

HISTORY & HERITAGE OF SAN ANTONIO ★ AND THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY ★

Explore the Cultural Highlights of San Antonio, Fredericksburg, San Marcos and Boerne

The Alamo
San Antonio, Texas



River Walk
San Antonio, Texas



Oktoberfest
Fredericksburg, Texas



SAN ANTONIO
AND THE
TEXAS
HILL COUNTRY

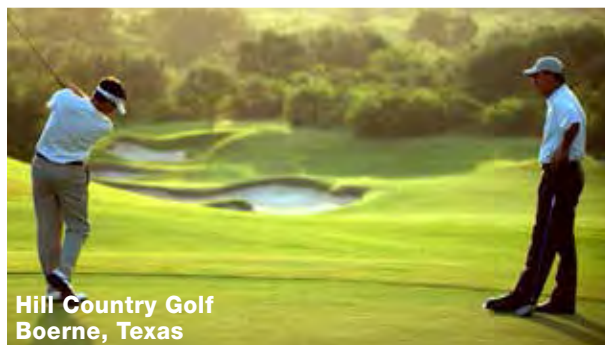
Wildseed Farms
Fredericksburg, Texas



Hays Statue
San Marcos, Texas



Boerne, Texas



Hill Country Golf
Boerne, Texas

Downtown Shopping
San Marcos, Texas



★ SAN ANTONIO ★



Steep yourself in the rich history and cultural heritage of San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country. As you explore, you'll discover the Spanish, Mexican, German and French influences spanning three centuries that are readily apparent in the architecture and traditions of our area.

San Antonio Showcases Historical Preservation

The city of San Antonio was founded by Spanish missionaries, whose legacy is seen today in our five well-preserved Spanish Colonial missions dating to 1724. German settlers influenced the city's growth as well in the mid 1800s, building elegant mansions and prosperous industries.

Day 1: Spanish Colonial Missions

- The **Alamo**, the most well-known mission of all, is nestled among lushly landscaped courtyards in Alamo Plaza, the heart of downtown. Step inside the stone chapel, where the brave heroes of the famous 1836 battle are respectfully honored.
- Four more missions, **Concepción, Espada, San José** and **San Juan Capistrano**, are located south of the Alamo, each about three miles apart, encompassing San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.
- View the 24-minute film in **Mission San José's Visitor Center** to learn about daily life in the missions during the 1700s.

Day 2: Vibrant River Walk and Exemplary Art Museums

- The colorful **River Walk** winds its way through the city center, linking shops, restaurants, theaters, hotels and entertainment along the banks of the gently flowing San Antonio River.
- With more than 20 charming shops, boutiques and art galleries, **La Villita Historic Arts Village** offers one-of-a-kind items, many hand-crafted by local artisans. La Villita's 27 adobe, brick and stone buildings once housed Alamo soldiers and are on the National Register of Historic Places.
- A river taxi ride along the **River Walk's Museum Reach** glides you to the spectacular **San Antonio Museum of Art**, located in the renovated Lone Star brewery, constructed in 1904.
- Travel on to the **Pearl Brewery**, a collection of specialty shops and celebrated restaurants at the site of another former brewery that dates to the 1880s.
- The acclaimed **McNay Art Museum** is housed in a 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival estate enhanced by contemporary additions, located on a hilltop north of downtown.

Day 3: Spanish and German Architecture

- When the Canary Islanders arrived to settle San Antonio in 1731, **Main Plaza** was the center of the town they laid out. Everything official and important happened here, from the announcement of a new Spanish king to civic fiestas. The plaza remains an integral part of downtown activity.
- Nearby, experience the romance of Old Spain at the **Spanish Governor's Palace**, the state's only surviving aristocratic Spanish home.
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, **Casa Navarro** is a stunning example of early-statehood architecture. Originally the residence of Texas patriot José Antonio Navarro (1795–1871), this one-story limestone house is furnished with period antiques.
- The **King William Historic District** was settled in the early 19th-century by German immigrants who built Victorian mansions along a bend in the San Antonio River. Today the neighborhood offers bed and breakfasts, art galleries and restaurants.
- Enjoy a performance by the **San Antonio Symphony** or a traveling Broadway show at the 1920s-era Majestic Theatre. The Spanish, Baroque and Mediterranean architecture bring to life a mystical village.

★ FREDERICKSBURG ★



Flourishing Fredericksburg Proud of German Roots

In the center of the Texas Hill Country is the town of Fredericksburg, settled by German immigrants in 1846. With a population of 10,500, Fredericksburg has a charming small-town feel and abundant opportunities to relish the beauty and amenities of Hill Country life.

Day 1: Welcome to Downtown Fredericksburg

- **Historic Main Street** in our walkable downtown offers some 150 shops, art galleries, museums, bakeries and restaurants.
- A must stop on Main Street is the **National Museum of the Pacific War**, featuring a comprehensive history of World War II in the Pacific and East Asia. You'll find large screen multi-media presentations, major artifacts from both sides of the war and animated maps. The museum encompasses the George H.W. Bush Gallery, the Admiral Nimitz Museum, the Pacific Combat Zone, the Plaza of the Presidents, the Memorial Walkway, the Japanese Tea Garden and the Nimitz Education and Research Center.

Day 2: Enchanted Rock and a President's Ranch

- **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** is described as the second largest batholith in the U.S. The exposed pink granite dome is estimated to be one billion year old. Native American presence at the site dates back 11,000 years. The views of the Texas Hill Country from the summit at 425 feet take your breath away.
- Trace the life of Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th president of the U.S., who was born in Gillespie County. Start at the **LBJ National Historical Park** visitor information center and the boyhood home in Johnson City, then explore a real Texas working ranch at the LBJ Ranch and Texas White House near Stonewall.
- At the **LBJ State Park and Historic Site** adjacent to the ranch, you can see Texas Longhorns and a small herd of American bison. The **Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm** recreates the lifestyle of early German settlers in the Texas Hill Country in the early 1900s.

Day 3: Wildflowers, Wine and Music

- Head east to the **Wildseed Farms**, the largest working wildflower farm in the U.S. Acres of wildflowers will be in various states of growth during a visit—some fields may be freshly planted, some in bloom, and some ready for harvest. Find lots of great shopping here as well.
- You are in **Texas Wine Country**, with over 20 wineries located in Fredericksburg and Gillespie County. Texas is now the fifth largest wine-producing state in the country. Wineries are open daily for tastings and tours.
- End your day in **Luckenbach Texas**, established in 1849 as a trading post and made internationally famous by country western performers Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings. Live Texas music can be heard daily in the bar or under the old oak trees, with weekend dances and concerts in the historic dance hall.



★ SAN MARCOS ★



San Marcos Shines with History, Shopping and Music

With a hip personality deeply seated in its rich historic culture, San Marcos has a surprise around every corner.

Day 1: Step Back in Time

- Fortunate to have preserved its past, San Marcos is home to many residential neighborhoods that are designated as **Historic Districts**, featuring **Victorian, Classical Revival**, and Craftsman architecture built between 1880 and the 1940s. A casual drive down tree-lined streets will awe you with tall columns, charm you with gingerbread trim, and then surprise you with an amazing shade of blue or pink. And on the banks of the **San Marcos River**, beautiful **Veramendi Plaza** is home to pieces of our pioneer past.
- A daytime stroll around our **Historic Downtown Square** visiting eclectic shops and local eats turns into a rocking good time once the sun goes down. Catch some great live music in a honky-tonk atmosphere at **Cheatham Street Warehouse**, where many legendary musicians like George Strait and Stevie Ray Vaughan got their start.



Day 2: A Shopper's Paradise

- Strap on those shopping shoes and embark on the biggest retail adventure around! At the largest outlet center in the United States, you'll find **260 stores** and more than four kilometers of shopping heaven right here in San Marcos. Find everything on that "must-have" list—from upscale designers to name brand retailers. With amazing discounts of up to 65% off, **Tanger Outlets** and **Premium Outlets** are hard to resist.



Day 3: It's all About the Music

- It all starts with the **Songwriters Circle** at Cheatham Street Warehouse where many music icons received the boost their budding career needed. From George Strait in the 70s, to Stevie Ray Vaughan in the 80s, to current day rising stars like Randy Rogers, Terri Hendrix and Kyle Park, all can trace the launch of their career to this legendary honky-tonk stage.
- If you are looking for music a little off the beaten track, **Triple Crown** is the place. This iconic hole-in-the-wall has been playing live music for more than 6,300 consecutive days. Usually with two or three acts each night. Do the math. That's a whole lot of entertainment.
- **The Marc** is also the only place in Central Texas that you can see Blue October perform when on tour. And you might run into a band member or two having breakfast on the Square when they aren't. That's because Blue October is based in San Marcos and they love us as much as we love them.



★ BOERNE ★



Discover Boerne's Charming Historic District and Hill Country Setting

Enjoy a lazy stroll along Boerne's well-preserved Main Street where you can see some historic sites, discover a variety of wonderful shops, galleries and restaurants and relax with a slower pace of life. Rest up at one of the quaint inns or B&Bs so that you can explore area lakes, rivers and parks.

Day 1: Stay in the City for Unique Shopping and Dining Experiences

- German immigrants first settled this land near the cool waters of the Cibolo Creek over 150 years ago. Boerne's beginnings are evident in the old stone buildings with narrow windows, steep gables, outside stairways and gardens.
- Today, more than 140 historic structures remain. The city's friendly people show a deep respect for their cultural and ancestral heritage and have worked hard to preserve the history of the area.
- Boerne offers 475 sleeping accommodations including hotel chains, quaint bed and breakfasts, historic hotels and a destination resort with a conference center.
- A stroll down **Hauptstrasse** (Main Street in German) through Boerne's charming historic district offers a world of specialty shops including great antiques, fine home accessories, unique gift items, chic boutiques, jewelry and art galleries.
- Afterward, taste award-winning Texas wines at one of the local wine bars or enjoy a brew at the brewhaus on the creek.
- Savor the Hill Country cuisine in one of the many eateries Boerne has to offer, ranging from Texas barbecue and home style cooking to fine dining.



Day 2: Immerse Yourself in Outdoor Adventure

- Boerne has plenty of outdoor activities to test the limits of your adventurous side. Nestled in the heart of the Hill Country, Boerne boasts a 200-acre **City Lake (100 water & 100 land)**, rivers and creeks to paddle and tube.
- Hiking and biking trails will satisfy your need for a casual day trip or a challenging journey.
- Boerne also has parks and trails in town for walking, biking, enjoying a picnic by the **Cibolo Creek** or partaking in one of the favorite activities of visitors and locals—feeding the ducks at **River Road Park!**
- Located just 15 minutes away is the **Guadalupe River State Park**.
- Play a round of golf at **Buckhorn Golf Course**, known for its championship layout, generous fairways and large, smooth greens.



Day 3: Join in the Fun During Year-round Special Events

- On any given weekend, parades, festivals and cultural events fill the air with music and merriment.
- The **Kendall County Fair, Chocolate Walk, Berges Fest, Wings Over Boerne, Parade of Artists, Abendkonzerte, Weihnachts Fest, Dickens on Main, Boerne Market Days** and the **Key to the Hills Rod Run** are some of the activities that draw people from near and far away.



★ Texas Hill Country Area Map ★

