Fe as well as collaborated on guides to Arizona, Southwest USA, and the Grand Canyon.

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