



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



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San Antonio Girls' Weekend

San Antonio, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: This trip is all about dining and drinking with just a dash of San Antonio history and culture and an excellent photo op in front of The Alamo! Stay on the Riverwalk and downtown San Antonio is your playground. Check out these hot restaurants and trendy spots. This trip is not for the early riser, health nut, or history buff. Caution: you will definitely have to amp up your workout after this trip!

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - San Antonio

DAY NOTE: Rent a car to get around to all the spots on this "Girls' Weekend" itinerary. Day One starts where everyone wants to go first when they get to San Antonio, the River Walk. Take a 45 minute narrated tour of the San Antonio River aboard a Rio San Antonio cruise. Board the river barge across from the Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel and learn all about the San Antonio River and it's rich history. After the river cruise, have lunch at Paesano's, the best Italian food spot on the River Walk. Walk off that lunch with a leisurely stroll along the water, checking out the stores and taking advantage of the great people-watching. When you are ready for a change of pace, walk up to street level and follow the signs to San Antonio's star attraction, the Alamo. You can spend anywhere from 30-90 minutes at the Alamo depending on what you want to see. I would highly recommend watching the 20 minute video on the history of the Battle of the Alamo, at a minimum. Get some group photos in front of the Alamo and then check out the surrounding area in Alamo Plaza and The RiverCenter Mall right next door. By mid afternoon you should be able to check in to your hip and trendy hotel, The Hotel Valencia. Time to get all dolled up for dinner! Boudro's on the Riverwalk is very hot and right on the water. Sit outside if you like and watch the boats go by. If you are in town between May and Mid-August, catch the "Fiesta Noche Del Rio" an authentic Mexican dance performance with live music and beautiful costumes, at the Arneson River Theater at 8:30pm. The theater is an outdoor amphitheater on the River Walk so you'll really get some real San Antonio flavor. If you'd rather see a different kind of show, ask your hotel concierge if there are any concerts or shows at the Sunken Garden Theater, a beautiful outdoor theater set in the midst of a rock quarry and not far from downtown. After the show, you can head to Club Cohiba (in the Havana Riverwalk Inn) or VBar (in the Hotel Valencia). If you really wanna get crazy, go to Howl at the Moon where you and your friends are encouraged to sing along with the dueling pianos.



River Walk

Shopping, dining and nightlife on historic River Walk



Paesano's River Walk

Italian at its finest



Alamo (The)

Historical shrine of Texas' independence



Boudro's on the Riverwalk

A Texas bistro on the River Walk



Sunken Garden Theatre

Finding wonderland!



Arneson River Theatre

Theater across the river



Howl at the Moon

Sing-along piano bar



Hotel Valencia Riverwalk

A modern oasis

Day 2 - San Antonio

DAY NOTE: Spend Day Two off the beaten path. It starts in Alamo Heights, a posh area just a short drive north of downtown. Have an early lunch at 11am at Crumpets, an award-winning lunch spot set among the trees with great outdoor seating. Then it is off to Patricia's Day Spa for a few hours of pampering. After your massage, facial, mani or pedi, have a light snack at Twin Sisters Bakery and Cafe, then spend the rest of your afternoon at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Witte Museum or San Antonio Museum, exploring a little bit of art and history. Then it's back to the hotel to get ready for another fabulous dinner. Dress to impress, and head to Silo Elevated Cuisine in Alamo Heights for a great dinner. After dinner, hit Stone Werks for some live music and a few cocktails on their outdoor patio, or head back downtown for cocktails at Swig Martini Bar or Zinc Champagne and Wine Bar. Or, if you feel like dancing the night away, you really can at The Bonham Exchange. They offer a free cover before 10pm, reasonably priced drinks and several different dance floors with music for everyone. They close at 4am so Mi Tierra, a Mexican restaurant open 24 hours, might be the perfect spot after The Bonham Exchange for that late night dinner at 3am!



Crumpets Restaurant & Bakery

A continental oasis



Patricia's Day Spa

Day Spa in North San Antonio



Twin Sisters Bakery & Cafe

Funky little cafe



San Antonio Botanical Garden

Outdoor garden exhibits with conservatory



















Witte Museum

Natural history and science museum

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

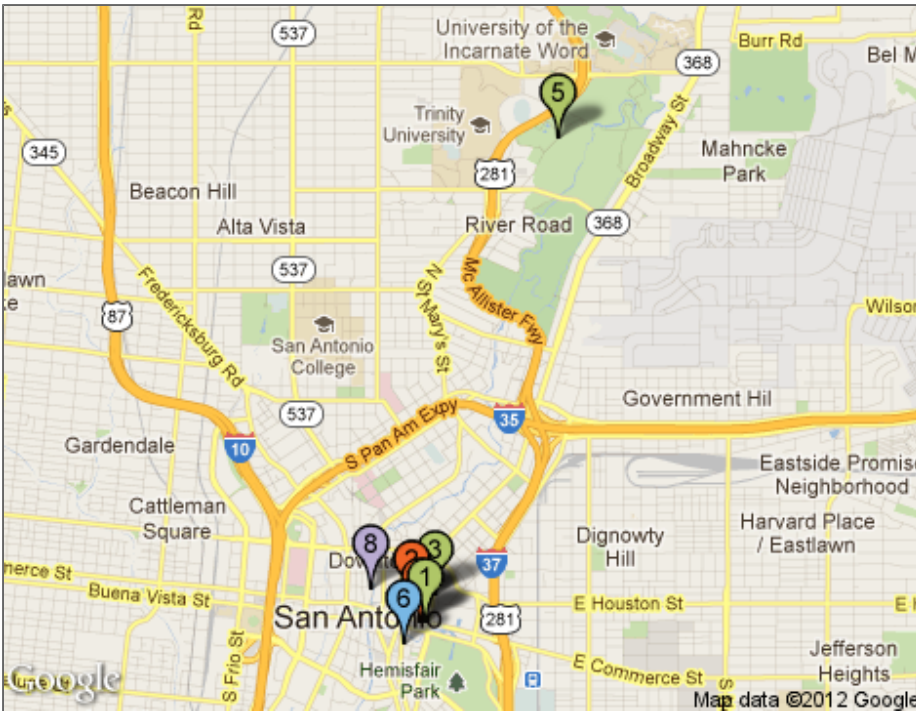
	San Antonio Museum of Art Cultural Art
	Silo Elevated Cuisine Contemporary dining in an unexpected setting
	StoneWerks Caffe & Bar Restaurant by day, bar by night
	Swig Martini Bar Martini and cigar bar
	Zinc Champagne & Wine Bar Beautiful bar with emphasis on wine
	Bonham Exchange Dance the night away in downtown
	Mi Tierra Cafe Classic Mexican food and bakery, open 24/7
	Hotel Valencia Riverwalk A modern oasis

	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
	Blue Star Arts Complex Warehouse turned arts complex
	Blue Star Brewing Company A brew with a view
	La Tuna Eclectic neighborhood icehouse
	Casa Rio Mexican Foods Restaurant Classic Tex-Mex food on the River Walk

Day 3 - San Antonio

DAY NOTE: Day Three takes you to Southtown/King William Historic District, and a little bit of sightseeing. You will see a lot today if you can fit everything in. Head to a late breakfast/brunch first in the King William Historic District at The Guenther House. You can print out a walking map of the King William Historic District by visiting http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits_kingwilliam.htm. You can go to breakfast at the Guenther House then walk or drive through the historic district after breakfast. Next, go to the largest (and most beautiful) of the San Antonio Missions, Mission San Jose. 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. From Mission San Jose, head back to the King William District to a late lunch at Rosario's, a fabulous Mexican restaurant. After this late lunch you can go for drinks at the Blue Star Brewing Company or La Tuna, right down the street. For dinner, head back downtown and go for a classic, the oldest restaurant on the River Walk, Casa Rio. I hope you enjoy this great Girls' Weekend!

Day 1 - San Antonio



QUICK NOTE

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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: 210 227 2782
fax: +1 210 212 5346
<http://www.paesanosriverwalk.com>

location:

111 W Crocket St
San Antonio TX 78205

hours:

11a-11p daily

2 Paesano's River Walk

DESCRIPTION: This River Walk incarnation of a longtime San Antonio favorite relinquished its old Chianti bottle-kitsch decor for a soaring ceiling, lots of inscrutable contemporary art, and a more up-to-date menu. But the one thing the restaurant couldn't give up, at the risk of a local insurrection, was the signature shrimp Paesano's. The crispy crustaceans are as good as their devotees claim, as are the reasonably priced pizzas, including the one topped with grilled chicken, artichokes, basil pesto, and feta cheese. Other good values are the hearty southern Italian staples such as lasagna with meat sauce. Standouts among the pricier entrees include the grilled pork chops with potato gnocchi, as well as the veal Francesa. Locals tend to go to the newer -- and somewhat quieter -- Paesano's, across from the Quarry Golf Club, at 555 Basse Rd., Ste. 100 (tel. **210/828-5191**). © Frommer's



Paesano's River Walk

contact:

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

location:

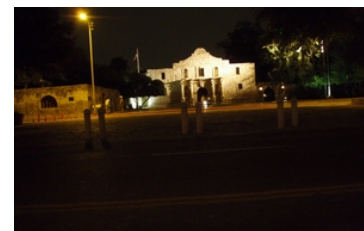
300 Alamo Plaza
San Antonio TX 78205

hours:

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

3 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



wcities

in the chapel and on the grounds. Narrated tours are available. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 210 224 8484
<http://www.boudros.com>

location:
421 East Commerce St
San Antonio TX 78205

hours:
Su-Th 11a-11p; F-Sa 11-
midnight

4 Boudro's on the Riverwalk

DESCRIPTION: Steaks, seafood and Southwestern specialties from deep in the "haute" of Texas. Located on San Antonio's famous River Walk, Boudro's is often the restaurant for spotting visiting celebrities. Don't miss the fresh Guacamole (made tableside), the Prickly Pear Margaritas or the blackened Prime Rib. And be sure to dine with friends so you can order one of every dessert to share. Boudro's is a favorite among locals and tourists alike and books quickly. Dining is available indoors, riverside, and on river barges with advance reservations. Handicapped access is available through a street-level elevator. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 210 735 0663
fax: 210 207 3101
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapar/sunkenhis.asp>

location:
3875 North St. Mary's Street
San Antonio TX 78212

hours:
8:30a-10p M-Su, 9:30a-5p
Memorial day & Labour Day

5 Sunken Garden Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Shakespeare, dancing princess and many other playwrights and characters do their rounds at the Sunken Garden Theater. An open air amphitheater, this venue is used for both commercial and city co-sponsored events. Get together for musical evenings as there are jazz, country and rock concerts. Tejan or Cajuno music is also played and you can catch the San Antonio Symphony playing here. For some laughter, watch the comedy plays. The setting is romantic as the stage is set against a wooded hillside, where cut-limestone buildings in Greek revival style support the dressing rooms. So get transported back to time! © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Sunken Garden Theatre

contact:
tel: 210 212 6771 / 210 207 8610
<http://www.lavillita.com/arneson/>

location:
418 Villita
San Antonio TX 78205

hours:
6p-midnight Sa, 6p-11p Su-F

6 Arneson River Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Come by for a one-of-a-kind theater-going experience. The Arneson River Theatre is located on the southern side of River San Antonio. Watch all the events from the other side of the river, where the auditorium is situated. Made of grassy steps, the auditorium has a capacity of 800-1000 people. Watch out for the periodic concerts, plays, and dance or musical performances. You can also hire the venue to stage a particular performance. Call and fix an appointment, if you want to check details about the venue. There is an additional building available for hosting guests, where alcoholic beverages can be served and sold, only with a proper TABC permit. © wcities.com



Arneson River Theatre

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

7 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: +1 210 227 9700/ +1 866
842 0100 (Reservations)
fax: +1 210 227 9701
http://www.hotelvalencia.com
/san-antonio-riverwalk-home.
php

location:

150 E Houston St
San Antonio TX 78205

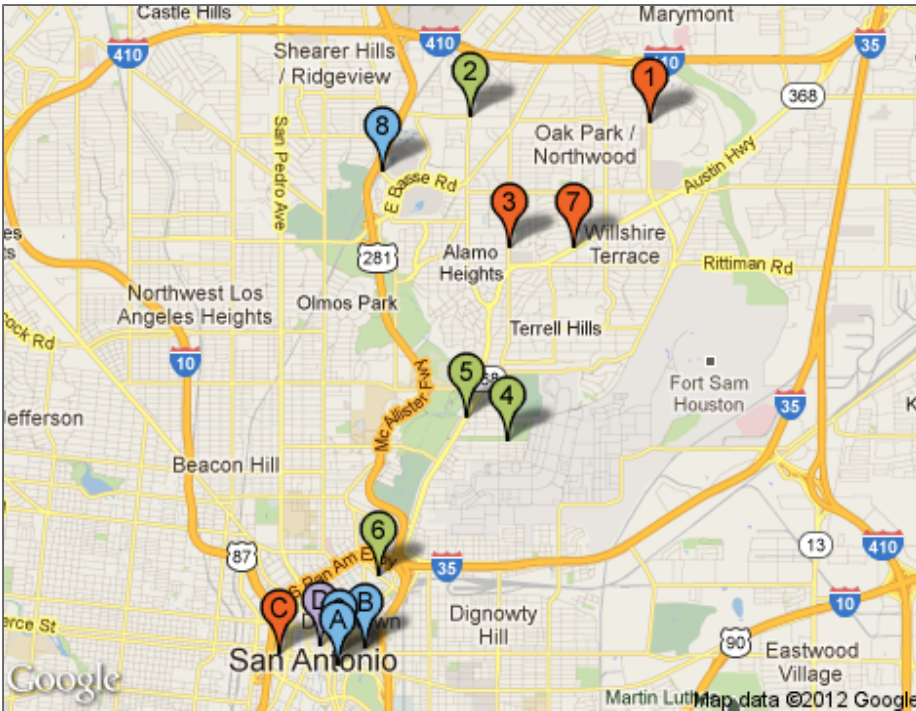
8 Hotel Valencia Riverwalk

DESCRIPTION: The Valencia is considered one of the hippest hotels on the River Walk. The rooms are super chic -- lots of contrasts, retro lamps, and tongue-in-cheek touches, such as the faux mink throw on the bed -- and very techie-friendly. The on-site **Vbar** and **Citrus** restaurant are übertrendy, and the panoply of colors and sounds (a splashing waterfall, music wafting through the halls) that you encounter as you enter the hotel is stimulating. But the entryway, on a busy street with a limited area for luggage (or vehicle) drop-off, is a tad too stimulating, whether or not the remote Palm Pilot check-in is in operation. The hallways leading to the guest quarters are narrow and dark, and the rooms themselves have too many individual dimmer switches and lighting devices, and not enough space. The priciest rooms offer river views from narrow balconies. If you're looking for something bold, new, and different, the Valencia is a great choice. But if you're regular folk just seeking a stress-free getaway, look elsewhere. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

Day 2 - San Antonio



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Spend Day Two off the beaten path. It starts in Alamo Heights, a posh area just a short drive north of downtown. Have an early lunch at 11am at Crumpets, an award-winning lunch spot set among the trees with great outdoor seating. Then it is off to Patricia's Day Spa for a few hours of pampering. After your massage, facial, mani or pedi, have a light snack at Twin Sisters Bakery and Cafe, then spend the rest of your afternoon at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Witte Museum or San Antonio Museum, exploring a little bit of art and history. Then it's back to the hotel to get ready for another fabulous dinner. Dress to impress, and head to Silo Elevated Cuisine in Alamo Heights for a great dinner. After dinner, hit Stone Werks for some live music and a few cocktails on their outdoor patio, or head back downtown for cocktails at Swig Martini Bar or Zinc Champagne and Wine Bar. Or, if you feel like dancing the night away, you really can at The Bonham Exchange. They offer a free cover before 10pm, reasonably priced drinks and several different dance floors with music for everyone. They close at 4am so Mi Tierra, a Mexican restaurant open 24 hours, might be the perfect spot after The Bonham Exchange for that late night dinner at 3am!

contact:

tel: 210 821 5600
fax: +1 210 821 5624
crumpetsa.com

location:

3920 Harry Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:

Lunch: 11a-2:30p Mon-Fri;
11a-3p Sat; Dinner: 5:30p-10p
Mon-Thu; 5:30p-11p Fri-Sat;

1 Crumpets Restaurant & Bakery

DESCRIPTION: Crumpets' casual elegance is rivaled only by its contemporary cuisine. Daily specials and beautiful surroundings make this little restaurant and bakery popular among ladies who lunch, couples who kiss and friends who fraternize. © wcities.com



citysearch

5p-9p Sun; Brunch 11a-3p
Sun

contact:
tel: (210) 829-1969
<http://www.patriciasdayspa.com/>

location:
3320 Oakwell Courts
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:
Mon 9am-6pm Tue-Thu
9am-8pm Fri 9am-6pm Sat
9am-5pm

2 Patricia's Day Spa

DESCRIPTION: Patricia's is located on three acres of serene surroundings in Oakwell Farms. This 10,500 sq. ft. spa provides a luxurious sanctuary of calm for very personalized, professional, rejuvenating treatments. Within the beautifully tranquil surroundings, you'll experience the healing nurturing powers of spa



citysearch

contact:
tel: 210 822 2265
fax: +1 210 829 0159
<http://hotx.com/twinsister/>

location:
6322 North New Braunfels
Avenue
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:
M-Sa 7a-9p; Su 9a-2p

3 Twin Sisters Bakery & Cafe

DESCRIPTION: This is a funky little spot in the middle of the stereotypically conservative Alamo Heights neighborhood. It serves breakfast and dinner, but is most popular for lunch. The soup-and-sandwich-type lunch menu and daily specials have a decidedly healthy, and sometimes vegetarian, bent. Don't miss the iced herbal tea, the spinach salad or the turkey burger. The dinner specials are also worth a try, especially the grilled empanadas with ground beef and onions and the potato stir-fry, blended with seasoned spinach and fresh tomatoes. If you have a sweet tooth, a warm snickerdoodle cookie is the way to go. Twin Sisters draws a crowd early, so plan to wait for a table. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: (210) 207 3250 / (210)
207 3097
<http://www.sabot.org>

location:
555 Funston
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:
9a-5p daily

4 San Antonio Botanical Garden

DESCRIPTION: Take a relaxing stroll through the beautiful gardens of native Texas plants and flowers. If you want a special treat, plan to have lunch at the Carriage House Bistro on site and dine outside on the patio. For a scenic trip to the gardens, hop onto the VIA Sightseer bus #7. It is only \$1 and it will take you right to the front door! © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of San Antonio Botanical Garden

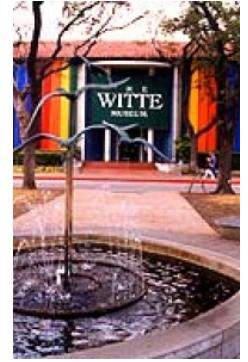
contact:
tel: 210-357-1900
<http://www.wittemuseum.org>

location:
3801 Broadway
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:
Tues 10am-8pm; Mon and
Wed-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun
noon-5pm

5 Witte Museum

DESCRIPTION: The Witte Museum is part of Brackenridge Park and is located just three miles north of downtown on the banks of the San Antonio River. The museum features exhibits on South Texas history, culture and natural science. The HEB Science Treehouse is aimed at teaching children about science in a fun, hands-on setting. Kids also love the Dino Hall, the mummy exhibit, the Ancient Texans display, and the live animal exhibit, which includes bees, spiders, and snakes. Daily educational programs for kids and adults help to bring the exhibits to life. Visit the website for admission coupons. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:
tel: (210) 978 8100
<http://www.sa-museum.org>

location:
200 W Jones Ave
San Antonio TX 78215

hours:
10a-8p T, 10a-5p W-Sa,
noon-6p Su

6 San Antonio Museum of Art

DESCRIPTION: This attraction may not be top-listed by everyone, but I enjoy doable (read: not overwhelmingly large) museums with interesting architecture and collections related to the cities in which they're located. This one definitely fits the bill on all those counts. Several castlelike buildings of the 1904 Lone Star Brewery were gutted, connected, and transformed into a visually exciting exhibition space in 1981, which also offers terrific views of downtown from the multiwindowed crosswalk between the structures. Although holdings range from early Egyptian, Greek, Oceanic, and Asian to 19th- and 20th-century American, it's the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art, opened in 1998, that is the jewel of the collection. This 30,000-square-foot wing hosts the most comprehensive collection of Latin American art in the United States, with pre-Columbian, folk, Spanish colonial, and contemporary works. You'll see everything here from magnificently ornate altarpieces to a whimsical Day of the Dead tableau. Computer stations add historical perspective to the collection, which is a nationwide resource for Latino culture. If any of this sounds appealing to you, allot at least 2 hours for your visit. The Lenora and Walter F. Brown Asian Art Wing represents another major collection, the largest Asian art collection in Texas and one of the largest in the Southwest. To see everything, which I don't particularly recommend, would take more than 4 hours. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: 210 824 8686
fax: +1 210 805 8452
<http://www.siloelevatedcuisine.com/>

location:

1133 Austin Highway
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:

Su to Th from 05:30 PM to 10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:00 AM to 02:30 PM, Fr to Sa from 05:30 AM to 10:30 PM, Su to Th from 11:00 AM to 02:30 PM

7 Silo Elevated Cuisine

DESCRIPTION: If a somewhat cramped restaurant above what was once a high-end produce and grocery market does not sound like your cup of tea, you are going to miss out. Silo offers delicious entrees such as sea bass and tenderloin, as well as a well-studied wine list and desserts you cannot pass up, all in a stylish setting. This place is popular with the locals, so reservations are recommended, particularly for dinner. A bar is now open in the space below. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 210 828 3508
<http://www.stonewerks.com>

location:

7300 Jones Maltsberger Road
San Antonio TX 78209

hours:

Mon-wed 11a-12a; Thus-Sat 11a-2a; Sun 11a-11p

8 StoneWerks Caffe & Bar

DESCRIPTION: At this offbeat venue -- a 1920s building that used to be the Alamo Cement Company's office -- a 30-something crowd moves to local cover bands from Wednesday through Saturday. A fence, hand-sculpted from cement by Mexican artist Dionicio Rodríguez, surrounds an oak-shaded patio. © Frommer's



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

9 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: 210 224 2900 / 210 224 1313
<http://www.zincwine.com>

location:

207 North Presa Street
San Antonio TX 78205

A 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



wcities

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

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

contact:
tel: 210 271 3811
<http://www.bonhamexchange.net/>

location:
411 Bonham Street
San Antonio TX 78205

hours:
W-Th 4p-2:30a, F 4p-3a & Sa 8p-3a

B Bonham Exchange

DESCRIPTION: The Bonham Exchange, simply known as "The Bonham," is a large and popular nightclub a couple of blocks away from Rivercenter Mall. Although the Bonham still primarily sees itself as a lesbian/gay club, times have changed, and the club now boasts a more diverse clientele. Dance on one of the club's three dance floors and when you are hot and tired, enjoy a drink on the patio. If you are hungry, you can usually find someone selling tacos or hamburgers. There is a small room between the first and second floors of the main dance floor with newspapers, flyers and other information for the lesbian/gay community. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Bonham Exchange

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

C 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: +1 210 227 9700/ +1 866 842 0100 (Reservations)
fax: +1 210 227 9701
<http://www.hotelvalencia.com/san-antonio-riverwalk-home.php>

location:
150 E Houston St
San Antonio TX 78205

D Hotel Valencia Riverwalk

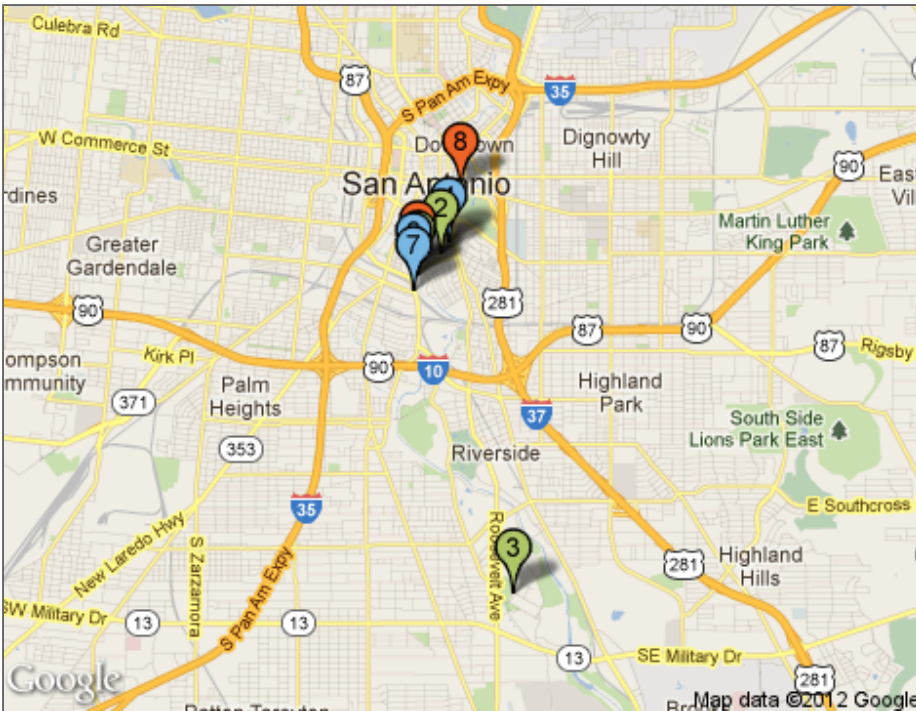
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Hotels.com

folk just seeking a stress-free getaway, look elsewhere. ©
Frommer's

Day 3 - San Antonio



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Day Three takes you to Southtown/King William Historic District, and a little bit of sightseeing. You will see a lot today if you can fit everything in. Head to a late breakfast/brunch first in the King William Historic District at The Guenther House. You can print out a walking map of the King William Historic District by visiting http://www.saconservation.org/tours/sitevisits_kingwilliam.htm. You can go to breakfast at the Guenther House then walk or drive through the historic district after breakfast. Next, go to the largest (and most beautiful) of the San Antonio Missions, Mission San Jose. 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. From Mission San Jose, head back to the King William District to a late lunch at Rosario's, a fabulous Mexican restaurant. After this late lunch you can go for drinks at the Blue Star Brewing Company or La Tuna, right down the street. For dinner, head back downtown and go for a classic, the oldest restaurant on the River Walk, Casa Rio. I hope you enjoy this great Girls' Weekend!

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/planyourvisit/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

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) 227 6960
fax: +1 210 229 9412
<http://www.bluestarartscomplex.com/>

location:

1400 South Alamo
San Antonio TX 78204

5 Blue Star Arts Complex

DESCRIPTION: This huge former warehouse changed its tune when it was renovated and now houses a small but distinctive group of contemporary and non-traditional art studios and galleries. Many of these display well-known artists, but they also give recognition and opportunity to lesser-known local artisans. Besides art galleries and studios, you will also find a brewpub, a theater and living spaces. Blue Star tenants provide activities throughout the year that are fun for families and adults. However, you don't have to do the planned activities - just show up and browse. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 210 212 5506
fax: 210 212 5517
<http://www.bluestarbrewing.com/>

location:

1414 S. Alamo St, Suite 105
San Antonio TX 78210

hours:

Mo to Th from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:00 AM to 12:00 AM

6 Blue Star Brewing Company

DESCRIPTION: Hop a trolley from the River Walk for something different at this brewpub. The huge copper brewing tanks here figure prominently and a sizable patio offers a view of the tranquil end of the River. Along with the variety of beers, it offers standard fare such as burgers and chicken wings, as well as a few surprises including Sautéed Chicken and Artichokes and Grilled Salmon. Try a four-ounce sample of the Smoked Dark Ale or the creamy Stout for cheap. Note that the kitchen stops serving food at 10pm during the week and at midnight on weekends. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Blue Star Brewing Company

contact:

tel: 210 224 8862
fax: +1 210 212 6723
<http://www.latunagrill.com/>

location:

100 Probandt Sreet
San Antonio TX 78204

hours:

Su-F 4p-midnight, Sa 2p-1a

7 La Tuna

DESCRIPTION: This ultra-casual bar provides the perfect backdrop for soaking up a few brews, a little sun and a lot of local color. A few tables are inside, but most of the action takes place on the patio under a canopy of huge pecan trees. When they open the purple garage door, you know it is time to party. For a list of beers, ask the bartender or just look at the bottle caps blanketing the patio. © wcities.com



La Tuna

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

8 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 busting 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



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reservations are taken and this is a hot spot, you may want to arrive a little early to avoid long lines. © wcities.com

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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