

Things We Love About San Antonio



WHY SAN ANTONIO?

San Antonio offers a unique blend of metropolitan energy and small-town charm. For those looking to enjoy all that the big city has to offer, the downtown, Pearl Brewery, and Alamo Heights areas bring you an urban lifestyle close to shopping, nightlife, art, fine dining, and work. Within a short drive, however, you could find yourself living the Hill Country life in neighboring Boerne, Helotes, or Bulverde, with room to roam and easy access to the city.

QUICK FACTS:

- Population of San Antonio: 1,436,697
- Population of Bexar County: 1,897,753
- We're the 7th largest city in America and 2nd largest city in Texas.
- Our climate enjoys 300 days of sunshine annually and an average temperature of 70 degrees.
- San Antonio has the top tourist attractions in Texas: The Alamo and The River Walk.
- San Antonio's military establishments include: Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base, and Brooks - City-Base with Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley right outside the city.
- We sit at the intersection of two pan-american highways: IH-10 which runs from coast-to-coast, and IH-35 which runs from Canada to Mexico.

SAN ANTONIO RECOGNIZED AS A DESTINATION WORTH VISITING - ACCOLADES

San Antonio is widely known as a favorite vacation destination, with more than 34 million people visiting the city each year. The city's rich culture and history, burgeoning culinary and cocktail scene, world-class hotels, resorts and meeting spaces, exciting attractions, unique events, affordability – and more – have received praise from established organizations and media outlets. These accolades include:

- Expedia includes San Antonio in its "17 Places You Must Visit in 2017" list.
- San Antonio is home to two of USA Today's Best Texas Attractions poll, including The River Walk at No. 1 as well as The Alamo and Spanish Colonial Missions at No. 6.
- TravelSquire.com included San Antonio in its Cities Plus Culture category in Top 28 Destinations to visit in 2017.
- Room 5, travel blog for hotel booking site Trivago, named San Antonio to its list of the Top 5 Family-Friendly Destinations in the United States.
- In 2017, U.S. News & World Report ranked San Antonio No. 23 on its list of Best Places to Live in the USA.
- For a second consecutive year, Chef Steve McHugh of Cured is named a 2017 finalist for Best Chef-Southwest by the James Beard Foundation.
- Rico Torres and Diego Galcia, chefs and owners of San Antonio's progressive Mexican restaurant Mixtli, are named among the 2017 list of the 12 Best New Chefs in the country by Food & Wine.
- The Esquire Tavern is recognized by the James Beard Foundation as a 2017 semifinalist for Outstanding Bar Program.
- Eater names Laura Loomis, Pitmaster at Two Bros BBQ Market, to its Eater Young Guns 2017 list recognizing up and coming stars in the culinary industry.
- Food & Wine names Hotel Emma among the world's 40 best food-centric hotels for 2017.
- San Antonio named the Most Romanic City in the United States by Amazon in 2017.
- Travel + Leisure names San Antonio among the country's top 10 destinations in the magazine's 2017 Best Awards.
- No. 1 in Travel + Leisure's list of America's Favorite Cities for Christmas Lights (December 2016).
- San Antonio is No.1 on Travel + Leisure's America's Friendliest Cities 2016 list.

- SmartAssets places San Antonio No. 1 on its Best Cities for Conferences List for 2016.
- San Antonio ranks No. 8 on Lonely Planet's list of Unexpectedly Exciting Places to See in the United States in 2016.
- On Travel + Leisure's Best Cities in the U.S., San Antonio is No. 12. 2016.
- Lonely Planet names San Antonio to its Best in the US List for 2016.
- In its October 2016 online edition, Forbes names San Antonio "The Best City in Texas."
- Travel + Leisure names The Hotel Emma to its It List: The Best New Hotels on the Planet for 2016.
- San Antonio is No. 2 on Budget Travel's Where to Go in 2016 list.
- San Antonio joins exclusive list of Travel + Leisure's best travel destinations on the planet for 2016.
- Family Vacation Critic designated San Antonio as one of its Top Ten Best Family Travel Bets for 2016.
- Orbitz names San Antonio one of 2016's hottest destinations.
- Forbes magazine names San Antonio one of The 2016 Best Big Cities for Jobs.
- Facilities & Destinations Magazine gives Visit San Antonio one of its 2016 Top Destination Awards, given to CVBs that promote meeting destinations.
- The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center was lauded by Facilities & Destinations Magazine with a 2016 Prime Site Award, given to the top convention and exposition centers.
- San Antonio was noted by Forbes as No. 8 on its list of "America's Cities of the Future" in 2016.
- According to The Gallup-Healthways Report, San Antonio is among the happiest large communities in the United States.
- Steve McHugh, owner and chef at Cured restaurant, was a 2016 finalist for Best Chef-Southwest by the James Beard Foundation.
- Hotel Emma is named the Top Hotel in Texas in Condé Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards 2016.
- The JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa is the No. 10 Top Resort in Texas in Condé Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards 2016.
- Travel + Leisure lists San Antonio on its "Cheapest Places to Visit" list, suggesting June as the best month to head to San Antonio.
- The National Student included San Antonio in its list of Top 20 Destinations for 2016.

EXPERIENCE SAN ANTONIO

When you plan a meeting in San Antonio, you're crafting an unforgettable attendee experience that stretches beyond the conference room. And since San Antonio is a city of constant transformation, with new attractions, revitalized historic sites and exciting events popping up all the time, there's always something unique and thrilling to discover.

San Antonio Celebrates 300 Years (2018)

2018 marks San Antonio's 300th anniversary, and the city is planning on celebrating all year long with events, activities and initiatives that will carry San Antonio into the next 300 years. Once a remote settlement, our city has since become the seventh largest in the nation and one of the country's top tourism destinations. Keep an eye out for our Tricentennial countdown as we begin celebrating the incredible people, unforgettable heritage and brilliant future of our great city.

Pearl

Long hailed as the home of Pearl Beer, this former brewery from the 1800s has been reimaged into a bustling neighborhood along the San Antonio River Walk. Its mix of reuse and new developments is home to Hotel Emma, the Culinary Institute of America's San Antonio campus, local boutiques, chef-driven restaurants, and a farmers market on Saturday and Sunday. New offerings include The Bottling Department, a food hall featuring five restaurant concepts and a bar area from top local chefs and restaurateurs, Hiatus Spa, as well as new events, culinary celebrations and exciting developments at the Pearl Farmers Market.

The Transformed Witte Museum

The Witte Museum has debuted its once-in-a-century transformation, bringing more than 170-thousand square feet of renovated and expanded exhibition space to the banks of the San Antonio River. Visitors to the new Witte will enjoy dynamic new exhibits, including the Naylor Family Dinosaur Gallery, People of the Pecos, the McLean Family Texas Wild Gallery and the historic Acequia Madre and Diversion Dam. It's a great place for guests to immerse themselves in state history, from millions of years ago to the present.

Culinary

San Antonio's restaurant culture has moved into the limelight as acclaimed chefs, as well as talented new chefs from the Culinary Institute of America San Antonio, continue to make their mark. In fact, San Antonio was recently designated 'Creative City of Gastronomy' by UNESCO for its rich and confluent culinary scene. With the perfect combination of quality, variety and hospitality, dining in San Antonio offers incredible food served everywhere from upscale steak houses to humble food trucks.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Missions

San Antonio recently became home to the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in the state of Texas. The five 18th-century missions (including the Alamo) that make up this site represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America and pay tribute to the ethnically diverse society that continues to influence our city. Four of these historic missions can be found on the beautiful, winding San Antonio Missions Trail, part of the eight-mile Mission Reach of the River Walk.

New Theme Park Attractions

The excitement of summer in San Antonio often begins with the unveiling of new rides and attractions. For 2018, SeaWorld San Antonio will debut their all new Sesame Street® Party Parade, a daily event that features everyone's favorite Sesame Street friends, 10 themed floats, tunes and show-stopping performances. In addition to the new parade, Aquatica San Antonio will unveil the new Taumata Racer®, a high-speed waterslide with 180-degree turns and a 55-foot drop in under 10 seconds. Six Flags Fiesta Texas is bringing the world's first single-rail coaster, the WONDER WOMAN Golden Lasso Coaster. This new coaster features a spectacular 90-degree drop, two airtime hills, a 180-degree stall and a zero-g roll all above the infamous Quarry Wall!