



VISIT

# SAN ANTONIO

THE OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

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**300** Years  
*of*  
*San Antonio*

see page 2

*Plus:*

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# 300

## SAN ANTONIO

**I**N 1718, SAN ANTONIO DE BEXAR PRESIDIO WAS A DUSTY OUTPOST OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE. ALONG THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER, FIVE FRANCISCAN MISSIONS BROUGHT THE CATHOLIC FAITH TO THE REGION.

BY BEKAH McNEEL



**A**lthough San Antonio is famous for its Spanish legacy, many cultures have carved its history.

The city's charter was actually given to a group of Canary Islanders whose foot journey from Mexico ended in what is now Main Plaza. As these pioneers traveled, they were influenced by those they met along the way, and the city they established immediately became a vibrant crossroads for trade on the Texas frontier.

Three hundred years later, the once-sleepy settlement is the nation's seventh-largest city. Collectively, the five founding missions have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of them, the Alamo, is the most popular visitor attraction in Texas. If you ask San Antonians, that's only the beginning.

Across the city, cultural institutions, businesses, and civic entities are participating in the 2018 Tricentennial Celebration. From educational exhibitions to public art festivals, San Antonio is all dressed up for its three-hundredth birthday party.

Those visiting San Antonio during the Tricentennial won't have to look far to join in the festivities. Expect special exhibits at major museums, new works of public art, and learning opportunities throughout the city.

The city even spruced up some of its perennial favorites. Most notably, the popular river barges, which carry visitors up and down the River Walk and the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River, have a fresh look; their new papel picado motif references the colorful flags flown for celebrations around the city.

From June to September, San Antonio Museum of Art will celebrate the city's founders with *Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid*. Pearl, San Antonio's culinary hub, will also get into the Iberian spirit with *Olé, San Antonio*, bringing the park spaces, restaurants, and retailers into the celebration of Spain's

world-famous food and community life.

The Witte Museum brings things closer to home with *Confluence and Culture: 300 Years of San Antonio History*. The special exhibition runs through January 6, 2019, and highlights the importance of San Antonio as a hub for trade, and how those who passed through left indelible marks on the city.

San Antonio's calendar is always full of festivals and cultural celebrations. During the Tricentennial, these annual events will reach new heights of energy and diversity. Some of the smaller events offer insight into the cultural streams that continue to converge in San Antonio from around the world, enriching its landscape. For example, in July and August 2018, The University of Texas at San Antonio's International Society for Historical Linguistics will host an exploration of the many languages that have shaped San Antonio. Meanwhile, the San Antonio Film Festival brings together young and exiting filmmakers from around the world.

Jump Start theater will celebrate the mystical season between Dia de los Muertos and Christmas with a run of the theatrical work

*Ebanazio: Winter's Tale of Old San*

*Antonio*. Across town, on the last Tuesday of every month, the East San Antonio Community Development Corporation will delve into the area's history in a legacy lecture series at the Carver Library. Concerts ranging from jazz to *conjunto* add to the sights and sounds of the Tricentennial.

Of course, the festivities will also highlight the city's crown jewels. In early September, the World Heritage Festival will turn all eyes to the historical and continuing importance of the San Antonio missions.

While it's always a good time to visit the Alamo City, those who visit during 2018 are in for an historically good time. ☼



# What's New IN SAN ANTONIO?

**W**HAT'S NEW, YOU ASK? THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY! This year, San Antonio celebrates its Tricentennial, and you're just in time to join the party. Offering a yearlong calendar of events, activities, and innovative initiatives, this once-in-a-life-time experience honors the city's people, heritage, and future, and will carry San Antonio into the next three hundred years. With so much to appreciate, it's no wonder that *National Geographic Traveler* magazine recently named San Antonio one of the twenty-one must-see destinations to visit in 2018.

BY KAREN O'DONNELL KRAJCIER



**W**e invite you, some of our over thirty-four million annual visitors, to explore the newest offerings in San Antonio.

Alamo City; Military City, USA; Mission City; A City on the Rise—San Antonio has many monikers, and we're thrilled to have been recently honored with two more. Recognizing the city's rich culinary heritage, local food movements, and enthusiasm for sustainability, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated San Antonio a Creative City of Gastronomy. A stew of many culinary traditions—including Mexican, Spanish, German, and French—San Antonio now joins the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as the second city in the U.S., and the first in Texas. As a city that embraces so many cultures from around the world, San Antonio is honored to have also been named one of 2018's "Best of the World" according to *National Geographic Traveler* magazine.

## CHILLS AND THRILLS

If you're looking for thrills, there's no better destination than Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Completing the DC Super Hero Trilogy of Rides is the new Wonder Woman™ Golden Lasso Coaster, the world's first single-rail coaster. Traveling single file, riders soar, twist, and turn in the open air on an I-beam no wider than 15.5 inches. Even the queue is an adventure, as you learn about the super hero's life and powers. The park is also home to America's first rocket-blast water coaster, Thunder Rapids. This state-of-the-art attraction utilizes water jet-propulsion technology for lightning-fast uphill speeds and adrenaline-pumping drops. Dry off in the breeze of three thrill rides anchoring the recent development of the Fiesta Bay Boardwalk: Fireball, Hurricane Force 5, and Spinsanity, a modern adaptation of a traditional Tilt-A-Whirl. Be sure to revisit the Scream drop tower ride to experience its new virtual reality upgrade, Drop of Doom VR. As if experiencing a 205-foot drop wasn't frightening enough, riders can now wear Samsung Gear VR headsets that simulate an aerial gun battle with giant spiders. In the spring, enjoy the park's Mardi Gras Festival with authentic street floats and themed music and food, and in the summer, top off your day of adventure with an all-new fireworks extravaganza: Celebrate! Summer Night Spectacular.

SeaWorld & Aquatica San Antonio, one of the world's largest marine-life theme parks, opened its newest ride, Taumata Racer, a high-speed water slide that not only lets riders zoom downhill, head-first on foam bodysurfing mats, but also

lets them race against their friends in six side-by-side lanes. Named after the famous hill in New Zealand, Taumata Racer sends aquatic daredevils around a swooping, 180-degree turn before picking up speed over a 375-foot slide length and down a fifty-five-foot drop in under ten seconds. Designed to replicate the adrenaline rush of a watercraft rescue mission, Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster hurdles riders sixty feet into the air over SeaWorld's lake. The new Sesame Street Party Parade brings beloved characters out of the Sesame Street Bay of Play and onto the park's pathways. This daily parade features ten themed floats, music, and two show-stopping performances throughout the parade route. When the summer sun sets, the night gets bright at Electric Ocean (June 15–August 12, 2018). This family-friendly event explodes with a nightly fireworks display and party zones with electronic dance music (EDM). Take part in the dance club atmosphere or catch one last show, such as Shamu's *Celebration: Light of the Night* or *Sea Lions Tonite*. And don't say goodbye to summer without raising a glass of your favorite frothy flavor at Bier Fest. Offering more than one hundred local and international craft beers, this Bavarian celebration will also feature authentic German food and music. It's held three consecutive weekends, beginning September 1, 2018.

San Antonio is proud to be the home of Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first amusement park where every person can enjoy every ride and activity regardless of ability and age. The city now houses the world's first fully accessible water park, Morgan's Inspiration Island. Guests can enjoy a river boat ride through a jungle setting and five new water play areas with splash elements such as rain trees, falls, pools, and water cannons. The water park joins four other



Thunder Rapids at  
Six Flags Fiesta Texas

Dream Today Tomorrow  
at The DoSeum



**LOCAL'S TIP:** THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING FUN AND FREE HAPPENING AT THE PEARL, ESPECIALLY LIVE MUSIC. IN ADDITION TO RECURRING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FARMERS MARKETS, FREE LIVE MUSIC CAN BE FOUND AT MANY SPECIAL EVENTS, SUCH AS FIRST THURSDAYS (THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH), WHEN SHOPS STAY OPEN UNTIL 7 P.M. SO SHOPPERS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SALES BEFORE CATCHING RESTAURANT SPECIALS. DJS SPIN FRESH BEATS EVERY MONDAY AT THE BOTTLING DEPARTMENT FOOD HALL FOR AN ALL-DAY HAPPY HOUR. ON SELECT NIGHTS, SOUND CREAM AIRSTREAM TURNS PEARL PARK INTO A DANCE FLOOR OR LOUNGE, DEPENDING ON THE GENRE OF MUSIC PUMPING THROUGH THE SPEAKERS.

wheelchair-accessible rides—the Whirling Wonder Ferris Wheel, the Wonderland Express Train ride, the Off-Road Adventure SUV ride, and a carousel of brightly colored animals—and more than twenty other attractions.

If your idea of thrills is more of a mind game, check out Extreme Escape, San Antonio's escape room adventure. Here, groups of up to ten people collaborate in extreme situations, such as a pirate mutiny and a zombie apocalypse, to find clues, solve puzzles, and escape the locked room before time runs out. Multi-dimensional elements such as life-size and hands-on props, theatrical lighting, and smells and sounds combine to create a sensory experience that feels like jumping into a life-size board game. Visitors who prefer to stay downtown can walk to Great Room Escape San Antonio.

Few sports are more extreme than skydiving, and the certified indoor skydiving instructors at iFly San Antonio can give you the feeling of freefall without the fear. Inside iFly's three-story, see-through wind tunnel, daredevils from ages three to 103 take flight with the power of winds reaching speeds of up to 115 miles per hour (for adults). There's no experience necessary for this unforgettable experience.

## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

In this decade devoted to downtown development, San Antonio is where classics are cool, contemporaries are cutting edge, and recent

additions and renovations promise to keep our city worthy of its world-class reputation.

When you're ready to stretch out on a grassy lawn under the warm Texas sun, watch children splash through the water or challenge a local to a game of table tennis by a giant mosaic panther, you can stay downtown. Hemisfair, site of the 1968 World's Fair, is well into the second of a three-phase development plan to become the Central Park of San Antonio, a place where locals and visitors can meet, play, and relax. The park's most exciting space is Yanaguana Garden, a family-friendly, 4.1-acre park. This active-play and recreational environment for all ages and abilities includes a splash pad that flows into an enormous sandscape, a challenging playscape of ropes and slides, and public art that invites climbers and selfie-takers alike.

All that activity requires sustenance, and Yanaguana's two new restaurants are helping visitors stay to play. In addition to classic breakfast tacos, Parisian bistro Commonwealth Coffeehouse & Bakery offers quiche and French-inspired desserts in the historic Koehler House. Next door, Con Safos Cocina y Cantina features "neo-Chicano food" in Espinoza House and on its large patio. Meaning "with respect," Con Safos honors San Antonio's working-class Mexican-Americans with creative twists on familiar Tex-Mex dishes. Sit and enjoy live music or take advantage of Hemisfair's open container law. Both restaurants offer



beer, wine, and cocktails that you're welcome to take around the park. You can also grab a Mexican frozen ice pop from Paleteria San Antonio before walking the tree-lined promenade of Civic Park.

Observe verdant gardens and shallow-water pools before finding a comfortable spot on the Great Lawn for a free, outdoor concert. When complete, Civic Park will offer apartments, retail space, a boutique hotel, food hall, and additional green space for napping under the shady trees.

When the summer sun burns bright, continue your experience indoors at the remodeled and expanded Shops at Rivercenter. Classic shops and restaurants such as Macy's, Fogo de Chao, and Morton's Steakhouse welcome guests alongside newer offerings, including H&M, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, and Yard House. In early 2019, joining entertainment attractions Dave & Busters and *Battle for Texas: The Experience* (a fully immersive and interactive Alamo adventure) are Sea Life Aquarium and LEGOLand® Discovery Center. A giant marine tank will be the centerpiece at Sea Life San Antonio, and an underwater tunnel will allow visitors to journey under the sea and get in close view of sharks, seahorses, rays, and starfish. LEGOLand adventurers will enjoy LEGO-themed workshops, rides, and play areas, as well as a MINILAND exhibit of San Antonio's skyline and iconic features.

Ongoing improvements to the historic Westside's San Pedro Creek have begun to transform a concrete-lined ditch into a natural creek and world-class park. When the \$175 million San Pedro Creek Improvements Project is complete, visitors will enjoy two full miles of walkable channel, enriched with vibrant public art, four miles of paseos, and a plaza, as well as many new and rehabilitated bridges within eleven acres of natural landscaping. Visitors can walk the beautifully landscaped and art-filled first half-mile of the project, from the tunnel inlet near Columbus Park to Houston

Street. Points of interest will include Tricentennial Plaza, featuring The Plethora, a four-story sculpture by artist Jorge Rodríguez-Gerada, and multiple water features.

With so much new development along the River Walk, finding the perfect hotel can be just as exciting as choosing the perfect restaurant. From traditional classics (such as the Omni la Mansión del Río) to hipster havens (such as Hotel Havana), to internationally recognized destinations (such as Hotel Emma), San Antonio has a room—and a view—for everyone. The newest hotels to dot the downtown skyline will be Canopy by Hilton, Thompson Hotel, and The Saint Hotel. Recognized as a barometer of neighborhood vibrancy, Canopy San Antonio River Walk will integrate the Civil War-era Alamo Fish Market building into its design. The imaginative interiors of The Saint Hotel will encourage visitors and guests to "play naughty, sleep saintly." The luxurious Thompson San Antonio Hotel and The Arts Residences will bring guests and residents so close to the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts that patrons can wear their fancy shoes with ease. Recipient of the 2017 *Condé Nast Traveler Readers'*

#### WHAT DAVY CROCKETT REALLY SAID

"You may all  
Go to hell with  
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—Davy Crockett

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#### LOCAL'S TIP: RENT A SWELL CYCLE

AND BIKE THE BRACKENRIDGE PARK TRAIL AROUND BRACKENRIDGE GOLF COURSE. THEN COAST ON TO BRACKENRIDGE PARK, SAN ANTONIO ZOO, THE JAPANESE TEA GARDENS, THE SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN, THE DOSEUM—SAN ANTONIO'S MUSEUM FOR KIDS—AND THE WITTE MUSEUM.



The Witte Museum



**LOCAL'S TIP:** SPEND YOUR MORNING AT SAN ANTONIO ZOO, AND THEN RIDE THE ZOO TRAIN TO THE WITTE MUSEUM. TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, FROM 3 TO 8 P.M., ADMISSION TO THE WITTE IS FREE.

Choice Award, the fully-renovated Hotel Valencia embraces Spanish colonial style and a new Argentinian restaurant, Dorrego's.

## EXPLORE PEARL

With more than five hundred residents within its boundaries and 2,000 people living within walking distance, Pearl is more than a pretty collection of boutiques and restaurants—it's an evolving, active community. The hip epicenter of this culinary-focused urban village is Hotel Emma. Thanks to efforts to maintain the 1894 Pearl Brewery's original architecture, each of Emma's guest rooms is unique, from the top-floor suites with private terraces to the lower-level rooms with exposed brick walls and claw-foot tubs. Dine and drink in one of the hotel's captivating restaurants, each featuring industrial brewing artifacts, or explore Pearl's newest offerings, such as Botika and High Street Wine Co. Visitors to JAZZ, TX can dance off their in-house Texan cuisine to the music of a live South Texas band, and patrons of Bottling Department food hall make selections from a rotating array of vendors, including emerging, local chefs and established culinary professionals. Compare your foodie finds at an outdoor table or by the cool edge of a fountain. Try not to eat all of the kids' carnitas when they grab a spot for story time at the Twig Book Shop or run through Pearl Park's new splash pad.

This summer, Pearl spices up San Antonio's Tricentennial with *Olé, San Antonio*, a summer-long celebration of the city's Spanish heritage through food, music, dance, design, and architecture. Free and open to the public, activities include a concert by critically acclaimed Spanish flamenco fusion vocalist Concha Buika, flamenco performances, a weekly Tapas Tuesday held by Pearl restaurants, and a parade in which San Antonio's historical figures are represented by *cabezudos*, (big heads)—large, papier-mâché headed characters—running from June 21 to September 16, 2018.

Completion of the Cellars apartment building brings the upscale Hiatus Spa + Retreat to Pearl. This trendy holistic spa includes a hydrotherapy room and a nail station with zero-gravity chairs. Those seeking a relaxing spa experience in a more natural setting take to the hills of La Cantera Resort and Spa's Loma de Vida Spa. With breathtaking views of both city and country from this so-called "Hill of Life," guests can raise their glasses of freshly squeezed juice from private sky lofts, garden cabanas, the stunning infinity pool, or outdoor cowboy tubs. The spa's Quenche Juicery offers cold-pressed juices, mood-enhancing Lotus Wei elixirs, and perfectly portioned meals.

## BROADWAY CULTURAL CORRIDOR

Many established institutions along this corridor are celebrating changes. The San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA), housed in the former nineteenth-century Lone Star Brewery,





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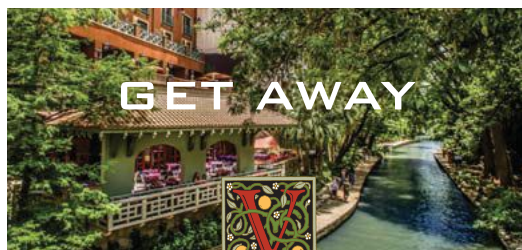
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## Must See: CONFLUENCE PARK

Two years in the making, San Antonio unveiled the long-awaited Confluence Park in spring 2018. Located on Mitchell Street, the park transformed a former Southside industrial laydown yard into a unique, interactive learning, cultural, and recreational experience. The park represents the intersection of art and science, while furthering the importance of the San Antonio River for present and future generations. Confluence Park includes a site-wide water catchment system, multi-purpose educational center with an earth-

en roof, demonstration ecotypes, and serves as an inviting gateway to hiking and biking trails along the Historic Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River.



showcases antique, contemporary, and folk art. Commemorating the city's Spanish origins, SAMA presents the Tricentennial exhibition *Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid* (June 22–September 16, 2018). Exclusive to SAMA, this exhibition features more than forty masterpieces by Spanish painters—such as El Greco, Velázquez, Goya, Sorolla, and Picasso—many of which have never been on view in the United States.

As San Antonio honors its past and present, The DoSeum asks children and adults to look toward the future in its Tricentennial exhibit: *Dream Tomorrow Today* (June 6, 2018–January 6, 2019). Visitors step into an interactive time machine tunnel and create their ideal future by designing cities, shaping community values, and role-playing careers. The DoSeum also welcomes the vision of its 2018 Artist(s)-in-Residence, who will contribute their works to the Summer 2018 Tricentennial exhibit, designed with the goal of inspiring viewers to envision and collectively build a better future.

Kids and adults can brush up on their gardening skills at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. The thirty-three-acre park recently unveiled eight new acres that invite guests to explore and connect with nature and discover the value of plants, water, freshly grown



food, and the outdoors. Major additions include the Welcome & Discovery Complex, Culinary Garden and Outdoor Kitchen, Garden Gateway, and Family Adventure Garden. Visitors who appreciate a little caffeine with their kale will enjoy Rosella at the Garden in Sullivan Carriage House. During summer 2018, San Antonio Zoo will be filled with life-size dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures for its Zoorassic Park exhibit, which encourages kids to “rethink extinct.”

Just a few miles to the north, the picturesque McNay Art Museum honors its vast collection of American and European art while promoting diverse perspectives and reaching out to the city’s Latino community. This summer, the museum will showcase several new exhibitions, including *Spain to San Antonio: Hispanic Culture on Stage* (through June 10, 2018) and *Immersed: Local to Global Art Sensations* (June 7, 2018–September 2, 2018).

In 2017 The Witte Museum completed a \$100-million transformation to expand its campus, solidifying its position as a catalytic leader of the Broadway Cultural Corridor. Visitors to the “New” Witte can marvel at dinosaur skeletons, witness how people lived thousands of years ago, and explore wildlife from the vast regions of Texas. Explore the past by excavating a *Dromæosaurus* at the Dinosaur Lab, one of five working labs throughout the museum, or see how you measure up to the 39-foot-long *Acrocanthosaurus*. Stand beneath the night sky as it appeared over 4,000 years ago or project the rock art of prehistoric native Texans on a rock wall at the Kittie West Nelson Ferguson People of the Pecos Valley Gallery. Visitors can also appreciate the state’s present wildlife by surrounding themselves with the sounds of nature in the Mary West and Richards Taylor Sound of South Texas, narrated by George Strait, or by observing native animals in the SWBC Live Lab.

From March to January 6, 2019, The Witte hosts a ground-breaking exhibition of artifacts, painting, documents, films, and interactive media revealing the history of San Antonio as the hub of the frontier over three centuries—*Confluence and Culture: 300 Years of San Antonio History*. Other current exhibitions at The Witte include *Connecting Texas: 300 years of Trails, Rails, and Roads* (through September 2018) and *Gathering at the Waters: 12,000 Years of People* (through July 1, 2018). Special exhibit *Predators vs. Prey: Dinosaurs on the Land Before Texas* (May 26–September 3, 2018) invites visitors to travel back in time, millions of years ago, when a walk along the San Antonio River was anything but recreational. Watch the dynamic between predators and prey when life-sized animatronic dinosaurs come to life with the help of augmented-reality and immersive interactive exhibits. From July 21 through September 30, 2018 sixty-six of former President George W. Bush’s portraits of military veterans will be on display in the exhibit *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief’s Tribute to America’s Warriors*.

## THE MISSIONS

No matter how you move down Mission Reach, take time to admire the World Heritage Trail’s new public art installations and murals. *Cocobijos*, by Houston native Mel Chin, and *Arbol de la Vida: Voces de la Tierra*, by El Paso-based artist Margarita Cabrera. Join Stacy Levy’s *River Return* and Arne Quinze’s *Whispers* to complete the portal-project installations that welcome visitors to each of these four missions. Inspired by a cactus growing out of a roof at Mission San José, Chin



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Located on the River Walk

created a twenty-four-foot tall, four-lobed geometric shade structure that resembles a pair of prickly pear cactus pads. The sculpture's conjoined structure manifests the work's title, in translation, "Co-Shelter." Hearing stories of the buried kilns used by the indigenous communities to build the missions' bricks, Cabrera designed her *Mission Espada Portal* installation in the form of a Mexican folk art tree of life. This forty-foot-tall tree holds about three hundred fired clay pieces symbolizing elements from *charlas* (stories or dialogues) gathered from the San Antonio community.

The new set of murals near Mission Espada, titled *Four Seasons*, is also rich with stories. Like the lives of the Coahuiltecan peoples who lived in South Texas before and during the arrival of the Spanish, these four murals are organized around the four seasons and pay respect to the area's indigenous plants and animals. Local artists Joe de la Cruz, Albert Garza, Chris Montoya, and Cristina Sosa Noriega collaborated with historians and American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions (AITSCM) to thoughtfully and accurately portray the local history and culture of the landscape through their images.

Take advantage of the SWell Cycle stations at the Blue Star Arts Complex and ride along the Mission Reach, the nation's largest urban ecosystem restoration, featuring 113 acres of aquatic habitat, 334 acres of restored riparian woodland habitat, over a hundred species of native plants, and more than fifteen miles of trails. Or go with the flow of the San Antonio River via kayak. An official Texas Paddling Trail, the eight-mile Mission Reach Trail features more than thirty canoe chutes that allow kayaks to pass through light rapids in shallow water before docking near Mission Espada. Mission Kayak offers hourly rentals, river trips, and classes.

## VIVA VIA!

The VIA Metropolitan Transit bus system connects riders with historic places, opportunities to learn and discover, classic and contemporary art, and popular dining and entertainment spots through its new VIVA service line. Dedicated to making the best of San Antonio easily accessible to everyone, the service offers three distinct routes: VIVA Culture, which includes stops at the McNay Art Museum, San Antonio Botanical Garden, The Witte Museum, Brackenridge



Park, San Antonio Zoo, The DoSeum, Pearl, Blue Star Complex, and Southtown; VIVA Missions will take riders from the Alamo to the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site that includes Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada; and VIVA Centro, which takes riders to many of downtown's most popular sites, including Centro Plaza, UTSA Downtown Campus, Tobin Center for Performing Arts, Majestic Theatre, Sunset Station, Briscoe Western Art Museum, the Convention Center, St. Paul Square, the River Walk, the Alamodome, Market Square, and the Alamo. All routes have stops at the Alamo, the River Walk, the Convention Center, and the Shops at Rivercenter.

## GO RIO RIVER CRUISES

One of San Antonio's most beloved and popular attractions, cruising the San Antonio River by river barge, has embraced the Tricentennial spirit. With a shiny new fleet of eco-friendly, electric-powered boats, GO RIO helps tourists and travelers experience the beauty of the River Walk from the San Antonio River itself. And with five colorful styles in San Antonio-themed papel picado patterns, riders become part of the River Walk's famed charm. GO RIO offers narrated history tours and dinner cruises as well as chartered tours. For those merely seeking a fun way to move between River Walk destinations, GO RIO also provides shuttle service. Just look for the GO RIO Shuttle signs throughout the River Walk downtown and Museum Reach extension.

## EYES ON THE SKY

Less than nine miles from downtown and the convention center, the San Antonio International Airport is a quick, convenient drive for business travelers, tourists, and other visitors. Recent completion of the 1.8-million-square-foot Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) has made travel to and from San Antonio even easier. Just a few steps from the terminals, the new CONRAC Facility houses up to fourteen rental car companies in one centralized lobby and provides short-term public parking. Spend less time getting to and from San Antonio so you can focus on enjoying all that San Antonio has to offer. ☼



**DID YOU KNOW?** HISTORIC MARKET SQUARE, A THREE-BLOCK COMPLEX OF STORES AND RESTAURANTS, IS THE LARGEST MEXICAN MARKET IN THE COUNTRY AND IS LISTED AS ONE OF FROMMER'S BEST PUBLIC MARKETS. IT IS THE SCENE OF MANY HISPANIC FESTIVALS.



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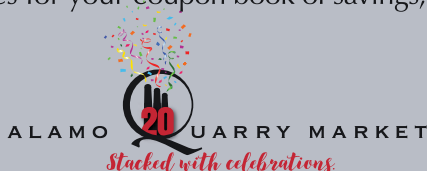
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La Cantera Resort & Spa

BY BEKAH McNEEL

**FOR THE LAST 300 YEARS, NOTHING HAS DEFINED** San Antonio more than *familia* and *fiesta*. Generations of San Antonians have left their footprints in the city's parks and playgrounds, as informal gatherings have evolved over the centuries into beloved institutions. Now, those theme parks, museums, and gardens are leading the city into a future that looks brighter than ever.



Along the Broadway Cultural Corridor, learning and play go hand in hand. The San Antonio Botanical Garden is enjoying the spotlight thanks to the completion of a major expansion's completion. The eight-acre addition engages every family member, with nature-based play structures, a food garden with cooking demos, and even a secluded garden where nursing mothers or tired toddlers can slip away for a quiet moment.

The Botanical Garden expansion is just the latest upgrade along the Cultural Corridor following the world-class renovations at The Witte Museum, completed in 2017, and the prominent addition of The DoSeum, in 2015.

To celebrate the city's Tricentennial, The Witte launched a special exhibition focused on the people and cultures that shaped San Antonio. The Witte's *Confluence and Culture: 300 Years of San Antonio History* runs through January 6, 2019. It acknowledges the city as a hub for trade, where people from around the world crossed paths, swapped stories, and left their marks on a city that would grow from sleepy outpost to bustling metropolis.

The Witte looks back even further at the region's prehistoric inhabitants in *Predators vs Prey: Dinosaurs on the Land Before Texas*, from May 26 to September 3, 2018.

President George W. Bush's highly praised tribute to U.S. military veterans, *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors*, will also be on view July 21 to September 30, 2018 at The Witte.

It's impossible to miss the playful presence of The DoSeum along the Cultural Corridor and in the city. Its 104,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space engage kids of all ages and interests. Every detail—from the building's ecological design to the high-octane Power Ball Hall—inspires and informs young scientists, creators, and dreamers.

Beginning June 2, 2018 The DoSeum will ask those young dreamers to envision a better tomorrow with *Dream Tomorrow Today*. The hands-on exhibit invites children to design their ideal cities and act out key roles to make their cities flourish.

One of San Antonio's most beloved local gems is tucked away along the edge of Brackenridge Park. Kiddie Park, a pint-sized fair with vintage games and rides, will call up happy memories for parents while children make happy

Six Flags Fiesta Texas



**LOCAL'S TIP:** CHECK OUT WHAT'S ON STAGE AT THE MAGIK THEATER, WHICH HAS SHOWS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR ALL AGES, INCLUDING TODDLERS.

memories of their own.

San Antonio Zoo has a year-round calendar of fun and events. Since its "zootennial" in 2014, the zoo has added interactive experiences such as a giraffe-feeding station, a seasonal butterfly house, and opportunities for behind-the-scenes exploration. Make sure to meet the newest member of the zoo family, a two-year old hippopotamus whose playful antics have made him a social media favorite. From May 26 to August 26, 2018, the zoo will be filled with life-sized dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures for its *Zoorassic Park* exhibit which encourages kids to "rethink extinct."

For those who can't get enough wildlife, head just outside of town for more outdoor adventures. At Natural Bridge Caverns, discover underground chambers filled with spectacular formations. At Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, get up close and personal with animals, vegetables, and minerals on the interactive driving tours or walking safaris.

Hemisfair, the large urban park at the foot of the Tower of the Americas, continues to expand its all-ages amenities. Kids can expend their energy at Yanaguana Garden's splash pad and climbing structures while mom and dad spring for a sweet treat at Paletería San Antonio, located within the park. Relive Texas history nearby at UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures.

Older kids enjoy spooky and kooky attractions at nearby Alamo Plaza, exploring the world of Ripley's Believe it or Not! and its Odditorium, Ripley's Haunted Adventure, The Amazing Mirror Maze, Louis Tussaud's Wax Works, TombRider 3D, and the Guinness World Records Museum. Further down Houston Street, the Buckhorn

**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** TEXAS RODEO IS A HIDDEN GEM JUST NORTH OF SAN ANTONIO. EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF TEXAS' AUTHENTIC HERITAGE WITH AN ACTION-PACKED RODEO EVERY SATURDAY, MARCH THROUGH NOVEMBER.



Saloon and Texas Ranger Museum give families a feel for the old West. Also downtown, the San Antonio Fire Museum showcases artifacts and history of the San Antonio Fire Department.

In spring 2019, downtown promises more family fun with a Sea Life Aquarium and LEGOLAND Discovery Center. These two attractions, which include a walkthrough underwater tunnel and a San Antonio skyline made completely of LEGOs, are sure to be popular spots for everyone from tots to teens.

Enhance your visit to the Alamo with *Battle for Texas: The Experience*, an immersive journey through the life and times of the Alamo heroes. The exhibition is appointed with genuine artifacts and memorabilia from David Crockett, William Barrett Travis, and others.

One of San Antonio's most popular attractions, Topgolf, gets golfers started early, in the Kidszone. Exclusively for kids twelve and under, the Kidszone has activities for young people hoping to follow their parents out onto the links, and non-golf entertainment for family members not interested in picking up a club.

Those with a real thirst for thrills should visit iFly, an indoor skydiving experience. Visitors ages three to 103 are paired with a certified instructor and outfitted with gear to capture the adrenaline rush of skydiving in iFly's state-of-the-art flight chamber.

## THEME PARKS

The city's major theme parks are always innovating new adrenaline-fueled attractions and opportunities to make a splash ... literally.

At SeaWorld & Aquatica San Antonio, families cool off in the summer heat the same way the dolphins do. In fact, you can cool off with the dolphins! Discovery Point is the hub for all the park's animal swims, including Dolphin Lagoon, Beluga Bay, and Sea Lion Shallows. Check the calendar for seasonal programming as well.

SeaWorld offers plenty of other opportunities to stay cool. You can sit in the splash zone at one of the park's popular shows, then spend sizzling afternoons floating around the lazy river in Aquatica, SeaWorld's waterpark.

SeaWorld's Wave Breaker is a one-of-a-kind coaster inspired by the award-winning program Sea Rescue® and helps guests feel the thrill of

Wave Breaker the Rescue Coaster at SeaWorld San Antonio



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SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO HAS THE LARGEST HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY IN TEXAS, WITH MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION LIGHTS.

animal rescue teams.

The daily street parade at SeaWorld treats the youngest visitors with the characters and music of Sesame Street.

Older kids and adults can enjoy some friendly competition on the side-by-side lanes of the new Taumata Racer, a 375-foot water slide with a 180-degree turn and lightning-fast fifty-five-foot drop.

On summer evenings, June 15 to August 12, 2018, SeaWorld turns up the volume with Electric Ocean—a nightly festival that transforms the park into an all-ages dance club. Fireworks, night shows, and electronic dance music (EDM) party zones make for a night your family won't soon forget.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas opened a new ride in spring 2018: the Wonder Woman™ Golden Lasso Coaster. Not only is it the first Wonder Woman-themed coaster and the latest in the park's DC Superhero ride trilogy, but the Golden Lasso is also the world's first single-rail coaster. The open-air ride thrills passengers with a heart-stopping ninety-degree drop.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas marked its twenty-fifth anniversary last year by opening America's first rocket blast water coaster, Thunder Rapids. The in-line raft coaster utilizes new water jet propulsion technology to speed riders uphill toward precipitous drops. In the spring, enjoy the park's



**LOCAL'S TIP:** FOR THOSE PARKING NEAR THE ZOO, THE MINIATURE ZOO TRAIN HAS HOP-ON-HOP-OFF STOPS AT THE WITTE MUSEUM AND JAPANESE TEA GARDEN; THE WITTE STOP OFFERS EASY ACCESS TO THE DOSEUM.





**Wonder Woman**  
GOLDEN LASSO COASTER



**Six Flags**  
**FIESTA TEXAS**

**THUNDER RAPIDS**  
WATER COASTER



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\*INCLUDED WITH PARK ADMISSION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT [SIXFLAGS.COM](http://SIXFLAGS.COM)**

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## San Antonio Zoo



**LOCAL'S TIP:** FOR INSIDE FAMILY FUN, MAIN EVENT HAS STATE-OF-THE ART BOWLING, MULTI-LEVEL LASER TAG, OVER 100 GAMES, AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES ALL UNDER ONE ROOF.

Mardi Gras Festival with authentic street floats and themed music and food. In the summer, enjoy the all-new fireworks display, *Celebrate! Summer Night Spectacular*, beginning June 2, 2018.

Nearby, Schlitterbahn, the innovators behind the original uphill water coasters, continues to innovate as well, with a constantly growing array of classic tube rides, water slides, and splash 'n' play features for kids of all ages.

Splashtown, another local water park, is easily accessible on Interstate 35 and ideal for a day of family fun closer to the city center. The park's variety of rides, pools, and sport courts will engage athletes, sun bathers, and thrill-seekers.



**DID YOU KNOW?** SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS HAS A WAVE POOL SHAPED LIKE TEXAS THAT CONTAINS A HALF-MILLION GALLONS OF WATER.

Morgan's Wonderland ensures that children with sensory needs won't miss out on the waterpark experience. Morgan's Inspiration Island, the world's first ultra-accessible splash park, offers parents ample control while their children play. A River Boat Adventure ride and various interactive splash-pad features like rain trees, water cannons, and tipping buckets are all strategically fashioned to allow controlled accessibility.

Wherever the locals go, the bright red City Sightseeing bus is not far behind. The hop-on-hop-off bus has honed in on hot spots like the Historic Pearl Brewery, ensuring that visitors don't miss out on local favorites.

After three-hundred years of familia and fiesta, the city has perfected the art of family fun. Come see why generations of visitors have fallen in love with in the Alamo City. ☘





# BATTLE FOR TEXAS

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# SAN ANTONIO: VIBRANT CULTURES AND CAPTIVATING ARTS

San Antonio is a melting pot of cultures. Its past and present intersect with a multitude of influences, intrinsic to the fabric of the South Texas metropolis: Cowboys and cowgirls, Spanish and German settlers, Mexican influence, poets, entertainers, artists—the list is long and all-encompassing. With such brilliantly interwoven roots, it is no wonder San Antonio’s arts community shines.

BY KATE HULL HEIDENREICH

## ACCESSING ENDLESS ART

The San Antonio River was the lifeline of early settlers to the region, providing access to water and, in turn, a means to sustain life. Now, this lifeline extends beyond the banks of the river and forges a connection to the bustling arts and cultural community.

Beginning south of downtown from Lone Star Boulevard to Mission Espada, the San Antonio River connects history with the arts on the eight-mile stretch of the river known as Mission Reach. Explore captivating art benches, murals,

and public art installations like artist Arne Quinze’s *Whispers* that connects the River and Mission San Juan with multi-dimensional vibrant sculptures that draw inspiration from San Antonio’s lush vegetation.

Bringing the arts to the outdoors, the Museum Reach extends the famed San Antonio River Walk while providing patrons with access to top-tiered attractions, like the Japanese Tea Garden, Brackenridge Park, The Witte Museum, The DoSeum, San Antonio Botanical Garden, and the San Antonio Museum of Art. Along your trek, take time to enjoy the stunning works of public art dotting your tour. You’ll find fifteen works of public art created by artists local, national, and international.

Take a stroll under the Interstate 35 overpass near Camden Street. Overhead, twenty-five sunfish, each stretching seven feet long, swim in the

**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT MUSEUM TELLS THE STORY OF MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT, IN WAR AND PEACE, FROM 1775 TO THE PRESENT, INCLUDING BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE AND THE EVOLUTION OF EQUIPMENT.



Briscoe Western Art Museum



**LOCAL'S TIP:** THE SAN ANTONIO ART LEAGUE & MUSEUM HAS MORE THAN 400 WORKS IN ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION AND OFFERS CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITS HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIQUE WORK OF TEXAS TALENT.

sky. Artist Donald Lipski's *F.I.S.H.* sculpture delights by day and dazzles at night.

Become mesmerized under the twin underpasses at McCullough and Brooklyn Avenue. Artist Stuart Allen's suspended blocks of color appear to change as pedestrians stroll by or paddle nearby on the river.

Finish your trek on the Museum Reach at the doors of the San Antonio Museum of Art's riverfront access. With your senses awakened, you're sure to find even more artistic enjoyment inside.

## MUSEUMS OF SAN ANTONIO

Start your artistic adventure at the San Antonio Museum of Art, housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery on the Museum Reach along the banks of the river. The museum houses 30,000 objects spanning 5,000 years of history and cultures from around the globe. The museum contains the largest collection of Asian art in the Southern U.S., as well as one of the most comprehensive collections of Latin American art. As part of the museum's Tricentennial exhibitions, explore the artwork of San Antonio's global roots through *Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid*, an exclusive exhibit showcased only in San Antonio from June 22–September 16, 2018.

To delve into a more contemporary approach, head to the McNay Art Museum, Texas' original modern art museum. The museum houses a pristine assortment of more than 20,000 works of modern art, stemming from its namesake Marion

Koogler McNay's seven-hundred-piece collection, which she donated, along with her twenty-four-room Spanish Colonial Revival house and twenty-three acres of surrounding land. Today, the museum is known for its Medieval and Renaissance art, 19th- through 21st-century European and American collections, and premier collections of prints and drawings of the Southwest, to name a few.

Beginning in June 2018, experience the *Immerse: Local to Global Art Sensations* exhibit, organized in conjunction with the San Antonio Tricentennial celebrations and the fiftieth anniversary of Hemisfair.

Continue your exploration with a look into Texas' varied and rich culture, both past and present, with a visit to the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures. Located near the Tower of the Americas, the museum showcases how diverse cultures from countries spanning the globe have influenced the Texan identity. Come ready to gain a new insight into the Lone Star State as you share in the experiences of people from all corners who call Texas home.

And while the opportunities to relish celebrated artists are abundant, San Antonio is also home to future artists honing their skills at the Southwest School of Art. Established in 1965, the renowned art school occupies several downtown acres along the River Walk. The Southwest School of Art is the only independent college of art in Texas, offering a bachelor of fine arts degree, as well as community studio art classes. Visit the campus to view works by budding artists. Regularly changing contemporary art exhibitions are free to the public and focus on works





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WHERE NATURE, SCIENCE AND CULTURE MEET



3801 Broadway | San Antonio, TX | 210.357.1910 | [www.WitteMuseum.org](http://www.WitteMuseum.org)

by regional, national, and international artists.

Located just off the River Walk, the Briscoe Western Art Museum captures the new spirit of the West with a three-story museum housing artifacts, paintings, sculptures, and more, which tell the rich history of the American West.

And while art can make history come alive, history shines all on its own inside the enthralling Witte Museum, located on Broadway just off the banks of the San Antonio River. One of San Antonio's most popular museums, The Witte is devoted to science and natural history, with children's exhibits, much-anticipated traveling exhibits from across the globe, and a renowned early Texas art collection.

The Witte offers visitors the Naylor Family Dinosaur Gallery, numerous galleries that explore the story of Texas through art and diverse collections, the H-E-B Body Adventure geared toward upping your health I.Q., and the South Texas Heritage Center, among other historic and cultural attractions on its ten-acre, garden-laden campus. Plan a visit before January 6, 2019, to experience *Confluence and Culture: 300 Years of San Antonio History*, a multi-faceted exhibition showcasing the rich history of San Antonio from early Spanish settlers to present.

Don't miss a chance to experience Texas during the world of dinosaurs during the exciting summer 2018 exhibit, *Predators vs Prey: Dinosaurs on the Land Before Texas*. The Witte also hosts an exhibit of former President George W. Bush's portraits of military veterans called *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors* from July 21–September 30, 2018.

Slated to open in 2019, don't miss the remarkable new exhibition space as part of the contemporary art center known as Ruby City, a 14,000-square-foot art exhibition space on Camp Street. The modern, crimson-hued geometric building was imagined in a dream by the late art collector Linda Pace and designed by preeminent architect Sir David Adjaye. The new space will house more than eight hundred paintings, sculptures, installations, and video projects by contemporary artists from around the globe. Stay tuned for its early 2019 opening and make plans to visit the latest addition to San Antonio's growing arts scene.

The first and longest-running nonprofit venue for contemporary art, Blue Star Contemporary is an inspirational treasure. Charged with inspiring and nurturing artists through innovative contemporary art, Blue Star Contemporary is home to an



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## GALLERIES, FESTIVALS, AND MORE!

Around every corner, you're bound to uncover a surprising amusement, from street festivals and art walks, to hidden galleries and treasure-trove filled shops.

Put on your walking shoes and head to any of San Antonio's bustling and energetic art walks peppered throughout the historic neighborhoods. King William Cultural Arts District, located near downtown, hosts a bi-monthly First Thursday. It's held the first Thursday of every other month, with sidewalk art sales, gallery events, and a feature art show at King William Association headquarters. Also in the heart of the King William District, discover San Antonio Art League & Museum, a stunning and intimate house-turned-museum and gallery with more than four hundred works in all media focused on Texas artists. Admission is free and the museum also regularly features revolving contemporary exhibits.

Beginning on South Alamo Street, engage all your senses during Southtown Arts District's First Fridays. The streets buzz for blocks with live music, food, and festivities. Also in the Southtown Arts District, take in a film screening, watch a dramatic performance, or pop in nearby galleries during Second Saturdays, at the intersection of South Flores Street and Lone Star Boulevard.

**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** FIESTA SAN ANTONIO STARTED IN 1891 AS A WAY TO HONOR THE HEROES OF THE ALAMO AND THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO. IT HAS EVOLVED INTO ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER FESTIVALS AND IS A CELEBRATION OF SAN ANTONIO'S RICH AND DIVERSE CULTURE.

Tobin Hill Arts Alliance sponsors Second Fridays, located in Tobin Hill north of downtown; it showcases fine art and sculptures from a plethora of San Antonio's well-known contemporary artists.

No matter the day of the week, the Zona Cultural district, in the western end of downtown, offers forty-four contiguous blocks bursting with art installations, theaters, and shops. Don't miss Historic Market Square, or El Mercado—the largest Mexican marketplace north of the Rio Grande—located in the Zona. An open-air market with retail storefronts and restaurants, El Mercado features more than a hundred shops that invite tourists and residents to explore the pottery, textiles, jewelry, and relics of South Texas and Mexico.

Downtown on the River Walk, stroll through nearly thirty shops and galleries in La Villita Historic Arts Village. Peruse beautifully crafted jewelry and folk art, sample the exciting culinary hotspots, and explore the historic streets.

## SAN ANTONIO | THE SAGA

Experience the wonder of San Antonio's history through this visually stunning spectacle: *San Antonio | The Saga*.

In world-renowned French artist Xavier De Richemont's *San Antonio | The Saga*, a 7,000-square-foot projection is displayed on the San Fernando Cathedral's façade, using captivating colors and custom choreographed music to narrate San Antonio's three-hundred-year history, from its settlement, to the development of what we know today. Experience San Antonio's story through this unique public art installation located at Main Plaza in the heart of historic San Antonio. ☼



Mission Espada



# THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS



*Discover the Alamo City's Roots*

BY KATE HULL HEIDENREICH

In 1718, the founding of Mission San Antonio de Valero—which was relocated and later called The Alamo—and a military presidio on the riverbank marked the official birth of a city that would endure and grow for hundreds of years.

At the start of the eighteenth century, the Spanish government had their sights set on south Texas, then known as New Spain. Although Spanish rule had been claimed, settlements were yet to be established, and the territory was vulnerable. Priests from the Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church made their ways to Texas to establish Spanish communities.

Three-hundred years later, five missions from that period remain and welcome more than one million visitors each year to the 819-acre San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. In 2015, the Alamo and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park joined the UNESCO World Heritage Site List, placing it among the ranks of more than a thousand natural and

cultural wonders spanning the globe. This is the first such designation for Texas and the twenty-third for the United States.

The historical park, located south of downtown, encompasses four missions—Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission Espada—that were established along the San Antonio River. The fifth and most popular mission, the Alamo, is located in downtown San Antonio. Originally called Mission San Antonio de Valero, it was the first of the outposts and was established in 1718.

Take a step back in time and explore the lives of early settlers who founded what would become San Antonio. Gaze at the intricacies of south Texas colonial days and the Spanish influence, from

300  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** FOR A FUN, AUTHENTIC SAN ANTONIO SPORTING EXPERIENCE, SEE A CHARREADA, OR MEXICAN RODEO. THE MISSION OF THE SAN ANTONIO CHARROS ASSOCIATION IS TO CONTINUE THE MEXICAN COWBOY TRADITION.



**LOCAL'S TIP:** THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK, WHICH BOASTS OVER FIFTEEN LINEAR MILES OF CONTINUOUS TRAILS IN THE HEART OF SAN ANTONIO, HAS FOUR MISSION PORTALS, ALLOWING FOR EASY ACCESS TO THE HISTORICAL SITES.

Mission San Juan Capistrano





Mission San José



**LOCAL'S TIP:** THE MISSIONS STILL HOUSE WORKING AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS, UNLOCKING HOW LIFE WAS FORGED BY EARLY SETTLERS. TOUR MISSION SAN JOSE'S GRIST MILL AND MISSION ESPADA'S *ACEQUIA* OR IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

agricultural and irrigation systems to pristine churches and ornate frescoes.

The missions serve as a reminder of Native Americans' and Spanish settlers' agrarian ways of life by exploring farming and ranching livelihoods. The priests hoped to convert the indigenous people to Catholicism, instill knowledge of European farming methods, and spread the Spanish culture and language. In turn, the Spanish promised Native Americans protection within the walled communities from raids by Apaches and, later, Comanches.

The communities' walls sheltered buildings and churches, each of which were adorned with impressive stonework and frescoes. Surrounding the walled communities, farms flourished and a



photo by iHorse photo media group

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## Creative Communication

### THE ALAMOJI STICKER PACK IS AS FUN AND UNIQUE AS SAN ANTONIO ITSELF



Sometimes, an emoji is worth a thousand texts. In a world where complex emotions are so often expressed with symbols, a digital sticker of a mariachi is the perfect way to

say, "I'm having a great time in San Antonio!"

It only makes sense that a culture as unique and colorful as San Antonio has its own sticker pack to express its individuality. From bluebonnets to a River Walk bridge, the Alamoji keyboard app contains just the icons you need to tell friends back home about your exciting trip to the Alamo City. Place-based stickers also depict the Pearl's logo, the oversized cowboy boots at North Star Mall, and even the Lucile Halsell Conservatory at the Botanical Garden.

But the most important stickers might be the food. Tacos, sangria, guacamole, and a pink pan dulce convey San Antonio's sizzling cuisine over text message.

The sticker pack is free for iPhone and Android and available in their respective app stores.



sustainable way of life was forged, complete with irrigation systems—one of which is still functioning today.

The missions were the most active between the mid-1700s and 1780, when pressure from Native American tribes and the French, along with rampant disease, caused settlers to flock to the missions for a new way of life, religion, and culture. Today, the four parishes within the river missions remain active, with weekly church services, weddings, and funerals; they provide a vibrant link to the past for both present and future generations.

## PLAN YOUR HISTORICAL ADVENTURE

You can drive the twelve-mile route—the missions are set approximately two-and-a-half miles apart (the Alamo is three miles away)—or choose to explore the missions on the completed Mission Reach hike-and-bike trail that offers access to the park, as well as picnic and seating areas, pedestrian bridges, and portals from each mission to the nearby River Walk. Bus service is also available from Alamo Plaza through the VIA VIVA Missions bus route.

Begin your journey downtown at the Alamo, one of the most pivotal battle sites in the country. The mission was established at its first location on the banks of the San Pedro Creek as a checkpoint en route to Spanish settlements in East Texas. It was relocated to its third location in 1724. By 1793, the Alamo became a military outpost and is known today for the famous battle of 1836.

Three miles south, continue your historical voyage at Mission Concepción, home to what is considered the best-preserved Spanish colonial structure in the United States. Gaze at the fading geometric designs still visible on the church's exterior; the facade has remarkably stood the test of time and hasn't been restored. Inside, vibrant frescoes are still visible, showcasing the stunning artwork typical of the missions.

Mission San José is known as the Queen of the Missions because it is the largest. Notice its striking rose window and façade, a lavish example of Spanish colonial ornamentation. Mission San José is also home to a central visitor's center,



**LOCAL'S TIP:** PARK ADMISSION IS FREE! DISCOVER SAN ANTONIO'S ORIGINS WITH A SCENIC AND INFORMATIVE EXCURSION THROUGH TEXAS' FIRST UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.



visitor's center, also the departure point for free park ranger-guided tours.

A prime example of a self-sustaining community, Mission San Juan was known for its fertile farmlands and abundant crops during the mid-1700s and provided goods to the surrounding regions as far south as Mexico.

Finish your day at the southernmost mission, Mission Espada, and take in the colonial-style irrigation system, the compound's blacksmith shop, and working kiln and spinning wheels.

Plan to stay an hour or two at each mission. There is more than enough to take in, read, and enjoy. Many visitors have time to see only two or three of the missions on their first visits, so research what you would like to explore before you arrive. ☼

**GO**card  
**San Antonio**



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- San Antonio Zoo
- Hop-On Hop-Off Bus Tour
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**STOP BY THE**

# VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

San Antonio's Official Visitor Information Center has everything you need to make your getaway amazing. Our staff is ready to help you with questions, and you'll also find maps, tour information and discounted attractions tickets, including Six Flags Fiesta Texas and SeaWorld San Antonio. And make time to browse our gift shop, full of souvenirs, exclusive items and pieces by local artists.

Located across the street from the Alamo at 317 Alamo Plaza, we're here to help make your trip unforgettable.

**TELL US HOW**



**SAN ANTONIO IS DOING**

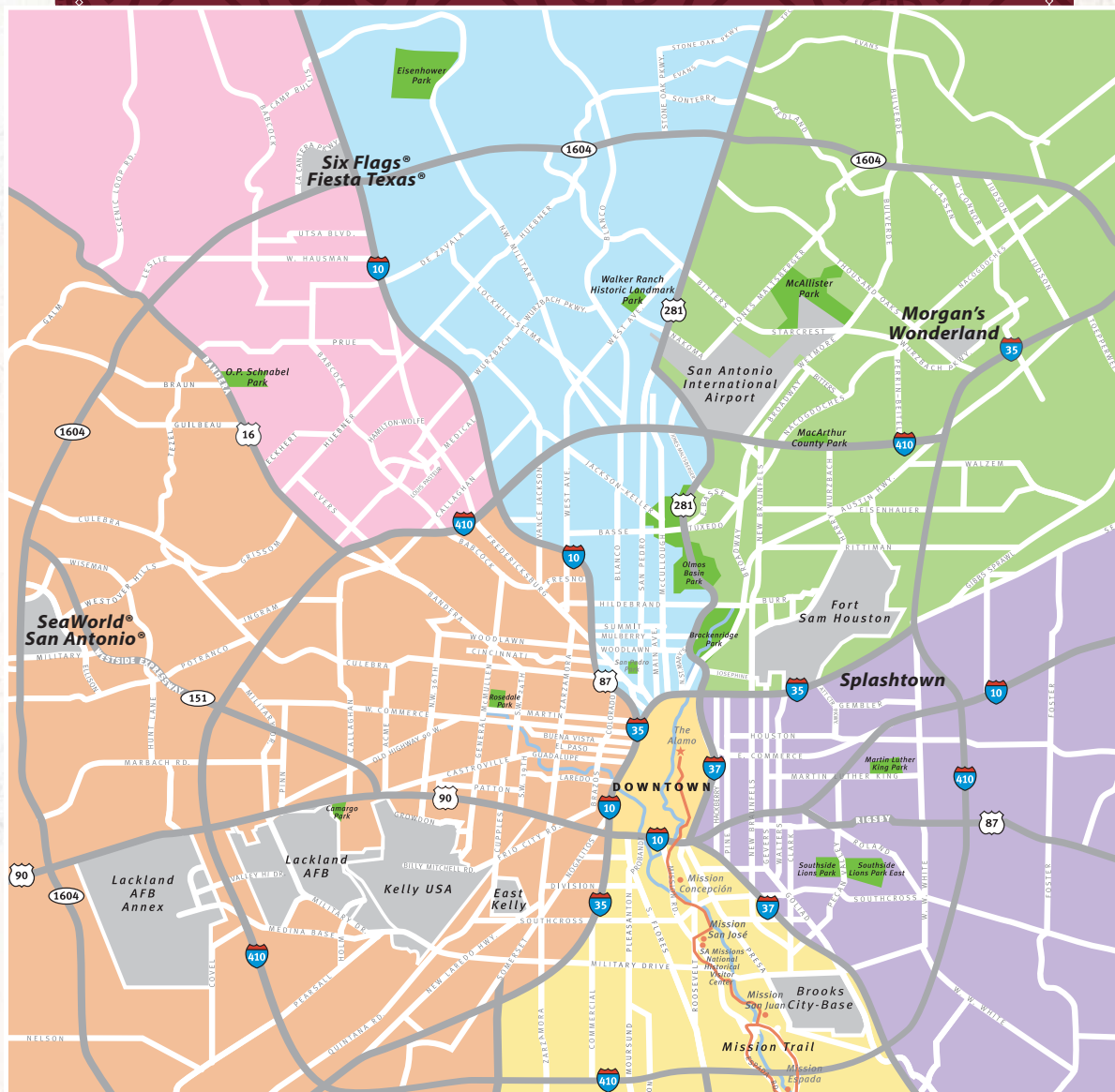
Take the 1-Minute survey at [MySanAntonioExperience.com](http://MySanAntonioExperience.com)





# SAN ANTONIO AREA MAPS

For guided tours that provide a comprehensive, interactive perspective on hidden gems and themed experiences, check out The Barwalk, Food Chick Tours, Nightly Spirits, San Antonio Bike Tours, and Yanaguana Mission Heritage Tours.



Points of Interest ✿ Landmarks



VISITSANANTONIO.COM

# SHRIMP PAESANO

And the Shrimp Paesano at Ristorante Paesanos.

For 50 years, locals and visitors alike have enjoyed the contemporary setting, Italian/Mediterranean cuisine and Old World service of these culinary landmarks. Join us on the RiverWalk, near the Quarry Market in Lincoln Heights or at Loop 1604 Northwest.

**LUNCH ■ DINNER ■ 7 DAYS A WEEK**



**River Walk**  
**PAESANOS RIVERWALK**  
111 West Crockett Street  
(210) 227-2782  
[paesanosriverwalk.com](http://paesanosriverwalk.com)

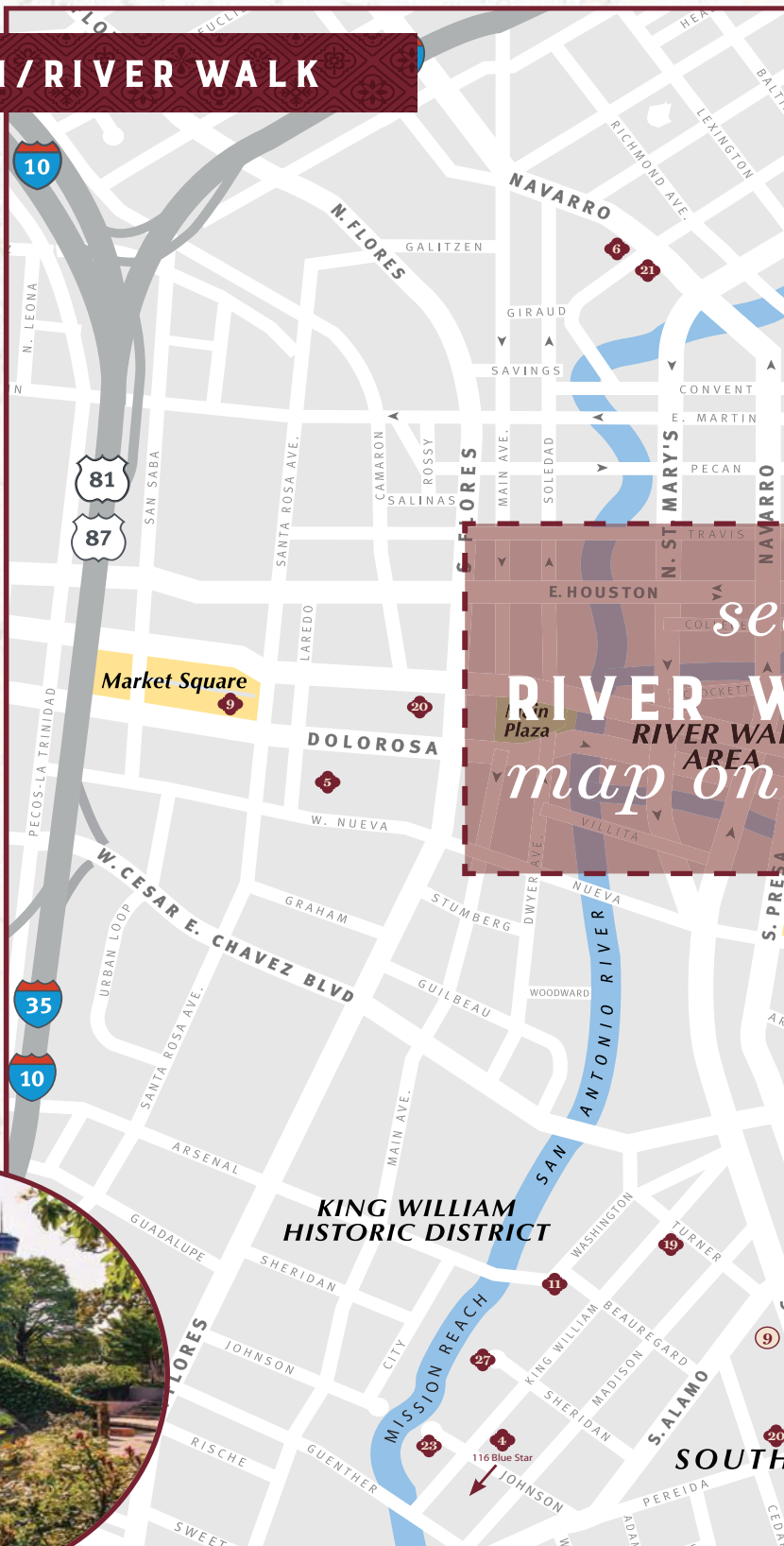
**North West**  
**PAESANOS 1604**  
3622 Paesanos Parkway  
(210) 493-1604  
[paesanos1604.com](http://paesanos1604.com)



# DOWNTOWN/RIVER WALK

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 The Alamo
- 2 The Alamo dome
- 3 The Aztec Theatre
- 4 Blue Star Arts Complex
- 5 Casa Navarro State Historic Site
- 6 Central Library
- 7 Hemisfair
- 8 The Henry B. González Convention Center
- 9 Historic Market Square
- 10 The Instituto Cultural de México
- 11 King William Historic District
- 12 La Villita Historic Arts Village
- 13 Main Plaza/San Fernando Cathedral
- 14 The Majestic/Empire Theatres
- 15 The River Walk
- 16 The Shops at Rivercenter
- 17 San Antonio Fire Museum
- 18 San Antonio Museum of Art
- 19 San Antonio Art League & Museum
- 20 Southtown Arts District
- 21 Southwest School of Art
- 22 Spanish Governor's Palace
- 23 Steves Homestead
- 24 Tobin Center for the Performing Arts
- 25 Tower of the Americas
- 26 VFW Post 76
- 27 Villa Finale
- 28 Official Visitor Information Center





**1 Ácenar HotMex CoolBar**  
*Acenar.com, 210-222-2362*

Award-winning cuisine, hip design and service with style await you at Ácenar. Guests will enjoy a modern take on Texas regional Mexican dishes, signature margaritas and cocktails while basking in picturesque River Walk views.

**2 Biga on the Banks**  
*Biga.com, 210-225-0722*

Highest Zagat rating on the River Walk, "a must for local and out-of-town foodies alike." Private and main dining rooms with floor-to-ceiling river views and balconies.

**3 Boudro's Texas Bistro**  
*Boudros.com, 210-224-8484*

Experience Boudro's, a Texas bistro on the River Walk.

**4 The Briscoe Western Art Museum**  
*BriscoeMuseum.org, 210-299-4499*

Located on the San Antonio River Walk, the Briscoe Western Art Museum brings to life the vibrant history and heritage of the American West through art, artifacts, and cultural programs. Museum highlights include Pancho Villa's saddle, an interactive Alamo diorama, Santa Anna's ceremonial sword, and a lush outdoor sculpture garden.

**5 The Crockett Hotel**  
*CrockettHotel.com, 877-958-6040*

The Crockett Hotel is a proud member of Historic Hotels of America®, the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for recognizing and celebrating the finest historic hotels across America.

**6 Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville**  
*MargaritavilleSanAntonio.com, 210-973-5811*

From a large, flowing margarita machine to our tropical atmosphere, Margaritaville is more than a restaurant; it's a state of mind. Margaritaville has everything you need to have a good time: island-inspired flavors, live entertainment, an outdoor 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar overlooking the river, and an indoor Tiki Bar.





## RIVER WALK AREA

- ⑦ Paesanos River Walk**  
*PaesanosRiverWalk.com, 210-227-2782*  
 Classic and contemporary Italian and Mediterranean dining with riverside seating.
- ⑧ Rio Rio Cantina and Naked Iguana Lounge**  
*RioRioCantina.com, 210-226-8462*  
 Serving fresh Tex-Mex—breakfast, lunch, dinner—and nightlife on the River Walk. Happy hour daily 3–6 p.m. and reverse happy hour 9–11 p.m.
- ⑨ Rosario's Mexican Café y Cantina**  
*RosariosSA.com, 210-223-1806*  
 A favorite among locals, this award-winning restaurant in the historic Southtown/King William District combines traditional south-of-the-border dishes with authentic house specialties—all prepared with a contemporary twist.
- ⑩ UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures**  
*TexanCultures.com, 210-458-2300*  
 A state history museum in the heart of downtown San Antonio featuring exhibits, programs, and special events that showcase the cultural history and influences of Texas.





## NORTH CENTRAL/AIRPORT

### POINTS OF INTEREST

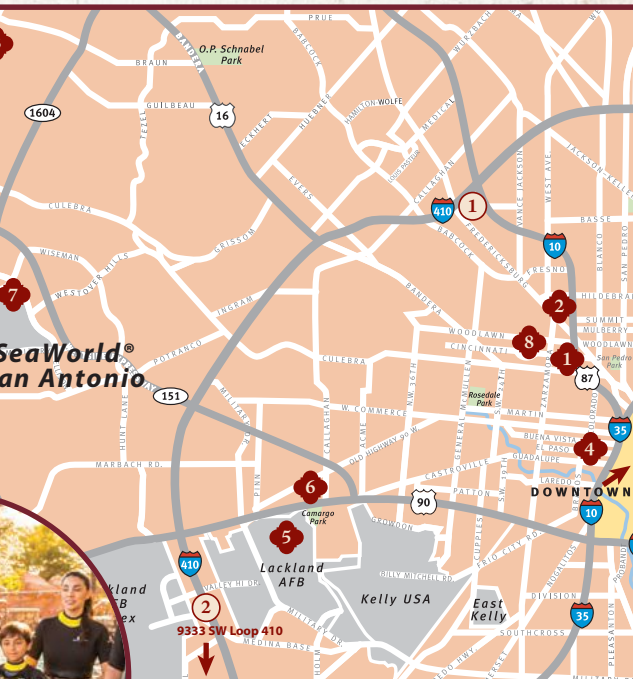
- 1 Monte Vista Historic District
  - 2 Museum Reach
  - 3 Phil Hardberger Park & Dog Park
  - 4 San Antonio College/Scobee Planetarium
  - 5 San Pedro Springs Park
- 1 **Paesanos 1604**  
*Paesanos1604.com, 210-493-1604*  
 Classic and contemporary Italian/Mediterranean dining featuring oak-grilled specialties and terrace seating.



### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower
  - 2 Deco District on Fredericksburg
  - 3 Government Canyon
  - 4 Guadalupe Cultural Community Center & the Virgen de Guadalupe Mosaic
  - 5 Lackland Air Force Base
  - 6 Nelson Wolf Stadium
  - 7 SeaWorld & Aquatica San Antonio
  - 8 Woodlawn Lake Park
- 1 **San Antonio Central-Balcones Heights**  
*SanAntonioCentral.org, 210-732-0055*  
 Close to everything—far from expensive.
- 2 **Traders Village**  
*TradersVillage.com, 210-623-8383*  
 America's #1 Marketplace & Family Attraction! Featuring bargains, theme park rides, festivals, and state fair foods. Open Saturday & Sunday. Come for the Shopping and Stay for the Fun!

## WEST/SEAWORLD







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— cantina —  
**FRESH TEX-MEX**

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OVERLOOKING *the*  
SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK.

*Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily*

Breakfast until 1pm, lunch specials, housemade margaritas,  
Happy Hour from 3pm-6pm and Reverse Happy Hour 9pm-11pm.

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\*Purchased entrée does not include daily specials, appetizers, happy hour, alcohol or desserts. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer unless stated.

## NORTHWEST/SIX FLAGS/MEDICAL CENTER

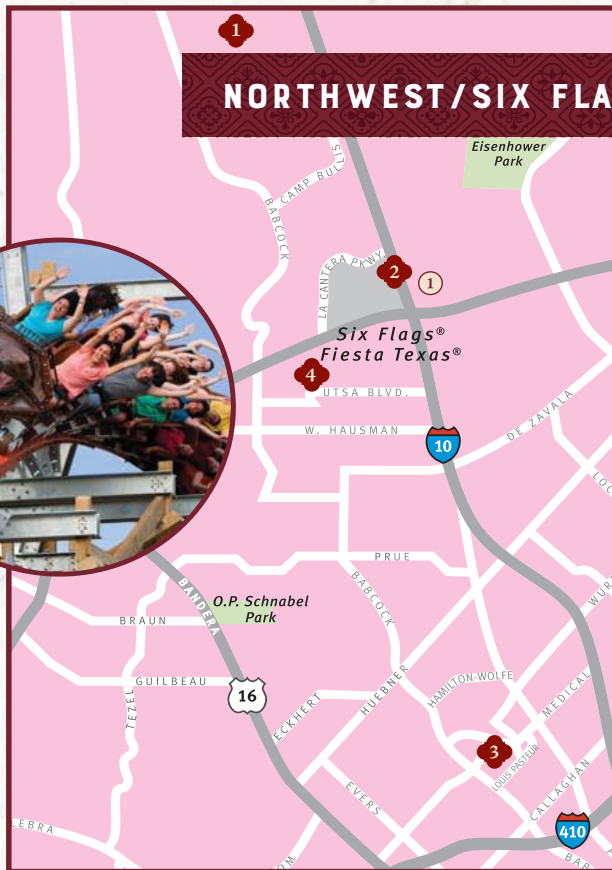
### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Friedrich Park
- 2 Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- 3 South Texas Medical Center
- 4 The University of Texas—San Antonio

#### 1 Topgolf

*Topgolf.com/sanantonio, 210-202-2694*

At Topgolf, our goal is to help you create unforgettable experiences with friends and family. Topgolf features fun and competitive golf games for all ages, climate-controlled playing "bays" similar to a bowling lane, an impressive food and drink menu, private spaces for groups of any size, HDTVs to watch the big game, and a music selection that will make every visit feel like a party.



### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Alamodome
- 2 Carver Community Cultural Center
- 3 Ellis Alley/St. Paul Square
- 4 Hays Street Bridge
- 5 Old SA City Cemeteries Historic District

#### 1 San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.

*SARodeo.com, 210-225-5851*  
Action-packed! Family fun! See the best cowboys and cowgirls February 7–24, 2019 at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. Enjoy a PRCA Rodeo with top-notch entertainment, great shopping, horse and livestock shows, a carnival, and exciting activities for all ages.

#### 2 Splashtown San Antonio

*SplashtownSA.com, 210-227-1400*  
Come splash and slide with 50 rides and attractions and 20 acres of water fun! Located just three minutes north of downtown on Interstate 35, with free parking. Discount tickets available at [SplashtownSA.com](http://SplashtownSA.com). San Antonio's Favorite Family Waterpark!

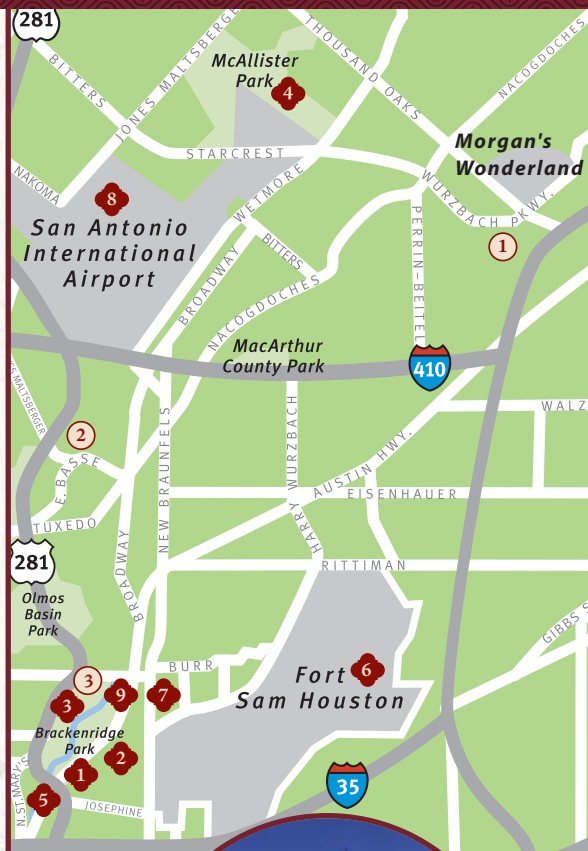


## EAST/AT&T CENTER





# NORTHEAST/MORGAN'S WONDERLAND



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Brackenridge Park
- 2 The DoSeum
- 3 Japanese Tea Garden
- 4 McAllister Park
- 5 Pearl
- 6 Quadrangle & U.S. Army Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston
- 7 San Antonio Botanical Garden
- 8 San Antonio International Airport
- 9 The Witte Museum

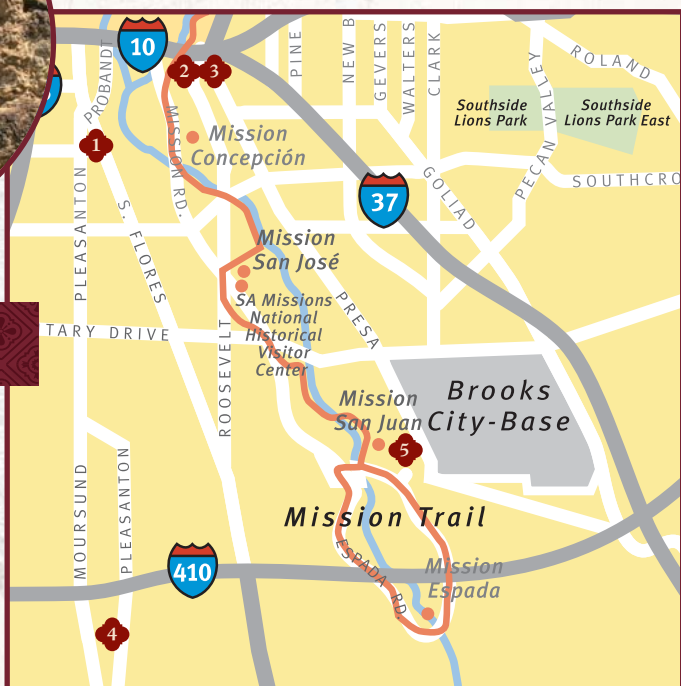
- 1 **Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling**  
[DrinkRangerCreek.com](http://DrinkRangerCreek.com), 210-339-2282  
 Ranger Creek is a "brewstillery" that brews beer and distills whiskey. The popular Saturday tours offer product samples along with education about the fascinating relationship between beer and whiskey!
- 2 **Paesanos Lincoln Heights**  
[Paesanos.com](http://Paesanos.com), 210-828-5191  
 Classic and contemporary Italian and Mediterranean dining.
- 3 **San Antonio Zoo**  
[SAZoo.org](http://SAZoo.org)  
 Visit San Antonio Zoo\* to make a wild connection! Go on a behind-the-scenes tour, feed giraffes, or take a ride on our animal themed carousel. Open year round, the zoo is affordable family fun.



## SOUTH/MISSIONS

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Confluence Park
- 2 Mission Reach – Hike/Bike Trail
- 3 The Missions National Historical Park
- 4 Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
- 5 The Nature Trail at Mission San Juan









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# MAJOR EVENTS & FESTIVALS

≈≈≈ 2018–2019 ≈≈≈

## JUNE 2018

### SAN ANTONIO SUMMER ART & JAZZ FESTIVAL

This is a free, three-day event featuring an outstanding lineup of local and nationally known jazz artists, an arts-and-crafts fair, and delicious local foods.

### TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Revel in all things Texas, including food, music, and crafts, at this annual festival hosted by the Institute of Texan Cultures.

## JULY 2018

### FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Enjoy festivals, concerts, and fireworks at locations across San Antonio.

### BALCONES HEIGHTS JAZZ FESTIVAL

This free concert series takes place on Friday evenings at the outdoor Amphitheater at Wonderland of the Americas.

## AUGUST 2018

### FORD CANOE CHALLENGE

Cheer as more than 90 canoe teams go head-to-head on the River Walk.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

### WORLD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

An annual collaborative event to celebrate and promote the San Antonio Missions, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### DIEZ Y SEIS EVENTS

Marking Mexico's independence from Spain, San Antonio celebrates with events in Market Square.

### JAZZ SALIVE

Some of the nation's top jazz entertainers, along with regional and local talent, take over Travis Park and dazzle the crowd with their smooth sounds.

### FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA

Explore exhibits showing traditional photographs, digital images, and photography-based works at art centers and exhibition spaces.

## OCTOBER 2018

### OKTOBERFEST SAN ANTONIO

Head over to the Beethoven Halle und Garten to celebrate the ultimate German festival.

### SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO HOWL-O-SCREAM

Each weekend in October, enjoy kid-friendly shows during the day, but beware ... the later you stay, the more you'll scream!

### SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS FRIGHT FEST

Don't miss out on spooktacular live entertainment, chill-inducing rides, and spine-tingling excitement for the whole family.

### MORGAN'S WONDERLAND: MORE DELIGHTFUL THAN FRIGHTFUL

With greater emphasis on fun rather than fright, Morgan's Wonderland will be open on Halloween evening.

### NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN CHAMPIONSHIP POW WOW

Traders Village will host its Annual Championship Pow Wow, including a colorful tribal dance contest, arts and crafts show, honoring ceremonies, and much more.

## NOVEMBER 2018

### DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Popular Day of the Dead events take place at Market Square and La Villita.

### LUMINARIA

An epic, multi-day contemporary arts festival featuring regional, national, and international artists.

### DIWALI SAN ANTONIO

Experience this colorful event filled with Indian music, dance and food, and a special lighting ceremony.

### FORD HOLIDAY RIVER PARADE & LIGHTING CEREMONY

Holiday lights illuminate the River Walk and downtown throughout the holiday season.

### SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Featuring the largest light display in Texas, this wintry, watery wonderland features Christmas shows, holiday lights, festive foods, Santa Claus, and more through January.

### SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

A magical winter wonderland with delightful family activities to help capture the holiday spirit through January.

## DECEMBER 2018

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

From boat caroling on the River Walk to extravaganzas at theme parks (such as SeaWorld San Antonio and Six Flags Fiesta Texas), celebrate in San Antonio this holiday season.



### **SAN ANTONIO ROCK 'N' ROLL MARATHON & HALF MARATHON**

Run or cheer during San Antonio's famous 13.1 and 26.2-mile course—with plenty of live music along the way.

### **CELEBRATE SAN ANTONIO**

Ring in the New Year with fireworks, live music, food booths, and more in downtown San Antonio.

### **VALERO ALAMO BOWL**

Major college football comes to the Alamodome during this post-season collegiate bowl game featuring the top Pac-12 and Big 12 teams.

## **JANUARY 2019**

### **SAN ANTONIO COCKTAIL CONFERENCE**

Every year this conference brings together top bartenders for four days of educational seminars, guided tastings, and cocktail parties.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MARCH**

This is one of the largest people's marches in the country. Other events throughout the city include art exhibits, workshops, and candlelight vigils.

## **FEBRUARY 2019**



Asian Festival

### **ASIAN FESTIVAL**

This family friendly event features Asian-American music, cultural performances, food, fashion, and crafts.

### **SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO**

Held at the AT&T Center, the Rodeo features great entertainment with star-studded artists during PRCA rodeo performances, plus shopping, a carnival, and livestock centers.

### **THEME PARKS OPEN**

SeaWorld San Antonio and Six Flags Fiesta Texas open for the season.

## **MARCH 2019**

### **SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL**

The Mardi Gras Festival features twice daily street parades with authentic Mardi Gras street floats, themed food, and jazz.

### **CONTEMPORARY ART MONTH**

This month-long celebration of contemporary arts features more than 400 exhibitions and involves more than 50 venues.

### **ALAMO COMMEMORATION WEEKEND**

Relive the early days of Texas as the San Antonio Living History Association brings the Battle of the Alamo to life.

### **MURPHY'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY RIVER PARADE & FESTIVAL**

Floats release environmentally friendly green dye into the San Antonio River, transforming it into "the River Shannon."

## **APRIL 2019**

### **FIESTA® SAN ANTONIO!**

Join more than three million revelers at Fiesta—one of San Antonio's oldest traditions. Don't miss the Battle of Flowers Parade or a Night in Old San Antonio, two of the most popular events.



Fiesta

### **VALERO TEXAS OPEN**

The third-oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR, the VTO has been played in San Antonio since 1922.

### **SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO SEVEN SEAS® FOOD FESTIVAL**

Visit eleven countries in one stop while sampling food, wine, craft beer, and cocktails from around the world.

## **MAY 2019**

### **CINCO DE MAYO**

Celebrations include a festival with music and food at historic Market Square.



Tejano Conjunto Festival

### **TEJANO CONJUNTO FESTIVAL EN SAN ANTONIO**

This acclaimed festival brings the best of conjunto musicians to Rosedale Park.

### **CULINARIA: A WINE AND CULINARY ARTS FESTIVAL**

Culinaria celebrates San Antonio as a premier wine and food destination and an important gateway to Mexico and Latin America.

### **AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES RIVER PARADE**

Dedicated to the Armed Forces, decorated floats travel down the River Walk.

### **FIESTA NOCHE DEL RIO**

Performances on Friday and Saturday evenings feature songs and dances of Mexico, Spain, and Argentina at the River Walk's historic Arneson River Theatre.

**Go to  
VisitSanAntonio.com**

for more information and a comprehensive calendar of events.

# WHERE TO EAT NOW



**W**hile San Antonio's Tricentennial looks back at the city's history, its chefs

and taste-makers have their eyes squarely on the future. San Antonio recently became the second U.S. city to earn a UNESCO designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy, and the food scene shows no sign of slowing down.



BY BEKAH McNEEL





Signature



Rosella at the Rand



Burgerteca



**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** SAN ANTONIO IS RENOWNED FOR TEX-MEX, THE UNIQUE CUISINE OF THE TEXAS AND MEXICO BORDERLANDS. NOW, A GENERATION OF DINERS AND CULINARY INNOVATORS ARE MAKING SAN ANTONIO A GLOBAL CULINARY HUB CALLED TEX-NEXT.

## PEARL

Pearl, home to San Antonio's branch of the Culinary Institute of America, is a food-driven paradise, the icon of the city's recent Renaissance. Locals love it, but visitors have the added advantage of a stay at Hotel Emma, where Chef John Brand dazzles with elevated home cooking at Supper, the hotel restaurant. Artisan groceries from Larder, New American cuisine at Supper, and craft cocktails at Sternewirth are all located on the premises.

Pearl itself is a microcosm of the global-local food movement, anchored by Andrew Weissman's rustic Italian Il Sogno Osteria, one of the original tenants of the celebrated historic brewery redux.

Global fusion is everything at Botika, which capitalizes on the natural harmony between Latin and Asian foods with "Chifa" (Chinese-Peruvian) and "Nikkei" (Japanese-Peruvian) recipes. From the freshness of sushi-ceviches to the potency of a good *pisco*, Botika brings world cultures to a crossroads at your table.

If the Peruvian flavors strike a familiar note at Pearl, it is because Botika executive chef Geronimo Lopez was the opening executive chef at NAO: New World Flavors. NAO, the restaurant of the Culinary Institute, specializes in pan-Latin dishes and drinks.

Pearl is where it all began for La Gloria, Chef Johnny Hernandez's Mexican street food favorite, which now has several locations around town.





Bottling Dept.  
Food Hall



Treat yourself to a margarita and a savory molcajete or one of many refreshing ceviches while overlooking the scenic Museum Reach of the San Antonio River.

For those who want to keep things even more casual, or for the family who can't agree on just one menu, the Bottling Department is Pearl's newest space and concept—a gourmet food hall with no fuss and tons of taste. Grab a gourmet donut, ramen, pressed juice, or burger and head out to the large green space where live music, a splash pad, and Pearl Farmers Market (on weekends) make for an idyllic picnic.

Beneath the Bottling Department sits JAZZ, TX, a basement speakeasy-style jazz club, with Latin and big band shows along with classic trios and crooners performing against a backdrop depicting the Texas Hill Country. The menu is comprised of high end pub favorites. Foie gras tacos and a refined twist on sausage-mac-n-cheese

have already earned a spot in the local favorites hall of fame. With boozy craft cocktails to match, JAZZ, TX is one of San Antonio's hottest spots for a date night.

High Street Wine Co. boasts some of the most coveted patio space at Pearl, with mimosa brunches, great happy hour food and drink specials, and perfectly paired food and wine menus any time. The venue can be booked for private tasting events led by a sommelier.

Next door, 2017 James Beard Award semi-finalist Steve McHugh leads the team at Cured, where locals flock to the substantial happy hour, charcuterie, and can't-miss menu of American multi-regional favorites.

In the beer-making tradition of the historic Pearl, The Granary Cue 'n' Brew and Southerleigh serve their own in-house brews alongside Texas-style smoked meats and Southern comfort foods, respectively. The Boiler House has built its menu on Texas flavors and bold wines, and is a favorite spot for weekend brunch.

Even a sweet tooth has more than one option at Pearl. Lick Honest Ice Creams serves flavors based in Texas ingredients like Austin honey and Poteet strawberries. Bakery Lorraine's selection of macarons and classic French pastries are as beautiful as they are delicious.

## ELSEWHERE IN MIDTOWN

Across from Pearl, Down on Grayson has something for everyone with a full menu of lively cocktails and scrumptious staples. In addition to the chic interior, the picturesque outdoor dining is shaded and comfortable year-round.

The foodie adventure continues along Grayson Street, where laid-back eatery Grayze is now joined by Jason Dady's Shuck Shack and The Bin. East Coast bisques and lobster rolls are on the menu at the Shuck Shack. While its ramshackle New England aesthetic fits the theme, the outdoor playscape and picnic tables add the timeless string lit charm of a Texas ice house.

In the same block of Grayson Street, The Bin takes casual dining in a different direction. Traditional Spanish tapas and *pintxos* (small snacks) range from the anchovy and olive variety, like the Gilda, to sweet and savory combos.

Also on Grayson, The Modernist combines a speak-easy-like low profile with a polished mid-century interior; San Antonio mixology veteran Olaf Harmel mixes craft cocktails that have the whole town talking.

In the heart of stately Monte Vista, look for Barbaro, where an ever-changing slate of gourmet pizzas is just the beginning of the bold menu.



Biga on the Banks



The Maverick

**LOCAL'S TIP:** DINING AL FRESCO IS WHAT SAN ANTONIO DOES BEST, WHETHER AT ONE OF THE MANY PATIO-DINING SPACES, OR ALONG THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER, LIKE CASA RIO, RIO RIO, AND PAESANOS, COUNTY LINE BAR-B-Q, BARRIBA CANTINA, AND IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL AND MARGARITA BAR.

The menu at La Fonda on Main is loaded with reliable classics served up under atmospheric lights and a live-oak canopy on the patio.

Just north of Monte Vista is Weissman's classic falafel shop, Moshe's Golden Falafel, a local favorite.

## THE RIVER WALK

Every visit should include an evening on the River Walk. Among the wealth of options, Boudro's Texas Bistro stands out as a classic Lone Star-state experience, while Ácenar and Las Canarias are perfect for a special date or family occasion.

The Esquire Tavern's first James Beard Award nomination came in 2012, when the foundation first

included a category for Outstanding Bar Programs. In 2017, the watering hole, which boasts the longest bar in Texas, was named a semifinalist for the award.

Chef Michael Sohocki's commitment to purity at Restaurant Gwendolyn has earned accolades for its ever-changing menu of seasonal, local ingredients rendered with pre-industrial tools and techniques. Meanwhile, the baroque interior at Ocho at Hotel Havana celebrates a more gilded glory to accompany the tasty food and serious cocktails.

The Luxury is a unique outdoor dining spot where you can enjoy a view of the River Walk near the San Antonio Museum of Art. The menu ranges from pulled pork and crispy fish banh mi sandwiches to kale salad to salted chocolate



caramel pudding. The cargo containers-turned-restaurant, complete with swings overlooking the river, offers a great beer and wine selection.

Biga on the Banks remains one of the most highly rated River Walk eateries, known for great food, great wine, and easy-yet-elegant atmosphere. Chef Bruce Auden's versatile menu and private dining space makes Biga one of San Antonio's most coveted reservations for every occasion.

## ELSEWHERE IN DOWNTOWN

Popular coffee shop Rosella Coffee has opened a classy downtown location on the first floor of the Rand building. Rosella at the Rand offers its classic coffee selection along with a full bar and a full menu for seated dinners.

Weissman's Sip is the perfect lunch spot in the heart of downtown, just a block from the river. Also on Houston Street, Bohanan's serves up some of the city's most celebrated steaks. Schilo's, a veteran German deli, serves hearty sandwiches, soup, and homemade root beer in a 19th-century building.

Hemisfair recently expanded its dining options, welcoming Commonwealth Coffeehouse & Bakery and Con Safos Concina y Cantina to the historic park. Perennially popular gourmet pizza restaurant Dough Pizzeria has also announced plans for a Hemisfair location.

Chef Jason Dady threw his steak in the Houston Street ring by opening Range in 2017. The menu boasts classic steakhouse fare and a variety of delicious twists and takes like Korean ribs, caviar steak toppers, and sea urchin butter.

Visit La Panaderia for pastries and bready treats with a global pedigree. The bakery specializes in hand-made, artisan pastries and breads inspired by Mexico's *Epoca de Oro*, or "golden era." The recipes also draw from French, Italian, and American traditions.

Maverick Whiskey, named after San Antonio's unbranded forefather Samuel Maverick, is just off Alamo Plaza, and boasts one of the city's newest event venues, and downtown's only distillery.

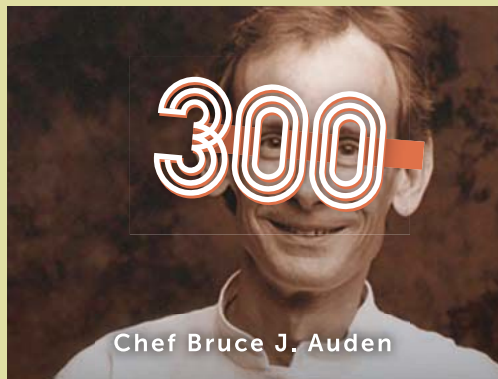
Foodies will surely delight at the arrival of newcomers like Nonna Osteria, one of three new additions at the Fairmount Hotel. The brainchild of SILO Restaurants and "Food Network Star" runner-up and executive chef Luca Della Casa, Nonna invites guests to savor a bottle of wine, tuck into a plate of gnocchi with braised rabbit, and toast to an evening well-spent. Afterward, make a night of it and head to the rooftop oyster bar.



**LOCAL'S TIP:** IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WELL-KNOWN BRANDS LIKE CHILI'S, HARD ROCK CAFÉ, AND FOGO DE CHAO BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE, YOU'LL FIND THEM ON THE RIVER WALK, TOO.



## BIGA ON THE BANKS



Chef Bruce J. Auden

"A must for local & visiting foodies alike." - Texas Monthly

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The Fruteria

## SOUTHTOWN

Southtown, home to the glorious King William District, serves culturally-diverse dishes in historically significant settings. While Pearl may be the epicenter of San Antonio's culinary scene, hip Southtown is the playground of chefs like Chef Quealy Watson who tease taste buds toward new frontiers. His widely celebrated Hot Joy surprises and delights diners with creative fusion cuisine like tater tot chat, dill curry, and an impressive sake selection.

New to Southtown, The Maverick unites proven restaurateur Peter Selig, of Ácenar and Biga on the Banks, with executive chef Chris Carlson, most recently of Midtown's Edera Osteria Enoteca. Billed as a "Texas brasserie," The Maverick promises a celebration of the city's independent roots.

Along Alamo Street, Belgian bistro La Frite sticks to its distinctly European identity with moules-frites, escargot, and tarte a l'oignon.

Housed in a 1939 convent (now painted a color described as "electric coral") Liberty Bar is known for simple, local dishes. The Guenther House at the old Pioneer Flour Mill is home to one of the city's favorite breakfast and brunch spots.

The No. 7 Fire Station's new tenant, Battalion, serves classic Italian dishes, along with shareable plates and a curated wine list. Expect the trademark opulence of Stefan Bowers and Andrew Goodman, the celebrated team behind Feast, also in Southtown, and Rebelle, the decadent hotel restaurant at the St. Anthony Hotel.

Southtown's diverse dining scene is anchored by a reliable mix of longtime standards like Rosario's, Mad Hatters, and The Filling Station, all of which have maintained their popularity by doing what they do best and keeping fan favorites on the menu. Upscale spot Bliss adds to that line up with Chef Mark Bliss' exquisite American fare. Chef Johnny Hernandez's The Fruteria on the gallery-dense South Flores corridor brings a fruity twist on many local favorites, highlighting healthy ingredients and natural flavors.

At The Friendly Spot Ice House or La Tuna Grill you can sip on a pint of beer under string lights and let the kids romp. A second Friendly Spot location on San Antonio's South Side

is anticipated in 2018. Spurs games are often broadcast on the wall.

Blue Star Arts Complex houses one the area's most important collection of galleries, as well as an impressive collection of dining and drinking establishments, including South Alamo Panini and Gelato Company, Stella Public House, Halcyon, Blue Star Brewing Company, and Bar 1919.

San Antonio continues to grow southward from Blue Star, following the Mission Reach.

Just south of Blue Star on the Mission Reach, a friendly *calavera* (the festive skeletons associated with Dia de los Muertos) welcomes you to Burgerteca, a casual dining experience by Chef Johnny Hernandez. Using the all-American favorite, the hamburger, Hernandez tours patrons through the interior of Mexico, using moles (sauces), beans, and other classic Mexican ingredients. Hernandez recently partnered with the Guzman family, who has three generations of experience operating fine seafood restaurants in Veracruz, Mexico. Villa Rica's focus is on tacos, tostadas, and ceviches inspired by the costal cuisines of Baja, Sinaloa, Yucatan, and the Pacific. A stand-alone ice cream shop is on the premises for dessert on the go as you head out to enjoy the Mission Reach.

## AROUND TOWN

Further afield, another of San Antonio's culinary masters and four-time James Beard Award finalist Andrew Weissman has opened a new venture, Signature, at the posh La Cantera Resort and Spa. Signature combines French technique with a gracious Hill Country charm and taste. Renowned baker Buddy "Cake Boss" Valastro opened Buddy V's Ristorante and Carlo's Bakery at The Shops at La Cantera. He partnered with veteran restaurateurs Elizabeth Blau and Chef Kim Canteenwalla to bring a taste of Valastro's family gatherings and beloved heirloom recipes to San Antonio.

Clementine is the new restaurant from culinary couple John and Elise Russ, who call it a "neighborhood restaurant serving up seasonal Southern and American eats in a casual setting."

Boss Bagel has northern transplants and native sons rejoicing as artisan bagels have found their way to San Antonio. "Boss" stands for "bagels on southern soil" and CIA graduates Brannon and Christie Soileau have an old-world technique that, they say, improves upon both New York and Montreal-style bagels.

For those in need of a caffeine kick, Local Coffee and Rosella Coffee now have several locations around town to keep the city buzzing on local roasts. On the East Side, Estate Coffee is emerging as a new favorite with a pure menu for true coffee lovers. ☕





# *A Night to Remember*

## EXPERIENCE SAN ANTONIO'S THRILLING NIGHTLIFE

Aztec Theatre

BY KATE HULL HEIDENREICH

**W**hen the sun goes down, a spark ignites and the River City comes alive. Experience the thrilling and unbeatable nightlife San Antonio has to offer, whether you're looking to sink into a dimly lit booth and sip a craft cocktail, roar with laughter at a comedy club, or put on your dancing shoes to take the floor at any of the top-notch bars and music venues. Get ready; here's to a night for the books.



The Rustic



**LOCAL'S TIP:** CATCH ONE OF THE PUBLIC THEATER OF SAN ANTONIO'S IMPRESSIVE PRODUCTIONS INSIDE THE SAN PEDRO PLAYHOUSE, THE NATION'S OLDEST MUNICIPALLY BUILT THEATER, LOCATED IN SAN PEDRO SPRINGS PARK.

## GRAB A BITE AND STAY AWHILE

With restaurants so lively you can make a night of it, make plans to go with the flow! Come for happy hour, stay for dinner, and if there's live music, break out your dance moves. San Antonio's celebrated eateries, like Bella On The River, are known for unbeatable meals and festive atmospheres.

Bohanan's Prime Steaks & Seafood combines Old World nostalgia with fine dining inside the rustic-meets-upscale restaurant. Come early for a famous Old Fashioned at the downstairs bar, and take a step back in time. Stick around and enjoy live music from favorite local musicians.

Lisa Wong's restaurant Rosario's serves mouth-watering contemporary Mexican cuisine with an extra helping of a lively atmosphere. The live music makes the restaurant feel more like a party than a restaurant, so stay for late-night drinks and dancing.

Don't forget your dancing shoes if you're dining at Azuca, a Caribbean, Latin American, and Central American fusion restaurant. For fifteen years, the eleven-piece salsa band Tropicante has been keeping patrons dancing each Friday night. On Saturdays, stick around for La Libertad Orchestra's Latin rhythms.

## A TOAST TO SAN ANTONIO

Take your celebration to San Antonio's eclectic bars and clubs to experience vivacious nightlife.

Soak up stunning views of the Alamo City while you sip an impeccable cocktail at Paramour. This soaring rooftop bar features swanky décor and a hefty list of wine, beer, and cocktails. If drinks under a starry sky don't seal the deal, Paramour is also home to Texas' first champagne vending machine, dishing out mini bottles chilled to a perfect thirty-eight degrees.

Locals flock to The Last Word and The Brooklynite, owned by Jeret Peña. The Brooklynite is perfect for those craving a craft cocktail, but the wine and beer selection is also impressive. Nearby on Houston Street, The Last Word seamlessly blends the atmosphere of a throwback cocktail lounge with your favorite neighborhood tavern and mixes classic cocktails like Tom Collinses and Moscow Mules. Down the way also on Houston Street, you can also imbibe at the sleek cocktail bar Juniper Tar.

If you're looking for more throwback-style taverns, head to The Modernist on Grayson Street, a 1960s-themed cocktail bar where the décor and menu items beckon the celebrated decade.





**LOCAL'S TIP:** SAMPLE DELECTABLE TEXAS CUISINE WITH A MODERN SPIN PAIRED WITH EXPERTLY BREWED BEERS AT SOUTHERLEIGH FINE FOOD & BREWERY LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR IN THE HISTORIC PEARL BREWHOUSE.

With a history as impressive as its cocktail menu, The Esquire Tavern on East Commerce Street is one of the oldest bars in San Antonio. It originally opened in 1933 to celebrate the end of Prohibition, and after a five-year hiatus, reopened in 2011 to reclaim its space as one of San Antonio's favorite downtown bars. The Esquire's sister bar, Downstairs, sits on the River Walk and offers an intimate hangout.

The stylish and luxurious St. Anthony Hotel, located on Travis Street, will satisfy any cocktail aficionado on the prowl for the perfect portion. The vibe at Rebelle is the perfect mix of a chic restaurant and the latest nightclub. Dare to be tempted by their inventive cocktails—all notably named for the seven deadly sins. The dark and cozy Haunt Lounge is chic, relaxed, and contemporary. Dip back in time with one sip of a classic libation at the historic St. Anthony Club, once an exclusive members only joint, where you can get lost in conversation while sipping Texas-inspired cocktails and swaying to jazz.

A short walk away, on North Presa Street, Andrew Tejeda's Davenport Lounge keeps the music going with live bands seven days a week and

a wide array of wine, beer, and cocktails. Located in the heart of downtown between Commerce and Market Streets, the Davenport feels like a scene out of *The Great Gatsby*, thanks to its 1910 architecture and sparkling chandeliers.

## CUT A RUG, SAN ANTONIO-STYLE

Yes, this is Texas, and you're sure to get your boot-scoot-boogying fix at a celebrated honky-tonk or two. But San Antonio is also home to a hopping nightclub scene where all are welcome, and the beats last late into the night. Come out in your favorite trusty Cowboy boots or dazzle dressed to the nines; no matter the locale, excitement awaits.

Known as the premier honky-tonk experience in San Antonio, two-step the night away at Cowboys Dancehall. There's room for everyone inside this 70,000-square-foot venue. Dust off your dancing shoes and take a Texas-style dance lesson, hoot and holler while a cowboy rides a bucking bronco during the indoor rodeo, or catch a country music performance from the likes of Brett Young or Aaron Watson.

If you're hankering for even more great country music, head to Thirsty Horse Saloon where good times and cold brews are never in short supply. Plan a night out for a country music concert, or meet up with friends for happy hour.

For a nightclub as big as the Lone Star State, hit the dance floor at the LGBT-friendly Bonham Exchange. The building may be a hundred years old, but inside, the renovated and modern club is a hotspot for all. Get your dueling piano fix at Howl at the Moon, a River Walk entertainment staple since 1995. Good times are in heavy supply at Durty Nelly's Irish Pub located on Alamo Street. A replica of the original Durty Nelly's in Ireland, this San Antonio staple is a must for all. Shareable cocktails and high-energy tunes, from Elton John to Justin Timberlake, are popular with large groups and for special occasions. Good times also await at Paper Tiger, Rumble, and Chisme, all on St. Mary's Street.

It's been dubbed "the swankiest live music club" in San Antonio for good reason. Luna Music Bar & Lounge oozes with rhythm, blues, a whole lot of soul, and even salsa. The vintage-style spot dishes up appetizers and cocktails in an intimate club. Sip cocktails al fresco on the patio, or dance the night away inside. Spice up your evening out at Carmens de la Calle, where you can sample an ever-changing global menu and dance to varied acts from flamenco to jazz inside the intimate venue.

A favorite for jazz fans, the aptly named JAZZ, TX combines the intimacy of an upscale club with the grit of a traditional Texas dancehall.



**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** MUSICAL STYLES ASSOCIATED WITH SAN ANTONIO INCLUDE COUNTRY, BLUES, JAZZ, ROCK 'N' ROLL, TEX-MEX, CONJUNTO, AND THE WEST SIDE SOUND. LEGENDARY BLUES MUSICIAN ROBERT JOHNSON HAD HIS FIRST HISTORIC RECORDING SESSION AT THE GUNTER HOTEL.

Located in the cellar of The Bottling Department at the historic Pearl, JAZZ, TX celebrates the full spectrum of South Texas music. Envisioned by renowned local musician Brent "Doc" Watkins, it's no wonder the music is so enticing.

## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Gaze in disbelief, let out a belly laugh or two, and sway to the music while you catch any of the fantastic shows in San Antonio. The acts are incredible, and the venues are second-to-none. From Broadway shows and renowned musicians

to up-and-coming comedians and intimate concerts, San Antonio's got them all!

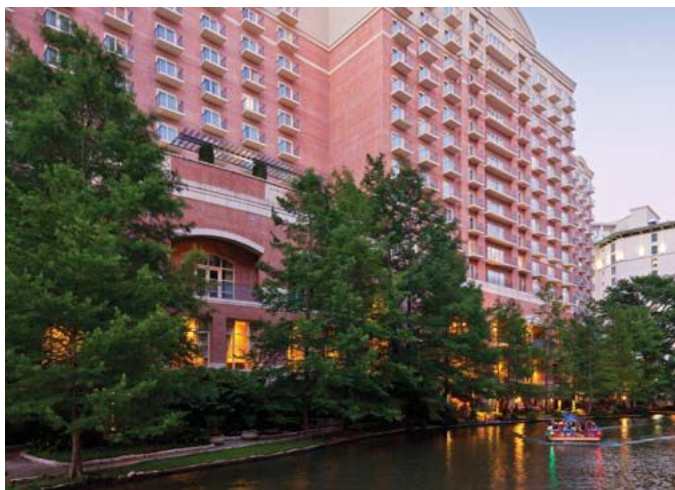
San Antonio's growing comedy scene features up-and-comers and national acts, all of which are sure to bring the laughs. Laugh Out Loud comedy club, at North Plaza Park, offers a showroom and club with improv and standup of all types. Laugh Out Loud's sister spot, The Rivercenter Comedy Club, brings improv headliners from New York to Los Angeles to the South Texas stage.

Located in the heart of downtown at the corner of Commerce and St. Mary's Streets, the Aztec Theatre is a historic gem and a sensational architectural landmark. The Aztec first opened its doors in 1926 and boasts pristine Meso-American architecture with authentic columns, reliefs, and artifacts. The ornate lobby welcomes guests, and the stunning theater sets the stage for a show unlike any other.

Opportunities for sensational cultural evenings abound throughout the city. The Carver Community Cultural Center unlocks a celebration of the many diverse cultures of the world, nation, and community through artistic presentations, outreach, and educational programming with an emphasis on African and African-American heritage. The Guadalupe Theater showcases Latino, Chicano, and Native American offerings in theater, music, dance, and film. Catch a show at the theater located on Guadalupe Street, or attend one of the



Downstairs at Esquire



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**THE WESTIN**  
RIVERWALK  
SAN ANTONIO





Majestic Theatre

celebrated festivals put on each year by the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

Two nearby distinguished theaters also combine top-tiered performances with deep-seated San Antonio roots. The Majestic Theatre is as visually exciting as the acts that take the stage there. John Eberson built the theater in 1929. It's home to the Broadway in San Antonio series and attracts a variety of impressive acts. Take a moment before the show begins to gaze at the remarkable Spanish Mediterranean-style architecture. It's no wonder this ornate theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Just around the corner sits the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre. The theater has been delighting San Antonians for more than a century. The Empire sits on the site of the former Rische's Opera House. Originally constructed in the style of a European palazzo as a vaudeville and movie theater, the Empire Theatre is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the newest additions to San Antonio's entertainment scene, the Tobin Center for Performing Arts, is a world-class, multi-purpose venue situated along the San Antonio River. Become transfixed with an evening of ballet or take in a show in the intimate studio theater. The outdoor performance plaza allows for a unique open-air viewing experience and connects to the River Walk.

The Rim shopping center is home to The Rustic, an expansive indoor/outdoor restaurant, bar, and music venue. It's a great place to catch shows from local and national artists in a laid-back atmosphere. ☼



**LOCAL'S TIP:** CHEER ON THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS OR SING ALONG WHILE ELTON JOHN PLAYS AT THE MAGNIFICENT AT&T CENTER LOCATED EAST OF DOWNTOWN.




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Paddleboarding on the San Antonio River

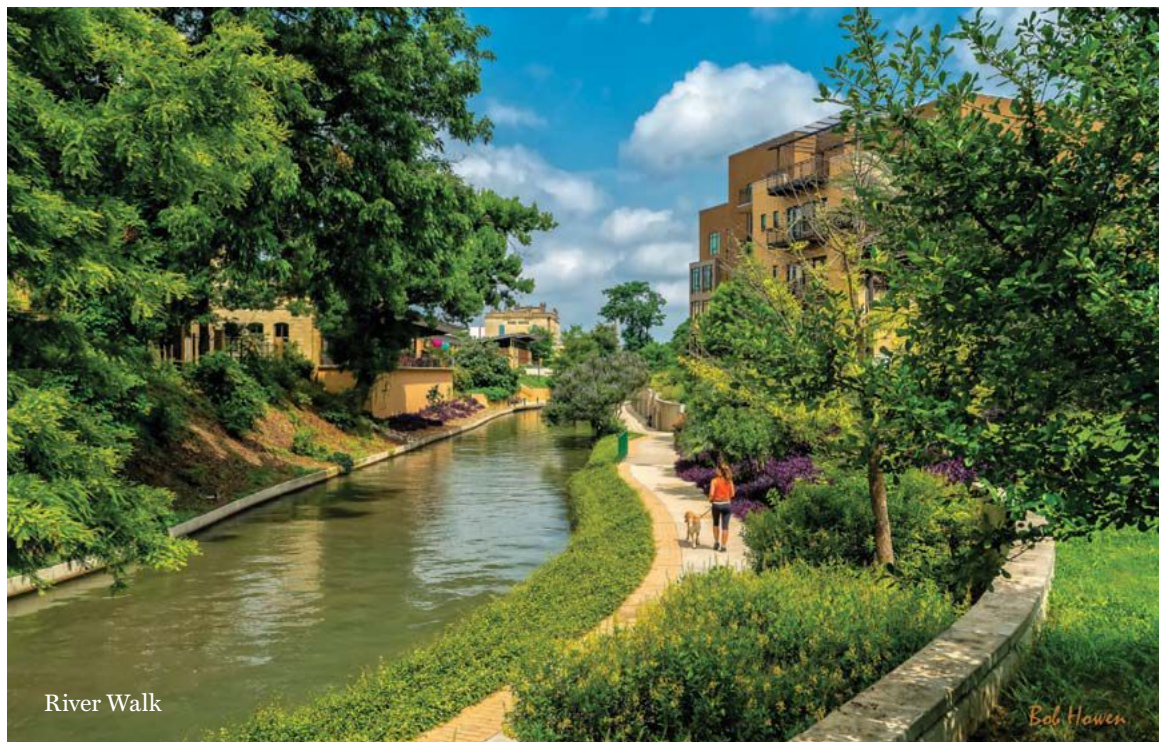




# START STEPPIN' IN SAN ANTONIO

BY KAREN O'DONNELL KRAJCIER

**SAN ANTONIANS ARE AN ACTIVE BUNCH.** With its mild climate, greenbelts, waterways, and easy access to the famous Texas Hill Country, San Antonio offers a multitude of recreational activities for outdoor enthusiasts, people with active lifestyles, and sports fans. Whether you prefer the traditional, like 18 holes of golf in the rolling hills; the historical, like a scenic bike ride along the Mission Reach; or the fun, like a night of spinning with your partner around the dance floor, the Alamo City gets your heart beating.



River Walk

Bob Hawen



**LOCAL'S TIP:** DOWNLOAD SAN ANTONIO RUN/WALK AND BIKE MAPS AT VISITSANTONIO.COM. ALSO, SAN ANTONIO BIKE TOURS CATERS TO RIDERS OF ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS—EVEN BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME.

**T**he River Walk's central loop demands to be walked or cruised, and north and south extensions call to runners and cyclists to sweat off that warm basket of tortilla chips.

Joggers love the Museum Reach's flat, light-ed four-mile path along the San Antonio River. North of the Pearl, public art installations, like the enormous floating fiberglass fish, make way for flying golf balls at Brackenridge Park Golf Course. The path continues for another two miles through Brackenridge Park, where runners take advantage of soft, shady trails winding through the woods.

Spring wildflowers, waterfowl, parks, playgrounds, and the Alamo's four sister Spanish colonial missions draw visitors south, down the eight-mile Mission Reach, the nation's largest urban ecosystem restoration. Runners and cyclists take advantage of the path's access to miles of additional hike-and-bike trails, and anglers cast from the greenbelt's banks.

But the best way to explore the riverbanks is from the river itself. The Mission Reach Paddling Trail, an official Texas Paddling Trail, guides kayakers through more than thirty canoe chutes over light rapids in shallow water. Didn't pack your kayak? Contact Mission Kayak for weekend rentals. Stops at Missions Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada will replenish the spirit.

Don't have a bike? Borrow a SWell-cycle—for as little as \$12 dollars a day if you dock it every hour at one of the multiple stations along the trail—or rent an electric assist bike from Bike World, whose Southside location resides near Mission San Jose.

San Antonio holds spectating in high esteem. When the streets fill with black and silver, it must be basketball season. The Alamo City is home to the five-time NBA champion San Antonio Spurs and the multitude of fans that love them. In 2016, San Antonio welcomed its first Major League Soccer Team, the San Antonio Football Club (SAFC). The seven-time Texas League champion San Antonio Missions, a minor league baseball team, and the San Antonio Rampage, an American Hockey League team, let fans get close to the action. For a truly authentic San Antonio sporting experience, check out the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo in February and the *charreada* (Mexican rodeo).

**300**  
SAN ANTONIO

**DID YOU KNOW?** IN 2017, THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER RECEIVED HONORS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RIVER FOUNDATION, WHICH IS CONSIDERED THE "NOBEL PRIZE FOR RIVERS."





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Mission Reach

San Antonio holds popular national sporting events at the Alamodome, such as the Valero Alamo Bowl. The Alamodome recently received a \$60 million dollar upgrade in preparation for the 2018 NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament. Fans visiting the Alamodome will enjoy technological improvements, such as high definition video walls and improved Wi-Fi available at all 65,000 seats, and other amenities, such as two new beer gardens on expanded concourses.

San Antonio hosts many popular races and active events that are open to the public. The San Antonio Rock 'n Roll Marathon & Half Marathon rolls through the streets in December. Or run up all 952 steps to the Tower of the Americas observation deck during the annual Tower Climb and Run in January. Sícovia, one of the city's most popular events, turns major city streets into parks for pedestrian play, exercise classes, and biking in May. For the most interactive San Antonio tour yet, lace up your sneakers for River City Run's non-competitive guided running tour through downtown. The five-kilometer adventure moves at a comfortable pace of nine or ten minutes per mile and stops at sixteen landmarks, so runners of all levels can catch their breaths and some San Antonio history along the way.

When the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System is completed, a 130-mile ring of hike-and-bike trails will encircle San Antonio. The city currently enjoys approximately sixty-five miles of developed greenway trails that connect parks along the Salado and Leon creeks and the San Antonio and Medina rivers. Noteworthy parks along the ring include McAllister and Hardberger. Each features miles of walking and running trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, and a dog park; McAllister offers trails for mountain bikers as well.

Other parks and natural areas on the city's historic westside are also undergoing revitalization. Ongoing improvements to San Pedro

Creek have begun to transform a concrete-lined ditch into a natural creek and world-class park. When the \$175 million San Pedro Creek Improvements Project is complete, visitors will enjoy two miles of walkable channel, enriched along the narrow banks with vibrant public art, four miles of paseos, and a plaza, as well as many new and rehabilitated bridges within eleven acres of natural landscaping.

A popular gathering place, Elmendorf Lake Park celebrates the recent completion of a \$16.2 million improvement project. This thirty-acre park now includes a splash pad, picnic areas overlooking the lake, a new playground, and two miles of trails. New pedestrian bridges connect to the island in the middle of the lake, where visitors enjoy a paved trail, picnic area, and floating fishing pier. The Westside Creeks Restoration Project will ultimately connect the Alazán, Apache, Martínez, and San Pedro Creeks to the San Antonio River Mission Reach Project.

Southwest San Antonio's newly expanded Pearsall Park now offers the city's largest splash pad and skate park, an event stage, a playground, a fitness challenge zone, and many new sitting areas. But who wants to sit when they can ride the zip line?

Also west of downtown, Woodlawn Lake Park remains a favorite for canoeing, fishing, dog-walking, and kite flying.

Wilderness lovers need not drive out to the Hill Country for scenic overlooks and overnight camping. Just northwest of the city, Government Canyon State Natural Area's 8,622-acre spread includes more than forty miles of hiking and biking trails that traverse remote, rugged canyonlands, gently rolling grasslands, and historic ranching sites. Birders hoping to spot the endangered golden-cheeked warbler gather at this stunning natural area before heading south to Mitchell Lake Audubon



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San Antonio Spurs



Topgolf



Valero Alamo Bowl

Center, home to more than three hundred bird species, such as pelicans, egrets, roseate spoonbills, and hawks.

For those who prefer to encounter nature in an urban setting, San Pedro Springs Park is a must-visit destination. The second-oldest municipal park in the nation is home to the city's beloved MacFarland Tennis Center, which features twenty-two outdoor lighted hard courts, and San Pedro Springs Pool, a free swimming pool filled by the San Pedro Springs and shaded by towering cypress trees.

At parks throughout the city, Fitness in the Park, San Antonio's free year-round program, aims to keep everything bigger in Texas—except people's waistlines. With an array of classes like boot camp, cross fit, yoga, and Zumba taught by professional instructors, everyone can get fit. Yoga enthusiasts who prefer to stay indoors can perform their sun salutations at Southtown Yoga Loft and the Synergy Studio, near Pearl. Mobile

Om conducts Yoga classes at outdoor and unique locations throughout the city, including the historic Hays Street Bridge, the San Antonio Missions, Coates Chapel at the Southwest School of Art, and various breweries.

## GET IN THE GAME

At Toyota Field, San Antonio's first Major League Soccer team, the San Antonio Football Club (SAFC), begins its third season in the United Soccer League (USL). The SAFC finished second in the USL Western Conference in their second year of play. Whether you cheer for the SAFC, the Spurs, or one of the city's other popular sports teams, your black-and-silver fan gear will let everyone know you root for the home team.

With more than three hundred days of sunshine annually, San Antonians play a lot of golf, and with more than fifty local courses and nearly





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**LOCAL'S TIP:** IF YOU LIKE TO MIX FITNESS AND NEW FRIENDS, SCHEDULE A GROUP BIKE RIDE. IN ADDITION TO OFFERING A VARIETY OF RENTAL BIKE STYLES, BIKE WORLD HOSTS FREE, DROP-IN GROUP RIDES ON WEEKDAY EVENINGS, EACH AVERAGING ABOUT FIFTEEN MILES. BIKE CLUBS LIKE LIFE TIME CYCLE ORGANIZE LONGER RIDES OUT TO THE HILL COUNTRY, AND CYCLING SAN ANTONIO OFFERS PROFESSIONAL, ORGANIZED TOURS TO AND THROUGH SAN ANTONIO'S MOST ICONIC AND HISTORIC LOCATIONS.

as many within an hour's drive, Alamo City golfers can continuously challenge their game. Resort courses offer the most variety and receive the most attention. The JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa is famed for its two PGA tour-operated TPC courses and hosts the annual Valero Texas Open. Greg Norman designed the 72-par AT&T Oaks Course to jibe with the topographic subtleties of Hill Country terrain, while the AT&T Canyons Course, designed by famed architect Pete Dye, features wide fairways and panoramic views of the adjacent Cibolo Canyons. La Cantera Resort and Spa is home to the Resort Course, the fifteen-year PGA stop designed by Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf, and the Palmer Course, designed by the legendary Arnold Palmer. Both courses wind through the Hill Country and provide stunning views and dramatic water features. The Hill Country Golf Club, located on the grounds of the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa, offers twenty-seven holes on two hundred acres of wide-ranging terrain, masterfully sculpted by Arthur Hills and Associates.

Public greens are popular greens, and several of San Antonio's best are less than a fifteen-minute drive from downtown. After you've toured the Alamo, begin your tour of the Alamo City Golf Trail, a series of eight public courses that wind through and around San Antonio. If your clubs are as dusty as Jim Bowie's knife, take in some practice swings at the newly renovated San Pedro Driving Range & Par 3. This state-of-the-art golf practice facility features two putting greens, a short game area, an aboutGolf® indoor golf simulator, and a staff of teaching professionals to help get you back in the game. With its lighted nine-hole par-3 course and a full-length driving range—exclusive to San Pedro—this facility can keep you swinging until ten at night. Other Alamo City Golf Trail courses include Cedar Creek, Mission del Lago, Northern Hills, Olmos Basin, Riverside, Willow Springs, and Brackenridge Park.

Designed in 1916, Brackenridge Park Golf Course holds a special place in the hearts of San Antonians and the annals of state history. Texas' oldest eighteen-hole public golf course is also the home of the Texas Golf Hall of Fame. Renovations

in 2008 echo designer A.W. Tillinghast's original layout and keep the course on par with the city's premier courses. In 2017, *Golfweek* magazine designated Brackenridge as a top twenty golf course in Texas.

Another local favorite, the Republic Golf Club, has been consistently voted the city's number-one course by the *San Antonio Express-News*, while Hill Country Golf Club is favored by readers of *San Antonio Magazine*. This challenging course follows the scenic Salado Creek. The back nine of the Quarry Golf Club plays out in a hundred-year-old limestone quarry pit. Elevated tee boxes and imposing chasms make this par-72 course a uniquely San Antonio experience. Olympia Hills, the 18-hole Finger, Dye, Spann Design Group layout, features multiple tees, dramatic elevation changes, naturally undulating topography, and breathtaking views.

Silverhorn Golf Club brings Hill Country character inside Texas State Highway Loop 1604. Beautifully framed, contoured greens and strategic use of sand and water create multiple levels of challenge, appropriate for all golfers. A best-kept secret is the Bandit, located in nearby New Braunfels. Named one of the "Top 10 Public Courses in Texas" by *Golfweek* magazine, this par-71 track winds in and around Long Creek and Lake McQueeney and features significant elevation changes and water hazards.

Everyone from the aspiring pro to the curious first-timer swings at Topgolf, where the only elevation changes are the three floors of temperature-controlled tee boxes. With more than a hundred bays, each offering HDTVs and full food and beverage service, San Antonio's premier golf entertainment complex invites guests to create their ideal level of competition in everyone's ideal hangout. Perfect your distance drive on the 240-yard outfield, challenge your friends to a point-driven game that turns the driving range into a virtual dart board, or enjoy the live bands and DJs on the roof deck.

For golfers who prefer slinging plastic to swinging clubs, San Antonio offers several disc golf courses with varying terrains and levels of difficulty. Among the best are Bryan McClain and Universal City parks, which both offer eighteen holes of wooded and open runs, and Live Oak Park, a John Houck-designed course with thirty-eight baskets over ever-changing elevations and landscapes, including several water hazards. Houck also designed the hilly six-hole course at Trinity University, only a ten-minute drive from downtown San Antonio. ☼



# 3 DAYS *in the Alamo* CITY

BY KAREN O'DONNELL KRAJCEK

## Everyone has his or her own idea of an ideal

vacation. With so much to see and do in San Antonio, it helps to have a plan, even if that plan is just to relax and have some fun. No matter what you're in the mood for—historical landmarks, cultural events, culinary delights, family fun, or a romantic evening—there's an itinerary for every taste and a travel adventure sure to make your visit to the Alamo City memorable.

## ROMANTIC *Getaway*

### DAY 1: PEARL

Hold hands on a guided GO RIO San Antonio cruise along the river, and cheer when a bride and groom say “I do” on Marriage Island, an intimate (yet highly public) island little more than an arm's length from your riverboat. Ascend the steps from the River Walk into Bella on the River's candlelit dining room. With natural limestone rock walls, this secluded gem feels like an Italian grotto. At Hotel Havana's Ocho, sip Cuban-inspired craft cocktails in the stunning glass atrium overlooking the water. Before you head back to your room at Hotel Emma, San Antonio's award-winning boutique hotel housed in the Pearl Brewery, share a dessert at Southerleigh or one last glass of wine at High Street Wine Company. Maybe all that sugar will move you to dance to the music of a live band down at JAZZ, TX, a live-music hotspot.



GO RIO  
River Cruise



JAZZ, TX



La Cantera Loma de Vida Spa

## DAY 2: SPAS, SPORTS, AND SHOPPING AT LA CANTERA

Sometimes quality time means treating yourself to a relaxing day before joining your partner for an evening together. Out where the highways roll into the Texas Hill Country, golfers tee off at La Cantera Resort and Spa's Palmer Golf Course. At La Cantera Resort's new Loma de Vida Spa, take in magnificent views from the outdoor rain-fall shower of your private sky loft. The open-air Shops at La Cantera features upscale stores and a variety of stylish dining options including Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar, where you and your love-bird can swing from hanging nest chairs while sampling a selection of its expansive craft-cocktail program. Enjoy a nightcap at Sire Bar and count the shooting stars over the hills.



**LOCAL'S TIP:** RIDESHARE COMPANIES HELP YOU GET AROUND SAN ANTONIO, BUT SNUG PEDICAB AND HORSEDRAWN CARRIAGES TURN YOUR TRANSPORTATION INTO A ROMANTIC DESTINATION. ARRANGE FOR A HOTEL PICKUP AND FLOWERS FROM YELLOW ROSE CARRIAGE COMPANY OR ENJOY THE QUICK TURNS AROUND ALAMO CITY'S VIBRANT NIGHTSPOTS FROM BEHIND THE BICYCLE OF A SAN ANTONIO PEDICAB.

## DAY 3: HILL COUNTRY WINE TOUR

The nine-million-acre Texas Hill Country wine region is a tour for the eyes and palate. Visit your favorite local winery, or, depending on the season, hop on a wine trail, such as the springtime Wine and Wildflower Trail, and enjoy special offerings and tours. Let service providers like Cottonwood Wine Tours of San Antonio and Fredericksburg Limo & Wine Tours take care of the driving so you can relax in a private car or chartered bus. Many of the Hill Country's more than fifty wineries are just a few turns away from charming towns like Fredericksburg and Comfort, which offer shopping, restaurants, and lively street festivals. Make sure your ride gets you back to town in time for a world-class performance at the Tobin Center for Performing Arts, or the Majestic Theatre, Empire Theatre, or Aztec Theatre.



# TRENDY

## Tour

### DAY 1: ICE HOUSES, DISTILLERIES, AND LIVE MUSIC

Before taking your first steps down to the River Walk below Hotel Valencia, load up on empanadas at Dorrego's, the hotel's new, beautifully tiled Argentinian restaurant. Kick back at San Antonio's many outdoor ice houses and growler stations: the Friendly Spot, La Tuna Grill, GS1221, Big Hops at The Bridge, and Hills & Dales Ice House. If you seek to warm your insides, check out San Antonio's many local spirits makers: Dorcol for brandy, Rebecca Creek Distillery for whiskey and vodka, Ranger Creek Brewing and Distilling for whiskey, Garrison Brothers for bourbon, Edwards Ridge Distillery for rum, Artisan on Alamo for vodka, and the new Seersucker Distillery for gin. All offer sips of their creations on tours or at on-site bars, and many feature live music on weekends, but only Maverick Whiskey lets you sip craft whiskey distilled by Kenneth Maverick, direct descendent of Declaration of Independence-signer Samuel Maverick. The retrofitted 1918 bank building that houses the Maverick Whiskey distillery and tasting room sits on the site of the original Maverick homestead. For live music and



revelry, spend your evening on the St. Mary's Strip at revamped venues Paper Tiger, The Amp Room, The Mix, Limelight, Hi-Tones, or La Botánica. New to the strip are The Squeezebox—a live music and dancing venue that features Tejano, conjunto, and cumbia music in addition to DJ sets—and Jandro's—a nightclub that celebrates live music, local art, and the chill factor. Fuel up before the show at the strip's newest restaurant, Chisme, and recover with late night eats (and maybe one more song) at Faust Tavern.

Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling



**LOCAL'S TIP:** THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 9 P.M.,

HUNDREDS OF CYCLISTS CONVERGE IN FRONT OF THE ALAMO BEFORE SETTING OFF ON A MASS RIDE THROUGH THE CITY. RIDE ROUTES ARE UNANNOUNCED, BUT PLAN AHEAD TO BYOB AS THE GROUP TAKES SEVERAL SOCIAL STOPS ALONG THE WAY.



## DAY 2: HIPSTER HAVENS SOUTHTOWN AND DIGNOWITY

With their fingers on the pulse of the up-and-coming and affordable, hipsters are heading east to the Dignowity neighborhood. After joining Mobile Om for sunrise yoga on the historic Hays Street Bridge or one of their other many downtown pop-up locations, wake up with a coffee at Estate Coffee Company, where you can observe the entire coffee roasting process or peruse a curated selection of specialty goods at Oak & Salt, which shares the residence. From your bike, admire historical homes and contemporary architectural renovations, and then treat yourself to hearty burgers and soul food at eastside establishments Mrs. Kitchen Soul Food and Bakery, Lord's Kitchen, Mark's Outing, or Tony G's Soul Food (in St. Paul's Square). Find an original gift



**LOCAL'S TIP:** SAN ANTONIO HAS LOADS OF FREE EVENTS AND FESTIVALS, MANY OF WHICH HAPPEN IN DOWNTOWN AND MIDTOWN: FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK FROM SLAB CINEMA, FREE LIVE MUSIC AT FARMERS MARKETS, FREE ADMISSION INTO BLUE STAR ART GALLERIES ON FIRST FRIDAYS, FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT YANAGUANA GARDENS, AND BODY-MOVING CELEBRATIONS OF LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE AT LA VILLITA'S ARNESON RIVER THEATRE. TRAVIS PARK IS THE EPICENTER OF FREE EVENTS, SUCH AS MUSICAL AND DANCE PERFORMANCES, FITNESS BOOT CAMPS AND FESTIVALS, OUTDOOR MOVIES, AND OTHER SEASONAL SPECIAL EVENTS.

at Yeyah's Antiques & Oddities or GOOD Goods. Enjoy the live music, patio games, and food trucks at Alamo Beer Company or Burleson Yard Beer Garden, whose décor and cocktail menu are inspired by the nearby railroad tracks. Be sure to cruise the South Alamo Street's mile-long corridor of good times: restaurants, bars, ice houses, and art galleries. Dance late into the night at eastside favorite Tucker's Kozy Korner.

Alamo Beer Company



Gruene Hall





Villa Finale

## DAY 3: TUBING AND SHOPPING IN NEW BRAUNFELS AND GRUENE

Tubing on the refreshing Comal and Guadalupe Rivers is a choose-your-own adventure float. Daring floaters ride the tube chute and rapids, while those preferring a more leisurely drift can wave from beneath the cypress trees. Several companies offer tube and raft rentals and will give you a ride to the launch site. The ultimate ride for convenience and price (free, if you have your own tube) is the Horseshoe Loop. This half-hour to two-hour float, depending on water levels, ends less than a half mile from entry, which makes it easy to ride the loop and grab midway snacks all day. Non-swimmers explore the boutiques and shops of New Braunfels' West San Antonio Street and downtown Historic Gruene. At the end of the day, enjoy live performances from country music legends of today and tomorrow at Whitewater Amphitheater or at Texas' oldest dancehall, Gruene Dance Hall. Cozy up for an outdoor movie at the Stars and Stripes Drive-in Theatre.



**LOCAL'S TIP:** WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO VISIT AND TOUR ALL FIVE OF SAN ANTONIO'S SPANISH COLONIAL MISSIONS, ESPECIALLY IF YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VIA'S VIVA MISSIONS BUS ROUTE, YOU MIGHT PREFER TO FOCUS ON TWO OR THREE IN A SINGLE DAY. THOSE CLOSEST TO DOWNTOWN—MISSIONS SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO (THE ALAMO), CONCEPCIÓN, AND SAN JOSÉ—RECEIVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VISITORS, WHILE MISSIONS SAN JUAN AND ESPADA ARE TYPICALLY MORE SERENE. ESPADA'S HISTORIC ACEQUIA (AQUEDUCT) AND DAM, THE OLDEST IN THE NATION, ARE STILL IN USE TODAY.

## CULTURAL *Adventure*

### DAY 1: HISTORIC ADVENTURES DOWN SOUTH

From your newly restored early-twentieth-century room at The St. Anthony Hotel, plan your tour of the five eighteenth-century Spanish Colonial missions that earned UNESCO World Heritage status. About a mile from the stone steps of the Alamo, the River Walk's expanded Mission Trail will lead you to Missions Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada. While you're headed south, take a self-guided walking tour through King William's Greek Revival, Victorian, and Italianate homes before visiting the Steves Homestead Museum and Villa Finale. Making use of its historic charm, Southtown is full of popular bars and restaurants housed in retrofitted spaces. At Liberty Bar, guests enjoy contemporary American and Texas fare in a former convent, now painted pink, while patrons at Bliss dine in an elegantly redesigned gas station. Guests at Battalion, one of Southtown's newest upscale restaurants, sip wine in the old Fire Station No. 7, built in 1924. In addition to housing the city's longest-running contemporary art space, Blue Star Arts Complex, a redeveloped ice- and cold-storage warehouse, hosts an assortment of art galleries, working studios, boutique art shops, and delicious food and drink.





San Antonio  
Botanical Garden

## DAY 2: MUSEUMS

If you only have one day to explore San Antonio's exceptional museums, you're going to have to make some tough choices. Western buffs and Texas naturalists gravitate to the Briscoe Western Art Museum—where visitors admire art, history, and culture of the American West—and The Witte Museum, which showcases Texas nature, science, and culture. The San Antonio Museum of Art and the McNay Art Museum exhibit paintings, sculpture, and other works of art in a retrofitted brewery and mansion, respectively, and both feature beautiful courtyards. Stroll through the newly redeveloped San Antonio Botanical Garden before taking a driving tour through the charming Monte Vista Historic District. One of the largest and oldest historic districts in the nation, Monte Vista is filled with turn-of-the-twentieth century bungalows in an array of styles: Georgian, Moorish, Antebellum, Victorian, Queen Anne, Spanish, and Hollywood. Recharge with gumbo, rabbit cr  pinette, and New Orleans jazz at The Cookhouse or soak those tired feet under the cypress trees of San Pedro Springs Pool before catching a show at The Public Theater of San Antonio.

## DAY 3: NATURAL HISTORY

Get out of town and hike where the dinosaurs roamed. Government Canyon State Natural Area is home to 110-million-year-old *Acrocanthosaurus* and *Sauroposeidon* tracks, casts of which were used in The Witte Museum renovation. Forty miles of hiking and biking trails lead visitors through 12,000 acres of gently rolling grasslands, rugged canyons, and shaded creek beds. Pack a picnic, or swap your hiking boots for cowboy boots and head a few miles east to John T. Floore's Country Store. An authentic Texas dance hall and cafe rather than an actual store, Floore's is known to many as the musical birthplace of country music legend Willie Nelson. Not ready to boot scoot back to the bunkhouse? Continue towards Boerne, which offers shopping, art galleries, turn-of-the-century European architecture, and picturesque gardens and greenbelts. ☼



**LOCAL'S TIP:** SAN ANTONIO HAS A THRIVING LITERARY COMMUNITY. IF YOU'RE NOT LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE HERE DURING THE ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO BOOK FESTIVAL, YOU CAN CATCH A READING AT THE TWIG BOOK SHOP OR TAKE A WRITING CLASS WITH GEMINI INK. THE SAN ANTONIO CENTRAL LIBRARY HOUSES AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF LATINO LITERATURE, COOKBOOKS, AND SIGNIFICANT NONFICTION WORKS WRITTEN IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH, AND LITERARY TREASURES AWAIT THOSE WILLING TO LOOK THROUGH THE STACKS AT CHEEVER BOOKS.



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