

A Friend in New York™ tour services

San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country Itinerary. October 18-22, 2010

Day 1: Welcome to San Antonio

Meet staff from A Friend in New York at Newark Liberty Airport the airport to check in for your nonstop flight to San Antonio.*

Your tour director will meet you in the baggage claim area at San Antonio's airport.* En route to your hotel, your tour director will give you a short introduction to the part of Texas area you are visiting. Check into your hotel, a AAA 3-diamond rated hotel located right on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk.

After settling in, rejoin your tour director in the hotel lobby for a private boat ride on the San Antonio River and a group welcome Texas steak house dinner.**

(Included meals: in-flight food service, dinner)**

(Hotels may include Drury Plaza Riverwalk, Drury Riverwalk Inn and Suites, or equivalent.)

*Please note that airport portage is not included; however, luggage carts may be available.

**Some itineraries have an early morning departure and will include a stop for lunch at one of Texas's most famous cafeterias. On itineraries with midday arrivals, the Riverwalk boat tour will be in the afternoon.



San Antonio's style was born of a heritage spawned by Indian tribes and Mexican domination for over 200 years. With a population of over a million people and a unique mixture of races and cultures, San Antonio offers surprises everywhere. Although this city is the 7th largest in the U.S., the pace of life is easy and relaxed.

Day 2: Sightseeing San Antonio

After breakfast at your hotel, meet your tour director for a Welcome to San Antonio guided sightseeing tour.

Your first stop on the tour will be the IMAX theater for a showing of "Alamo – Price of Freedom", the story of the Alamo. Then you will visit and tour the Alamo itself.

Later, you will visit the San Fernando Cathedral, which has been the spiritual center of San Antonio for over 250 years and is the oldest cathedral in the U.S., Our next stop will be the Spanish governor's palace, once the residence of the highest ranking Spanish military official. We will conclude the morning at the Mexican Market. This is the oldest and largest such marketplace outside of Mexico City. Enjoy shopping and lunch on your own here.

After lunch, we will tour The Institute of Texan Cultures, one of the campuses of The University of Texas at San Antonio, a museum dedicated to enhancing the understanding of cultural history, science, and technology and their influence upon the people of Texas. Exhibits feature 26 ethnic and cultural groups that made Texas what it is today. In the "Back 40" living history area, experience the life of early Texans in several buildings that recreate life in historical settings.

Refresh yourself at the hotel in the late afternoon and then rejoin your tour director at a pre-dinner reception in your hotel. Take a walk together along the Riverwalk for an introduction to genuine Tex-Mex cuisine at San Antonio's oldest Mexican restaurant –the first San Antonio business to open its doors to the River and take advantage of the River's setting.

(Included meals: breakfast, dinner)



The Alamo is considered the "Shrine of Texas Liberty." It is the most remembered and beloved of Texas missions. As the beginning of San Antonio, it was established to colonize the friendly Indians living along the river. Then it was used as a fortress for protection in the famous battle that forever changed the lives and attitudes of the Texans.



Texas White House (courtesy NPS)

President Johnson had a deep attachment for place and heritage. The LBJ Ranch was where he was born, lived, died, and was buried. The late Lady Bird Johnson still lived at the Ranch part time.

To see the LBJ Ranch, its lands and structures that represent such a large influence in the President's life, visitors take a ranger-guided bus tour.

Day 3: Texas Hill Country

After breakfast at your hotel, meet your tour director to set out for a Texas Hill Country adventure.

The first stop will be Fredericksburg, Texas, a fascinating little town founded by German immigrants before Texas became a state. In Fredericksburg we will visit the birthplace and childhood home of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific during World War II. His grandfather's old hotel has been converted into the National Museum of the Pacific War. (Admission is included in your tour.) Before departure, enjoy shopping and browsing. You will find many unique, handmade crafts in the shops there, ranging from dulcimers to hand carved candles to well-respected local wines. Lunch is on your own at one of Fredericksburg's many charming cafes and restaurants.

In the afternoon, we will tour the LBJ Ranch, home of Lyndon Baines Johnson, our 36th president, seeing LBJ's boyhood home, his birthplace, and the Texas White House in the LBJ State and National Parks,

We will conclude our Hill Country visit with a family style dinner at one of the Texas Hill Country's most famous restaurants, recommended in *Food & Wine* magazine for a unique Texas culinary offering: chicken-fried steak – "Fork Tender, lightly breaded, crisply fried and covered with Mom's good cream gravy." – or you can try their "chicken-fried chicken". We will return to the hotel by about 8:00 p.m.

(Included meals: breakfast, dinner)

The Hill Country of Texas, which had been the home of the Johnson family for more than a century, is an in-between-place. To the east are softer, more humid lands. To the west stretch high plains, plateaus, and deserts. The Hill Country partakes of both regions.

Enjoy Fredericksburg, Texas, a colorful and cultural blend of architecture, cuisine, art, music, and friendly people. For over a century, local artisans, winemakers*, craftsmen and shop owners have been mixing German heritage with Texan hospitality to create the kind of place you'll want to return to time and again.

*NOTE: Pursuant to N.J. state law, wine or other alcoholic beverages may not be shipped into the state. Wine bottles may NOT be brought onto airplanes in carry-on bags. Wine may be packed in checked luggage VERY CAREFULLY, as there is high risk of breakage and consequent spillage.

Day 4: Sightseeing San Antonio

Breakfast at your hotel. Then meet your tour director to see more of the Highlights of San Antonio on a guided tour. The first stop will be Mission San José. Known as the Queen of the Missions, this is one of the finest examples of Spanish colonial architecture on the U.S. Our last stop will be the Buckhorn Saloon and Museum. See 150 years of Texas history displayed in a replica of an old saloon PLUS visit the new Texas Ranger museum. Enjoy a sandwich-and-salad lunch buffet here.

We will return to the hotel in mid-afternoon, and the rest of the day is yours to explore San Antonio on your own or relax at the rooftop pool. Your tour director and your hotel concierge will be happy to have the opportunity to help you organize your time and arrange to fulfill your personal interests.

At the hotel's pre-dinner reception, meet your tour director and walk together to your farewell dinner – genuine Texas barbeque on the Riverwalk. In the evening we will get a special tour and catch a short large-screen-format movie at the newly restored, historic Aztec Theater movie palace.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)



The Buckhorn Saloon & Museum has been in continuous operation since 1881. The history of this world famous establishment is an important part of the story of San Antonio. More than just a normal museum, the Buckhorn is five museums in one - Horns, Fins, Feathers, The Hall of Texas History Wax Museum, and regular special exhibits unlike anything seen in any other museums in the world.

Day 5: San Antonio Farewell

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your tour director to catch a little more San Antonio sightseeing.

We will take a break at the world famous SAS Shoemakers Factory and have an opportunity to shop at their unique factory outlet – one of San Antonio's treasures and popular attractions! The quaint façade in front of the busy factory shoe store is as inviting as the thought of wearing a pair of SAS shoes . . . known as America's most comfortable walking shoe. The store includes antiques, and Texas handicrafts. Also . . . someone on the bus will win a free pair of shoes. On the way to the airport, we will stop for lunch at "Little Red Barn", voted one of San Antonio's favorite restaurants.

On arrival at Newark Liberty Airport, A Friend in New York™ staff will meet you to assist with your ground transportation arrangements.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, in-flight food service)



Mission San José

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For further information call A Friend in New York™ at (201) 656-7282



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