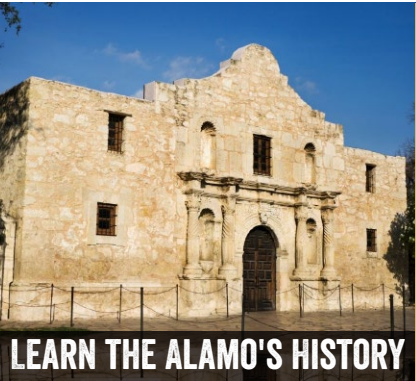


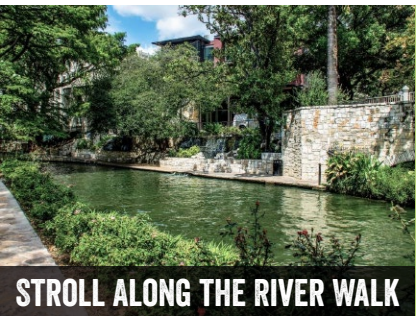
Written and Photographed by Julie Chickery



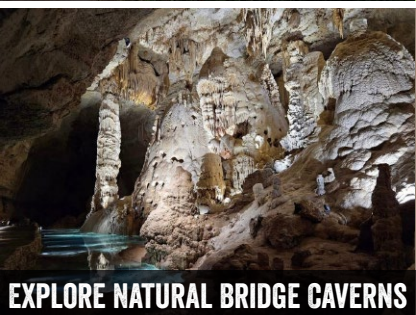
LEARN THE ALAMO'S HISTORY



TRAVEL THE MISSIONS TRAIL



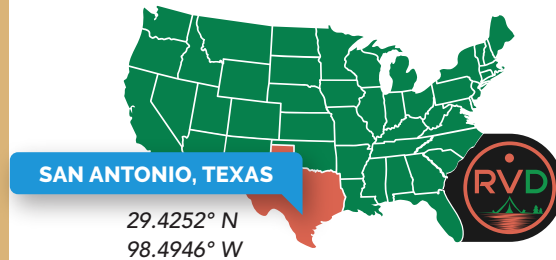
STROLL ALONG THE RIVER WALK



EXPLORE NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS



WANDER THROUGH THE SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN



San Antonio, Texas, is quickly becoming one of the most popular destinations in America. With its exploding food scene, cultural attractions and pleasant year-round climate, this vibrant city has something for everyone. From strolling down the River Walk's scenic pathways to exploring Missions

Trails and discovering an ancient site built centuries ago, San Antonio offers tourists an unparalleled experience where culture meets modernity.

10 Visit the site of one of the most famous battles in American history. In 1836, a small group of Texans held out against a much larger Mexican army for 13 days, fighting for their independence from Mexico. While they ultimately lost the battle, their courage and determination have made the Alamo a symbol of the fight for freedom. Take the opportunity to learn about the history of the battle, the more significant events that led up to it and its impact on the state of Texas.

9 In addition to the Alamo (Mission San Antonio de Valero), there are four additional colonial missions in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park: Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada. They're connected by the Missions Trail, a multi-use path terrific for walking or biking between the different buildings. Explore on your own or join one of the National Park Service's educational programs on the missions' history, the people affected by them and the architecture of the time.

8 Known as the pride of San Antonio, this urban walkway boasts 15 miles of scenic walkways along the river in downtown San Antonio. Flanked on each side by restaurants, shops and picturesque views, you won't tire of things to do. Once you've walked to your heart's content, hop aboard a guided tour boat for a fresh view of San Antonio's magnificent architecture and landscape.

7 If you're looking to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and explore nature's beauty, there's one place you should visit: Natural Bridge Caverns. Located just a short drive from downtown San Antonio, this underground wonderland will transport you to a magical realm filled with stunning formations, crystal-clear lakes and hidden passageways. If you're feeling more adventurous, you can opt for the Hidden Passages Tour, which explores a more secluded and less-developed section of the caves that requires crawling through small spaces and climbing over boulders.



**TAKE IN PANORAMIC VIEWS FROM
THE TOWER OF THE AMERICAS**



**EAT AND SHOP AT THE
HISTORIC MARKET SQUARE**



**DISCOVER THE CHARMING KING
WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT**



TOUR THE CITY'S FANTASTIC ART MUSEUMS

6 Nature lovers won't want to miss the 38 acres of themed gardens, including the Texas Native Trail and a culinary garden. This beautiful oasis is more than just a show garden; it's a cultural hub with exciting programs and activities all year round. There's Yoga in the Garden, an outdoor movie series, storytelling and guided tours. For children, there's a vibrant nature play area with a treehouse, a stream and lots of open space to explore.

5 The Tower of the Americas offers one of the best panoramas of San Antonio you can't find anywhere else. The observation deck at the top of the tower stands 750 feet in the air, providing breathtaking views of the city's downtown and skyline. You can even dine in a restaurant at the top that rotates 360 degrees once every 45 minutes.

4 This downtown block was a center for trade beginning in the 1800s between San Antonio, Mexico and Louisiana. Today, the site boasts more than 100 locally owned shops and stalls. It's also home to one of the city's most famous places to eat. The iconic restaurant and bakery, Mi Tierra Café, has served authentic Mexican cuisine since 1941. This favorite eatery among locals and visitors boasts colorful lights, traditional Mexican folk art and a lively atmosphere.

3 The King William Historic District is a must-see destination if you love art, culture and beautiful historic homes. Take a self-guided walking tour of the district to learn about the architectural styles that dominate the area, including Greek Revival, Victorian and Italianate. You can also tour the interior of a few of these mansions. The stunning Villa Finale is a historic house that serves as a museum showcasing the eclectic collection of antiques, fine art and rare books.

2 The San Antonio art scene directly reflects the city's rich cultural heritage. For instance, the San Antonio Museum of Art showcases various art, ranging from pre-Columbian artifacts to contemporary works. The McNay Art Museum, on the other hand, is a fantastic place to explore contemporary art and design. And no visit to San Antonio would be complete without a visit to the Briscoe Western Art Museum, known for weaving together the stories of American Indian, Vaquero, American Cowboy and pioneering women of the American West through art.

1 For a complete departure from anything else you'll see in San Antonio, make your way to the Japanese Tea Garden. Originally a rock quarry, it was transformed into a beautiful garden with shaded walkways, stone bridges, a 60-foot waterfall and ponds filled with koi beginning in 1916. Stroll around the grounds, find a quiet corner to enjoy the garden's serenity and let your worries melt away.



FIND YOUR ZEN AT THE JAPANESE TEA GARDEN