



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



[www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com)

# Historic San Antonio

## San Antonio, 3 Days

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** This is a great short trip for those of you who don't have much time, really want to stay downtown and experience the history of San Antonio, and still see a few places off the beaten path. No rental car is needed. You will feel like a native Texan after all you have learned on this trip!

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - San Antonio

**DAY NOTE:** This is really a half-day Friday, assuming you have to work Friday and will fly in to San Antonio in the evening. You will want to take it easy tonight. Check in to the Menger Hotel, which is right next door to the Alamo. Walk outside your hotel and take a picture in front of the Alamo at night, its beautiful. Go down to the River Walk and enjoy dinner at Casa Rio, the oldest restaurant on the River Walk. Get a table outside so you can watch the barges go by and hear the strolling mariachis, who you can hire to play you a song for about \$5. If you are brave, go out to Durty Nelly's and listen to the piano man, or maybe to Zinc for some wine or champagne. Get a good night's sleep for a long day of sightseeing tomorrow!



### River Walk

Shopping, dining and nightlife on historic River Walk



### Casa Rio Mexican Foods Restaurant

Classic Tex-Mex food on the River Walk



### Zinc Champagne & Wine Bar

Beautiful bar with emphasis on wine



### Durty Nelly's Irish Pub

Irish pub on the River Walk



### Menger Hotel

Historic hotel near the Alamo

It is approximately 5 miles south of downtown. You can easily spend anywhere from 30-90 minutes at the Mission, the largest (and most beautiful) of the San Antonio Missions. There is a lot of walking involved there as well, so bring a water bottle and a camera because the architecture is beautiful. Call a taxi to pick you up at the Mission and take you back to the King William District to lunch at Rosario's for some great Mexican food. From the King William area you can hop back onto the Streetcar's Blue Route to take you to the Alamo. You can spend anywhere from 30-90min at the Alamo depending on what you want to see. They have a great 20 minute movie that you should see if you have time. After the Alamo walk over to the La Villita Historic Arts Village. Visit the Little Church (if there isn't a wedding going on) and the Villita Museum. As the late afternoon arrives, you should not miss the 45 minute narrated River Barge tour on the San Antonio River. You can buy tickets and board the barges across from the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel. Relax and enjoy the barge cruise then head back to the hotel to get ready for dinner! Walk along the River Walk to Biga on the Banks for a special Saturday night dinner. After dinner, if you still have the energy to explore the San Antonio nightlife, Howl at the Moon is where you can sing your heart out to dueling pianos or if you want something more low-key, Swig Martini bar is a great option. Sweet dreams!



### Guenther House (The)

Breakfast with a view



### King William Historic District

Shopping and dining in historic residential area



### Mission San Jose & Visitor Center

Queen of Missions



### Rosario's

Great Tex-Mex dining in Southtown



### Alamo (The)

Historical shrine of Texas' independence



### Villita Historic Arts Village (La)

San Antonio's first neighborhood



### Villita Museum/Post Office (La)

Treasured possessions



### Little Church (The)

This one is for the pious

## Day 2 - San Antonio

**DAY NOTE:** This day should probably start out by 9am at the latest. You will see a lot today if you can fit everything in. Start the day by stepping right outside your hotel onto Alamo Street and taking the Blue Route South on the Via Transit Downtown Streetcars to get to the King William Historic District. A one day pass on the downtown streetcar is \$3.75 or individual one-way rides are only \$1. Read more at <http://www.viainfo.net/BusService/Streetcar.aspx>. You can get a Streetcar map from your hotel concierge. You can also print out a walking map of the King William Historic District by visiting [http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits\\_kingwilliam.htm](http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits_kingwilliam.htm). You can disembark at the King William stop at Sheridan and Alamo and walk through the neighborhood, looking at the houses, then go to breakfast at the Guenther House, or you may want to get off at the streetcar stop immediately after the Sheridan stop and walk to the Guenther House from there, touring the historic district after breakfast. Either way is nice. You will need to take a taxi to get to Mission San Jose from the King William District.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife



## River Walk

Shopping, dining and nightlife on historic River Walk



## Biga on the Banks

San Antonio style



## Howl at the Moon

Sing-along piano bar



## Swig Martini Bar

Martini and cigar bar



## Menger Hotel

Historic hotel near the Alamo



## Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

The most popular fast food in San Antonio

## Day 3 - San Antonio

**DAY NOTE:** This half day is based on an afternoon departure from San Antonio. Here are a few additional historic places to see and a suggestion for breakfast and lunch and then you are off to the airport! To see these two must-see attractions, you can walk approximately 1/2 mile- 1 mile, or you can hop onto the Streetcar again! This time take the Purple Route or walk west on Commerce to the San Fernando Cathedral. After seeing the oldest Catholic Cathedral in the U.S. walk two blocks further west to the Market Square. Have breakfast or brunch at Mi Tierra, then tour the handicrafts from Mexico in the air-conditioned mall. After you are finished at the Market, hop back onto the Purple Route or walk east on Market Street and get off at the stop at Market and Alamo. If you need a place for lunch, or to pick up a snack for the plane ride home, Bill Miller's Bar-B-Q is across the street from the San Fernando Cathedral and is a great place for a barbecue brisket sandwich. Check out of your hotel and you are on your way to the airport!



## Mi Tierra Cafe

Classic Mexican food and bakery, open 24/7



## Market Square

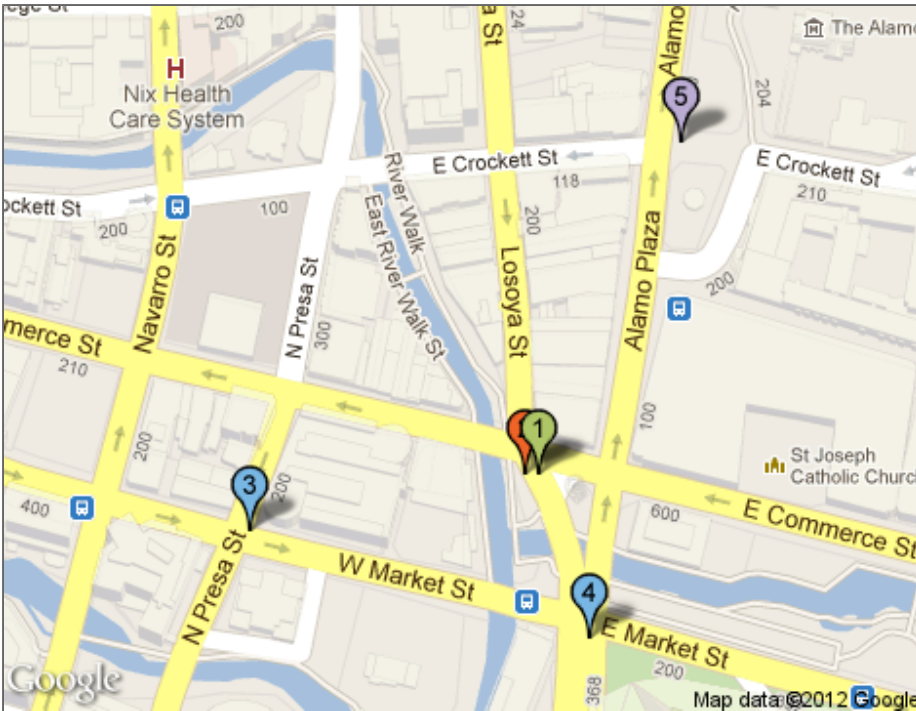
Largest Mexican market outside of Mexico



## San Fernando Cathedral

The oldest active cathedral in Texas

# Day 1 - San Antonio



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### contact:

tel: (210) 227 4262  
fax: +1 210 212 7602  
<http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com>

### location:

454 Losoya  
San Antonio TX 78205

## 1 River Walk

**DESCRIPTION:** The River Walk is a must-see for any traveler to San Antonio. The River Walk was conceived in 1929. Downtown had serious flooding problems, and a 27-year-old UT architecture graduate named Robert H. Hugman suggested that the city turn the San Antonio River into an asset rather than a hindrance. Hugman's brainchild has since become the essence of the city. Stairways down to the River Walk can be found on street level throughout downtown. Walk down anywhere you like, and wander and explore the great shops, galleries, restaurants and sights. To get the full story on the history of the River Walk, take the Rio San Antonio river barge cruise for a 45-minute narrated tour. It is well worth the price. For the romantically inclined, there are also dining cruises for two. It's a sight you don't see just anywhere: a couple eating at a finely appointed candle-lit table on a small, flat boat floating down the river. Service is great because the waiter is never more than a few feet away. © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 210 226 6718  
fax: +1 210 225 2216  
<http://casa-rio.com/>

**location:**

430 East Commerce St  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**

Daily 11a-11p

**2 Casa Rio Mexican Foods Restaurant**

**DESCRIPTION:** Casa Rio was the first restaurant on the River Walk and is still a must if you have never eaten riverside. With colorful décor, inside and outside seating, and a prime location for people-watching, this restaurant is a favorite among both tourists and locals. Add potent, thirst-quenching margaritas, waitresses bustling about in Mexican sundresses, and Mexican favorites such as enchiladas and tamales, and you have the makings of the classic Tex-Mex dining experience. Because no reservations are taken and this is a hot spot, you may want to arrive a little early to avoid long lines. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 210 224 2900 / 210 224 1313  
<http://www.zincwine.com>

**location:**

207 North Presa Street  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**

M-Fr 1p-2a; Sa-Sun 3p-2a

**3 Zinc Champagne & Wine Bar**

**DESCRIPTION:** This bar pours more than 40 varieties of wine available by the glass, including more than five varieties of champagne. If none of those suit you, partake of any one of the numerous brandies or liqueurs, or enjoy a premium mixed drink from the fully stocked bar. Beautiful but small, Zinc has almost an elitist, yet friendly, feel; it is as if you have discovered the clique and have been welcomed. The crowds are small, even though it is just one block off the beaten path from River Walk. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 210 222 1400

**location:**

715 River Road  
San Antonio TX 78212

**hours:**

Mo to Su from 11:30 AM to 02:00 AM

**4 Durty Nelly's Irish Pub**

**DESCRIPTION:** When you think of San Antonio, you don't necessarily think of an Irish pub, now do you? Well, think again. Durty Nelly's, located on the River Walk on the river level of the Hilton hotel, is a rollicking good time. Pull up a chair, order a beer (or two, or ten) and sing along with the pianist. A versatile guy, the pianist takes requests and can play just about anything. Probably the most fun thing to do is munch on the peanuts and toss the shells on the floor. Yes, it is allowed! © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 210 223 4361  
fax: +1 210 228 0022  
[http://mengerhotel.com/page/ntm3/Home\\_Page.html](http://mengerhotel.com/page/ntm3/Home_Page.html)

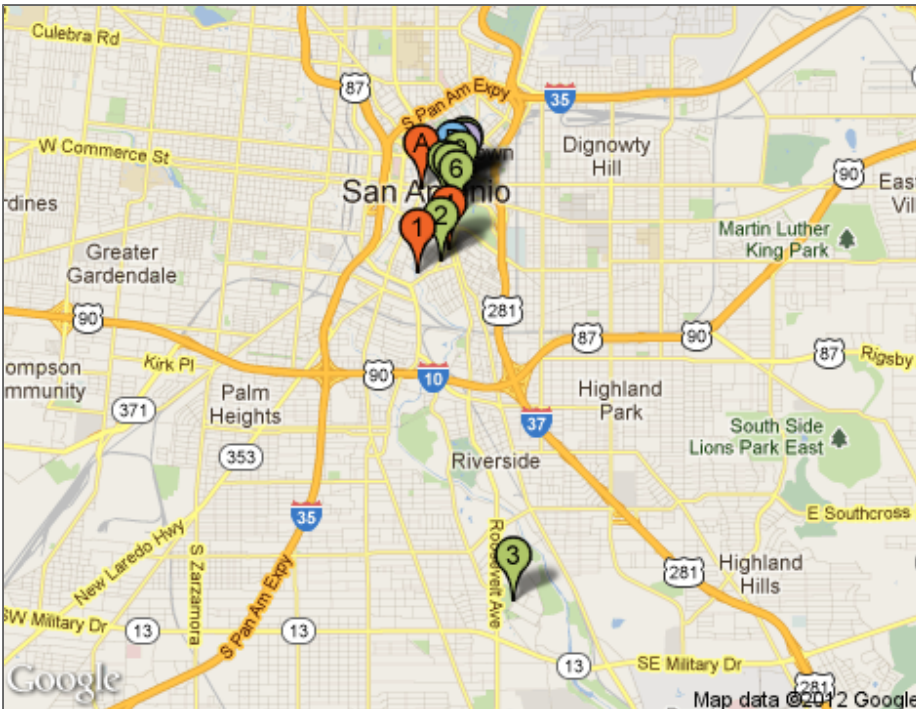
**location:**

204 Alamo Plaza  
San Antonio TX 78205

**5 Menger Hotel**

**DESCRIPTION:** This historic hotel is located on Alamo Plaza, literally next door to the famed Alamo. Built in 1859, it's one of the oldest buildings in the city and is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. Two American presidents became enamored with the hotel: Former President Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders enjoyed hanging out at the Menger Bar, and President Bill Clinton developed a penchant for the hotel's proprietary mango ice cream during his visits to the city. As with most of the city's oldest buildings, this hotel is reportedly haunted by as many as 32 different, friendly spectres. © wcities.com

# Day 2 - San Antonio



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** This day should probably start out by 9am at the latest. You will see a lot today if you can fit everything in. Start the day by stepping right outside your hotel onto Alamo Street and taking the Blue Route South on the Via Transit Downtown Streetcars to get to the King William Historic District. A one day pass on the downtown streetcar is \$3.75 or individual one-way rides are only \$1. Read more at <http://www.viainfo.net/BusService/Streetcar.aspx>. You can get a Streetcar map from your hotel concierge. You can also print out a walking map of the King William Historic District by visiting [http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits\\_kingwilliam.htm](http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits_kingwilliam.htm). You can disembark at the King William stop at Sheridan and Alamo and walk through the neighborhood, looking at the houses, then go to breakfast at the Guenther House, or you may want to get off at the streetcar stop immediately after the Sheridan stop and walk to the Guenther House from there, touring the historic district after breakfast. Either way is nice. You will need to take a taxi to get to Mission San Jose from the King William District. It is approximately 5 miles south of downtown. You can easily spend anywhere from 30-90 minutes at the Mission, the largest (and most beautiful) of the San Antonio Missions. There is a lot of walking involved there as well, so bring a water bottle and a camera because the architecture is beautiful. Call a taxi to pick you up at the Mission and take you back to the King William District to lunch at Rosario's for some great Mexican food. From the King William area you can hop back onto the Streetcar's Blue Route to take you to the Alamo. You can spend anywhere from 30-90min at the Alamo depending on what you want to see. They have a great 20 minute movie that you should see if you have time. After the Alamo walk over to the La Villita Historic Arts Village. Visit the Little Church (if there isn't a wedding going on) and the Villita Museum. As the late afternoon arrives, you should not miss the 45 minute narrated River Barge tour on the San Antonio River. You can buy tickets and board the barges across from the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel. Relax and enjoy the barge cruise then head back to the hotel to get ready for dinner! Walk along the River Walk to Biga on the Banks for a special Saturday night dinner. After dinner, if you still have the energy to explore the San Antonio nightlife, Howl at the Moon is where you can sing your heart out to dueling pianos or if you want something more low-key, Swig Martini bar is a great option. Sweet dreams!

**contact:**

tel: 210 227 1061  
fax: +1 210 351 6372  
<http://www.guentherhouse.com>

**location:**

205 East Guenther  
San Antonio TX 78204

**hours:**

Store: M-Sa 8a-4p; Su 8a-3p;  
Restaurant: M-Sa 7a-3p; Su 7a-3p

**1 Guenther House (The)**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Guenther House makes its home in an elegant historic mansion on the property of Pioneer Flour Mills in the historic King William area on an undeveloped part of the San Antonio River. From its not-so-humble beginnings as the home of Carl Hilmer Guenther in 1860, it has been restored into one of the more unique dining experiences in the city. The breakfast menu (served all day) offers Southern Sweet Cream Waffles and breakfast tacos, among other items. At lunch, choose from such entries as Champagne Chicken Enchiladas and Pioneer Taco Salad. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 210-227-8786  
fax: +1 210 227 8030  
<http://www.kingwilliamassociation.org/>

**location:**

1032 South Alamo Street  
San Antonio TX 78210

**2 King William Historic District**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located just south of the downtown area, the King William Historic District is a residential area that was settled by German immigrants in the 1860s and named for Kaiser Wilhelm, King of Prussia during the 1870s. Many of the immigrants were talented stonemasons, and their handiwork is still visible on many of the homes. The early residents of the houses were major players in San Antonio's business community, including lumberyard owners, architects, doctors and other professionals. Visitors flock to the area to admire the large, impressive houses and walk along the pecan- and cypress-shaded streets. The district has evolved into a hip and artsy area, boasting bed and breakfasts, art galleries and quaint cafes. © NileGuide



King William Historic District

**contact:**

tel: 210-932-1001 /  
210-534-8833 (Visitor Center)  
fax: 210-534-1106 (Visitor Center)  
[http://www.nps.gov/saan/plan\\_yourvisit/sanjose.htm](http://www.nps.gov/saan/plan_yourvisit/sanjose.htm)

**location:**

6701 San Jose Drive  
San Antonio TX 78214

**3 Mission San Jose & Visitor Center**

**DESCRIPTION:** Mission San Jose, located at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, was founded in 1720 by Father Antonio Margil de Jesus. If you only have time to visit one of the San Antonio Missions, the "Queen of the Missions" is the one to see. It is the largest of the five missions and the most fully restored. The mission was a church-focused community, where Spanish missionaries and their Native American converts lived during the 1700s and 1800s. In its heyday, in the late 1700s, 350 Native Americans lived on the property and tended crops and livestock. The site's bounty made it the subject of frequent attacks by Apaches and Comanches. While they succeeded in stealing livestock, which was kept outside the compound, the raiders could not get past the formidable defenses of the mission itself. Free ranger-guided tours last 45 to 60 minutes and are available periodically throughout the day. The mission remains an active church, and visitors are permitted to attend the Sunday mass. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Mission San Jose & Visitor Center

**contact:**  
tel: 210 223 1806  
fax: +1 210 223 9924  
<http://www.rosariosa.com>

**location:**  
910 S Alamo St  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**  
Su-Th 11a-10p; Fr-Sa  
11a-11p

## 4 Rosario's

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in the heart of Southtown, Rosario's is packed every night. It can pack in even more now that they are in a larger (but just as lively) location just a block from where the restaurant used to be. Sip on a perfectly crafted frozen Margarita as you enjoy enchiladas, carne guisada, pork tips and so much more. Do not miss Rosario's on Friday nights, when it offers entertainment by some of the best bands in South Texas. Get there early to snag a table and enjoy dinner, then prepare to dance yourself silly. © wcities.com



wcities

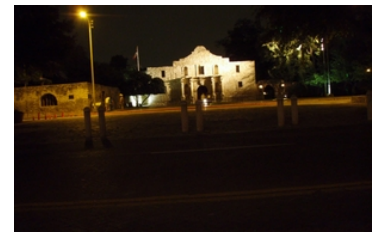
**contact:**  
tel: (210) 225 1391  
fax: +1 210 229 1343  
<http://www.thealamo.org>

**location:**  
300 Alamo Plaza  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**  
9a-5:30p Mon-Sat; 10a-5:30p  
Sun

## 5 Alamo (The)

**DESCRIPTION:** Originally the Mission San Antonio del Valero, the Alamo is by far the most famous historical site in Texas, playing a significant role in Texas' quest for independence from Mexico. Under the command of Col. William Travis, 189 Texan soldiers bravely defended this fort for 13 days before finally succumbing to Santa Anna's massive Mexican army in early 1836. The chapel and the Long Barrack are all that remain of the fort. Saved from civilian apathy by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the mission is now a museum containing relics from the era. Texans take the Alamo very seriously. Silence, or at least a hushed tone of voice, is insisted upon both in the chapel and on the grounds. Narrated tours are available. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: 210-207-8610  
fax: 210-207-4390  
<http://www.lavillita.com>

**location:**  
South Alamo at Nueva  
San Antonio TX 78205

## 6 Villita Historic Arts Village (La)

**DESCRIPTION:** La Villita means "Little Village" and it is the original home of the first settlers of San Antonio. Today, people visit La Villita for its quaint cobblestone paths, art galleries, and history. It is located on the south bank of the San Antonio River and hosts many outdoor festivals and events with live music and dancing, especially in the springtime. Don't miss a weekend dance performance of Ballet Folklórico at The Arneson River Theater, an amphitheater in La Villita, with the stage located across the San Antonio River. The Little Church, built in 1879, features a gorgeous stained-glass cross along the back wall. It's now an active non-denominational church that is also available for weddings and other events. © NileGuide



Villita Historic Arts Village

**contact:**

tel: (210) 207 8610  
fax: +1 210 207 4390 (La Villita)  
<http://www.lavillita.com/>

**location:**

418 Villita Building No.900  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**

10a-6p M-Su

**7 Villita Museum/Post Office (La)**

**DESCRIPTION:** A little treasure of the Historic Arts Village is located upstairs, along with many other offices in Building No.9, at La Villita. The place is sponsored by the City of San Antonio and the La Villita Tenants Association. You'll find all you ever wanted to know about La Villita at the information center here. There are various gift items on display and if you find something attractive go ahead and purchase it. What's more, there is also a post office in the same place. © wcities.com

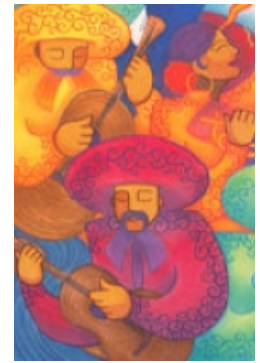


Photo courtesy of Villita Museum/Post Office (La)

**contact:**

tel: (210) 226 3593  
<http://www.lavillita.com/church/>

**location:**

418 Villita Street  
San Antonio TX 78205

**8 Little Church (The)**

**DESCRIPTION:** Established on March 2, 1879, this church forms an integral part of the history of La Villita. No particular denomination met here consistently, but it continues to exist, and is the favorite local wedding venue. The church also supports and hosts the Starving Artist Art Gallery's annual show. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: (210) 227 4262  
fax: +1 210 212 7602  
<http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com>

**location:**

454 Losoya  
San Antonio TX 78205

**9 River Walk**

**DESCRIPTION:** The River Walk is a must-see for any traveler to San Antonio. The River Walk was conceived in 1929. Downtown had serious flooding problems, and a 27-year-old UT architecture graduate named Robert H. Hugman suggested that the city turn the San Antonio River into an asset rather than a hindrance. Hugman's brainchild has since become the essence of the city. Stairways down to the River Walk can be found on street level throughout downtown. Walk down anywhere you like, and wander and explore the great shops, galleries, restaurants and sights. To get the full story on the history of the River Walk, take the Rio San Antonio river barge cruise for a 45-minute narrated tour. It is well worth the price. For the romantically inclined, there are also dining cruises for two. It's a sight you don't see just anywhere: a couple eating at a finely appointed candle-lit table on a small, flat boat floating down the river. Service is great because the waiter is never more than a few feet away. © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: 210 225-0722  
www.biga.com

**location:**  
203 S. St. Mary's St.  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**  
Sun-Thurs 5:30-10pm; Fri-Sat  
5:30-11pm

## A Biga on the Banks

**DESCRIPTION:** Bruce Auden's award-winning Biga on the Banks is located in a spectacular setting in downtown San Antonio's modern International Center. Overlooking a romantic tree-canopied bend in the river, the historic and the new find common ground in Biga's dynamic re-emergence with ultra contemporary cuisine propelling San Antonio's recent ascent to a new level of River Walk dining. Gourmet Magazine named Biga one of the five best restaurants in Texas. Fine dining has never meant "fussy" to Chef Auden. Biga's ambiance is casual and relaxed - San Antonio style. Auden's celebrated culinary background, coupled with creative and energetic design, has marked Biga on the Banks as one of Texas' truly outstanding restaurants.



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: 210 212 4770  
<http://www.howlatthemoon.com>

**location:**  
111 West Crockett Street  
#201  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**  
Sun-Thu 7pm-2am Fri-Sat  
5pm-2am

## B Howl at the Moon

**DESCRIPTION:** Combine two full-service bars with two talented dueling pianists and you have a recipe for wild, raucous fun. Howl at the Moon is a high-energy sing-along bar that gets louder and more fun as the night wears on. There is definitely a proportional relationship between alcohol and singing: the more alcohol you consume, the more you sing, and usually louder and further off-key, too. Oddly, that is what makes this place a great choice when you are out with a crowd. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: +1 210 476 0005  
fax: 210 476 0243  
<http://www.swigmartini.com/>

**location:**  
111 West Crockett Street  
#205  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**  
Daily 2p-2a

## C Swig Martini Bar

**DESCRIPTION:** Craving a chocolate martini? Belly up to the bar at the River Walk's nod to retro chic. Single-barrel bourbon, single-malt scotch, and a wide selection of beer and wines fill out the drink menu, but James Bond's preferred poison is always the top seller. Nightly live jazz adds to the pizzazz. The big cigars are the catch (or draw) here. This place was so popular it spurred a national chain. © Frommer's



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: +1 210 223 4361  
fax: +1 210 228 0022  
[http://mengerhotel.com/page/ntm3/Home\\_Page.html](http://mengerhotel.com/page/ntm3/Home_Page.html)

**location:**  
204 Alamo Plaza

## D Menger Hotel

**DESCRIPTION:** This historic hotel is located on Alamo Plaza, literally next door to the famed Alamo. Built in 1859, it's one of the oldest buildings in the city and is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. Two American presidents became enamored with the hotel: Former President Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders enjoyed hanging out at the Menger Bar, and President Bill Clinton developed a penchant for the hotel's proprietary mango ice

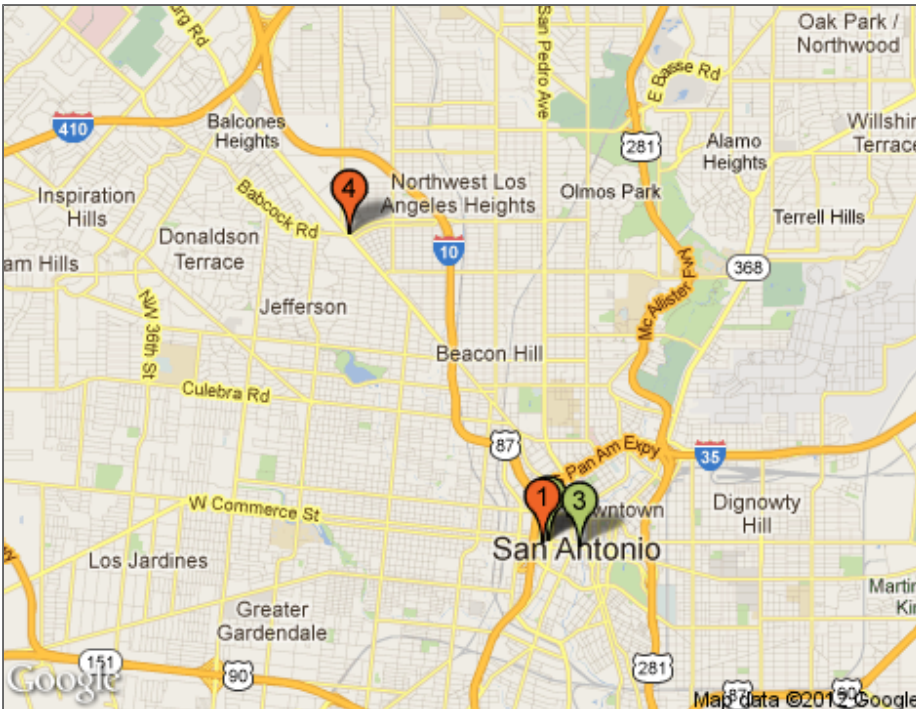
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San Antonio TX 78205

cream during his visits to the city. As with most of the city's oldest buildings, this hotel is reportedly haunted by as many as 32 different, friendly spectres. © wcities.com

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# Day 3 - San Antonio



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**contact:**  
tel: 210 225 1262  
fax: +1 210 222 8566  
<http://www.mitierracafe.com>

**location:**  
218 Produce Row  
San Antonio TX 78207

**hours:**  
24 hours daily

## 1 Mi Tierra Cafe

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in Market Square, this San Antonio oldie-but-goodie has been a favorite of both locals and tourists since 1946. The Mexican specialties such as Chile Rellenos, Huevos Rancheros and the huge combination platters are excellent, and the atmosphere truly takes you south of the border. Nowhere else will you be serenaded by mariachis while enjoying chorizo and eggs or an eight-ounce rib eye. But be sure to have a tip ready for the entertainers; they want to enjoy a meal later as well. Finally, do not miss the panaderia (bakery) for fresh breakfast pastries, Mexican breads and sweet rolls. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 210-207-8600

fax: 210-207-4287

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/marketsquare/default.aspx>

**location:**

514 West Commerce St.  
San Antonio TX 78207

**2 Market Square**

**DESCRIPTION:** A vibrant cultural and business center since the 1820s, Market Square is the scene of festivals and outdoor events year-round. Market Square is at its best in April, during the city-wide Fiesta celebration. The rest of the year visitors will find great Mexican restaurants, traditional Mexican handicrafts and an indoor shopping center where you are sure to find the perfect souvenir to commemorate your trip. Museo Alameda, which is affiliated with The Smithsonian, features exhibits of work by Latino artists. The square is located just west of the city center and walking distance from most downtown hotels. © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 210-227-1297

fax: 210-271-0149

<http://www.sfcathedral.org>

**location:**

115 Main Plaza  
San Antonio TX 78205

**hours:**

Daily 6am-7pm; gift shop  
Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm, Sat  
until 5pm

**3 San Fernando Cathedral**

**DESCRIPTION:** The San Fernando Cathedral was founded in 1731 and is the oldest active cathedral in Texas. Fifteen families from the Canary Islands were the church's first members. They were a part of King Phillip's efforts to colonize the area and claim it for Spain before the French could gain a foothold in the region. Considered one of the most historically significant churches in the U.S., it has been visited by a number of dignitaries throughout its long history, including President Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1966 and Pope John Paul II in 1987. Located midway between the city center and the Market Square, the cathedral welcomes up to 5,000 people for weekend masses. © NileGuide



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**contact:**

<http://www.billmillerbbq.com>

**location:**

3200 Fredericksburg Rd  
San Antonio TX 78201-3843

**4 Bill Miller Bar-B-Q**

**DESCRIPTION:** Home of Texas' best eatin' for over 50 years, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q offers only the choicest of meats, all cooked to perfection over a fire of 100% Texas Hill Country Live Oak in a brick pit. Each of the dishes is served to you with our promise of Total Customer Satisfaction.



Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

# San Antonio Snapshot

## Local Info

San Antonio is a vibrant city that is growing rapidly. The heart of the city's tourism business beats along the River Walk and in the downtown area. Densely packed with hotels, attractions, restaurants and bars, a visitor could conceivably spend their entire trip right here. The area bustles with activity nearly every night of the week and almost all year long, with locals and tourists alike enjoying mouth-watering cuisine at Boudro's or Paesano's River Walk, singing their hearts out at Howl at the Moon, or dancing the night away at Polly Esther's. Not your average tourist trap, the River Walk entices many locals to brave the crowds and enjoy their city.

## King William/Southtown

If San Antonio gets funky, this is where it happens. Once primarily residential and neglected, the area has seen a resurgence of interest and an infusion of capital. Urban professionals are snatching up historical homes and refurbishing them, entrepreneurs are launching hip new businesses, and the locals are taking notice. Wander just a few blocks from downtown and discover Espuma Tea & Coffee Emporium and Rosario's. If you can, check out the area during a First Friday celebration. This community-wide celebration held the first Friday of each month draws crowds from all over the city

for art openings, theater productions, dining and shopping.

## Alamo Heights

One of the original suburbs of San Antonio, Alamo Heights harbors some of the city's finest dining establishments and upscale shopping opportunities. And with good reason, as a huge portion of the city's wealth resides in this neighborhood. For dinner, locals flock to Paloma Blanca or Cappy's. Beer and pool preside at the Broadway 50/50. For a gift for that special someone, you can't go wrong at Sloan-Hall. At Twin Sisters, pull up a chair and get your daily dose of neighborhood gossip over breakfast or lunch.

## Monte Vista/Olmos Park

Neighboring Alamo Heights, this area is home to some of the most exquisite mansions in the city. At the very least it is worth driving through just to gawk. You will find some wonderful neighborhood secrets, such as the thick chocolate shakes at Olmos Pharmacy or superb take-out at WD Deli.

## North East/North Central

Shopping centers, housing developments and highways are popping up all over North East and North Central San Antonio as many new residents move in, both from out of town and from within the city's more central neighborhoods. This kind of rapid

growth seems to require predictability, as is evidenced in the plethora of restaurant and shopping chains. If you want to shop at Old Navy, use the phone book. Otherwise, be a rebel and shop at a place like James Avery Craftsman. Likewise with dining, enjoy the down home cooking at Casey's Bar-B-Q.

## Northwest/Medical Center

The medical industry is big business in San Antonio, so this area continues to grow at a steady pace. Sort of a hodgepodge of strip shopping centers, restaurants, residences and office complexes, the atmosphere of the neighborhood seems a bit disjointed. Still, you can find great dining at Jacala Mexican Restaurant, Texas Land & Cattle Steak House and Bob's Smokehouse. Shopping is somewhat limited to chain stores. For a fun night out in this part of town, you can't beat the Fox & Hound English Pub & Grille.

## Far Northwest

When big money folks are tired of paying city taxes, they flee outside the city limits. Locals that feel the need to escape the city head out this way to dine at Rudy's BBQ and then dance the night away at Leon Springs Dance Hall. The next day, shop at all the antique stores in Boerne or spend the day at Six Flags Fiesta Texas or Sea World.

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