



**Tour:** **Discovering Texas  
San Antonio & Austin**

**Destination:** Texas

**Itinerary:** 6-days / 5-nights

**Dates:** Year-round

DISCOVERING TEXAS: SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN					
Day	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1	Travel to San Antonio, Texas, transfer to Hotel and check-in		Welcome, Safety & Orientation		Welcome Dinner on San Antonio's River Walk with Evening River Cruise
2	The Alamo & Battlefield Tour		Lunch at Mi Tierra & Shopping at Market Square	The Institute of Texan Cultures with Guide	San Antonio Dinner
3	UNESCO Spanish Colonial Missions		Six Flags Fiesta Texas Amusement Park OR SeaWorld San Antonio (dinner on own at park)		
4	Travel to Bandera; hotel check-in	Bandera - The Cowboy Capital of the World - Ranch Day Experience			
5	Travel to Austin; hotel check-in	University of Texas - Campus Tour	Texas State Capitol Tour	Exploration and dinner on Austin's Sixth Street	
6	Depart Austin for home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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## **Day 1**

Dinner included

Travel to San Antonio, Texas arriving in the afternoon. After check-in, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation briefing and get settled in. This afternoon we'll start with a city tour and then this evening, we're off to the world-famous River Walk!

*San Antonio* – A city rich in history, bursting with culture, and booming with modern attractions, San Antonio invites visitors to discover what's old and explore what's new. Centrally located in the heart of Texas, San Antonio blends the natural beauty of the region with the vibrant charm of its residents, offering experiences unlike any other city. Visitors to San Antonio can enjoy history, the River Walk, fabulous food, the outdoors, wonderful cultural experiences, theme park thrills, and city celebrations. Enjoy!

**San Antonio City Tour** – Your tour guide will take you through many sections of this incredible city – from the historical downtown to Alamo Heights, Broadway, and more, this city is known for its international mix of citizens and also is in the top 25 metro areas in the USA as far as population. Known as “Military City USA,” there are 7 military bases in San Antonio - with the top ones being Randolph AFB, Lackland AFB, Kelly AFB, Fort Sam Houston, and Camp Bullis - serving a population of 1,461,623 people in an area of 461 square miles. There is 1 military base per 208,803 people, and 1 military base per 65 square miles. San Antonio is also home to the leading Military Hospital in the United States. Brooke Army Medical Facility is the Department of Defense's largest facility and only Level 1 Trauma Center.



**The San Antonio River Walk** - Sightseeing, shopping, food and fun, all on a world-renowned 15-mile urban waterway. The River Walk, or Paseo del Rio, is a San Antonio treasure and the largest urban ecosystem in the nation. Tucked quietly below street level and only steps from the Alamo, it provides a serene and pleasant way to navigate the city. Explore by foot along the river's walking path or jump aboard a river barge for a ride and guided tour. In the heart of downtown, explore nearby attractions like the Alamo, the King William Historic District and more. Or shop local favorites along the river's Museum Reach at the historic Pearl. While at Pearl, dine al fresco at our local food hall, The Bottling Dept. Further south, immerse yourself in history at our UNESCO World Heritage Site, the San Antonio Missions, along the Mission Reach. There's so much to do, see, eat and explore along the river.



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Groups will have time to explore and have fun, plus **a cruise on the River Walk** and dinner.

## **Day 2**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning San Antonio! Today is a day to explore Texas history and culture. First stop - The Alamo!

**The Alamo** - Centrally located on Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio, the Alamo features interactive exhibits and hosts reenactments of the Texas Revolution. Founded in 1718 as the first mission in San Antonio, the Alamo served as a way station between east Texas and Mexico. In 1836, decades after the mission had closed, the Alamo became an inspiration and a motivation for liberty during the Texas Revolution. For 13 days in 1836, close to 200 Texas defenders held the Alamo from approximately 2,500 of General Santa Anna's troops from Mexico. The most famous of the defenders, William Travis, James Bowie, and David Crockett, died fighting overwhelming odds for freedom. Today, visitors are invited to rediscover the gem of Texas history, stroll through the 4.2-acre complex and Alamo Gardens. To learn more about the history of the Alamo, [visit its official website](#).



While here our groups will participate in a **Battlefield Tour**: An Alamo History Interpreter will personally guide your class while explaining the history of the mission and the fortress, creating a memorable educational experience for students. This tour takes place outside so please remember to bring water and sunscreen if needed.

Other areas for self-guided exploration:

- **The Alamo Church & Grounds:** School groups are welcome to take self-guided tours through the buildings and grounds. This includes entrance to the Alamo Church and the Long Barracks exhibition, along with the other activities listed below.



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- **History Talk: A Story Bigger Than Texas:** Several times throughout the day, Alamo History Interpreters give History Talks in Cavalry Courtyard. These talks are approximately 15-20 minutes long and are followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. Cavalry Courtyard can hold a maximum of 150 students sitting on the benches and on the ground. History Talks are offered on a first come, first serve basis.
- **Film - The Alamo: Crossroads of History:** The Alamo Orientation film provides a short synopsis of the history of The Alamo. The film runs throughout the day in two locations – The Long Barrack Museum and the Arbor – and lasts approximately 20 minutes.
- **Living History Encampment:** Alamo Living Historians conduct demonstrations of period skills and crafts throughout the day in the encampment in the Alamo Gardens. Subject matter experts in firearms, medicine, textiles, food, and more will interact with your students while reinforcing knowledge and skills.

After learning about the incredible history at the Alamo, we'll stop by Mi Tierra's for lunch and some of the very best Mexican food in the nation!

**Mi Tierra's Mexican Restaurant** - In 1941, a little three-table cafe was established for early-rising farmers and workers at San Antonio's Mercado. 75 years later, Mi Tierra is a world-famous landmark. Mi Tierra Café is downtown San Antonio's finest Tex-Mex restaurant, Mexican bakery, and source for live Mariachi entertainment. Enjoy!



Afterwards, we'll have a little time to shop and explore the Mexican Mercado.

**Market Square** - Enjoy the sights and flavors of old Mexico at Historic Market Square, a favorite of locals and tourists for generations. Explore over 100 locally owned businesses that provide a unique market place experience. The Historic Market Square is where the culture of San Antonio comes alive. Nearly every weekend of the year, Market Square is filled with live entertainment, delicious food, and fun for the whole family; and talk about shopping... with unique multi-cultural merchandise you can find something for everyone!



In the afternoon, we'll walk over to another favorite destination, The Institute of Texan Cultures.



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**The Institute of Texan Cultures** – This center gives voice to the experiences of people from across the globe who call Texas home, providing insight into the past, present, and future. At its core, the Institute of Texan Cultures is a lesson in diversity, and it shows the uniqueness and beauty of the many cultures that came to Texas. It shows the contributions those cultures have made to the state’s character, through music and dance, food, stories and traditions, religion, artisan skills, and ways of life.



The museum is a component of The University of Texas at San Antonio. It plays a role in the university’s community engagement initiatives by developing quality, accessible resources for educators and lifelong learners on topics of cultural heritage. It strives to develop a rich and vibrant culture in the arts and humanities that will expand the community’s awareness and appreciation of Texas through an engaging series of exhibits, programs, and special events.

This evening we’ll have a Texas dinner and then have free time to explore. Ready for more? Just say the word. There’s so much to do in San Antonio, from theme parks to museums, this city is alive!

### **Day 3**

Breakfast included; lunch & dinner on own

Rise and shine Texas! Today is a day to understand the amazing history of this city!

**San Antonio Missions National Historical Park** - Where the city’s rich history meets national parks. After 10,000 years, the people of South Texas were faced with drought, European diseases, and colonization. In the early 1700s, many native people of South Texas foreswore their traditional life to become Spanish, accepting a new religion and agrarian lifestyle in hopes of survival.



**A UNESCO World Heritage Site.** San Antonians cherish their heritage and take the city’s history seriously. Along with the Alamo, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park was named the first World Heritage Site in Texas by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), and includes the city’s four southernmost Spanish colonial missions – Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. In the 18th century, Spanish priests established these five Catholic missions along the San Antonio River to serve as the center of an ethnically diverse society. Today, the missions – walled compounds



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encompassing a church and buildings where the priests and local Native Americans lived – represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America. Visit one, two or several to absorb this incredible Texas history!

**Mission San José: Queen of the Missions** - Established in 1720, San José y San Miguel de Aguayo is the largest mission in San Antonio. Spanish designers built the mission using Texas limestone and brightly colored stucco. At its height, it provided sanctuary and a social and cultural community for more than 300 Indians. In 2011, it underwent a \$2.2 million renovation to refinish interior domes, walls, and the altar backdrop. When visiting the church, be sure to look for flying buttresses, carvings, quatrefoil patterns, polychromatic plaster, and the famed “Rose Window,” a superb example of Spanish Colonial ornamentation.

**Mission Concepción** - Dedicated in 1755, the church at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña remains true to its original design, look and feel. In fact, the church stands as the oldest unrestored stone church in the United States. Exterior paintings have faded, but if you peek inside, you can still see original frescos in some of the church rooms.

**Mission San Juan Capistrano** - Established in 1731, Mission San Juan’s fertile farmlands used to allow for a self-sustainable community, and its surplus helped supply the region with produce. Today, the chapel and bell tower are still in use. When visiting, don’t miss the typical Romanesque archway at the entrance gate. For outdoor fun, take a self-guided tour on the nature trail that begins at this Mission and leads to the river.

**Mission Espada** - The southernmost mission in the park, Mission Espada was established in 1731 and boasts the best-preserved segment of the area’s original irrigation system that was used to bring water to the fields. In 1826, a fire destroyed most of the mission buildings at Espada, with only the chapel, granary, and two of the compound walls remaining. Today, part of the original irrigation system still operates the Espada aqueduct and dam. Don’t miss the newest installation near Espada, the massive Arbol de Vida, or Tree of Life that displays the personal stories and tales of San Antonio locals.

The final mission was The Alamo, covered on Day 2.

This afternoon, we’re off to Fiesta Texas, a Six Flags Amusement Park! Take funds for meals and beverages, dinner is on your own at the park this evening so you can sample all kinds of great food!

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas** – Known as the **Thrill Capital of South Texas**, Fiesta Texas is a Mexico-themed amusement park containing nearly 40 separate attractions, including 10 rollercoasters, 2 water rides and the tallest super air race ride in the world. The 208-acre park is a popular family attraction with a great range of facilities to make your day as fun and carefree as possible. It’s split into 5 neighborhoods, all of which are dotted with plenty of dining and shopping options as well as restrooms, ATMs, lockers, stroller and wheelchair rental facilities.



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## Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning San Antonio! Saddle up and we'll ride out to the **Texas Hill Country** today for a night on a Texas Ranch. Characterized by tall, rugged hills of limestone and granite, refreshing swimming holes and big skies, the Texas Hill Country, settled by Germans and Eastern Europeans, has a culture all its own. Storybook farms and ranches dot the countryside, and you may still hear older folks speaking German in the towns. You'll also find some of the best barbecue in Texas, antique shops on old-fashioned main streets and celebrations with roots in the Old World, like Wurstfest (a sausage festival) and Weihnachten (a Christmas festival).

In the Hill Country, we'll make our home in [Bandera](#). Just call it the **dude-ranch capital** of the world. Nestled into the Edwards Plateau, this small central Texas town may have a tiny population, but it regularly welcomes city slickers in search of a true cowpoke experience. Better known as "dude ranches," these destinations are central to this state's agritourism, and they all started in the late 1800s to the mid-1900s. At that time, "dude" was the term commonly used for city dwellers, some of whom visited these ranches for a taste of rural life, cattle wrangling and lasso tossing. And that's what you'll still find today, albeit with less tumbleweed and more Wi-Fi.

A blending of Indian, Mexican, Polish and Western cultures gives Bandera a unique ambiance not found elsewhere in Texas. Many bloody battles between Apache and Comanche Indians and the Spanish Conquistadors took place in Bandera Pass (12 miles north). Legend has it that, for years afterwards, a red "bandera" (Spanish for banner or flag) was flown at the site to define the boundary between Spanish and Indian hunting grounds.



The cypress trees that outline the course of the Medina River brought the first permanent settlers to Bandera. A mill that sawed cypress shingles was established here in 1853 and in 1855, sixteen Polish families immigrated to Bandera to work at the mill. The Polish heritage is evident in much of the town's architecture. A fine example is the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, the second oldest Polish Catholic Church in the U.S.

Bandera's title, "**Cowboy Capital of the World**" originated when it became a staging area for the last great cattle drives of the late 1800's. Confirming Bandera as the "Cowboy Capital of the World," a bronze monument honoring the many National Rodeo Champions who call Bandera home, stands on the Courthouse lawn.

**Flying L Hill Country Resort** - Today we'll enjoy a ranch day complete with horseback riding and a campfire. Flying L offers riding, wagon rides, campfire S'mores and live western tunes. There's also a water park and lagoon area for cooling off after playing at ranch hand. It was designated a Texas Historical Commission Landmark in 2016, as it dates back to 1947, when Colonel John H. Lapham acquired it from Polish settlers. Enjoy!



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## Day 5

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Bandera! We'll load up and head off for Austin this morning.

*Austin* - Austin is the state capital of Texas and home to the University of Texas flagship campus. Austin is known for its eclectic live-music scene centered around country, blues and rock. Its many parks and lakes are popular for hiking, biking, swimming and boating. South of the city, Formula One's Circuit of the Americas raceway has hosted the United States Grand Prix.



Known as the **Live Music Capital of the World**, Austin offers world-renowned festivals such as SXSW® and the Austin City Limits Music Festival – along with more than 250 music venues featuring rock, blues, jazz, hip hop and other genres nightly. However, Austin's universal appeal extends well beyond music – with outstanding dining experiences, world-class sporting events, an oasis of outdoor activities and other unique happenings to satisfy any itinerary. Austin is also home to a wonderful ballet, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping and beautiful outdoor spaces. You can just as easily spend your morning paddling the lake as you can strolling through a celebrated history museum.

Once we arrive in Austin, we'll head to the University of Texas for a **Campus Tour**.

**University of Texas at Austin** – The University of Texas at Austin is a public research university in Austin, Texas. It was founded in 1883 and is the flagship institution of the University of Texas system. The University of Texas was inducted into the Association of American Universities in 1929, becoming only the third university in the American South to be elected. The institution has the nation's eighth-largest single-campus enrollment, with over 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students and over 24,000 faculty and staff.



A "Public Ivy" is a major center for academic research, with research expenditures exceeding \$600 million. The university houses seven museums and seventeen libraries, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum and the Blanton Museum of Art, and operates various auxiliary research facilities, such as the J. J. Pickle Research Campus and the McDonald Observatory. Among university faculty are recipients of the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, the Wolf Prize, the Primetime Emmy Award, the Abel Prize, the Turing Award, and the National Medal of Science, as well as many other awards. As of October 2019, 12 Nobel Prize winners, two Turing Award winners and two Fields medalists have been affiliated with the school as alumni, faculty members or researchers.

Later in the afternoon, we'll visit the State Capitol of Texas for a tour.



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**Texas State Capitol** - The Texas State Capitol and seat of government, located in downtown Austin, houses the offices and chambers of the Texas Legislature and of the Governor of Texas. Designed in 1881 by architect Elijah E. Myers, it was constructed from 1882 to 1888 under the direction of civil engineer Reuben Lindsay Walker. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1986. The Texas State Capitol is 302.64 feet (92.24 m) tall, making it the sixth-tallest state capitol and one of several taller than the United States Capitol.

After, we'll check in to our hotel and then it's off to Sixth Street for dinner and fun!



**Sixth Street** - is a historic street and entertainment district located within the city's urban core. The nine-block area of East Sixth Street is recognized as the Sixth Street Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Developed as one of Austin's trade and commercial districts in the late 1800s, the predominant building style are two- or three-story masonry Victorian commercial architecture. The area nearby 4th Street and 6th Street has been a major entertainment district since the 1970s. Many clubs, music venues, and shopping destinations are located here and many offer live music. East Sixth Street (known locally as Dirty Sixth) plays host to a wide variety of events each year, ranging from music and film festivals (such as South by Southwest) to biker rallies (such as The Republic of Texas Biker Rally) and the Pecan Street Festival.

After dinner and cruising the streets, we will head back to the hotel for R & R!

### **Day 6**

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

Good morning Austin! This morning we'll start to say goodbye to stunning South Texas. We will wave to our new friends as we leave for the airport and hopefully, take away memories that will last a lifetime.



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# Discovering Texas: San Antonio & Austin

**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

**What's Included:**

Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers  
5-nights' accommodation: 3-nights San Antonio, 1-night Bandera and  
1-night Austin  
Breakfasts daily, dependent upon departure time  
2 Lunches (days 2 & 4)  
4 Dinners, dependent upon arrival time  
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers  
San Antonio City Tour  
San Antonio River Walk Evening Cruise  
The Alamo & Battlefield Tour  
Market Square excursion  
The Institute of Texan Cultures with Private Guide  
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park  
San Antonio Missions Tour  
Six Flags Fiesta Texas  
Dude Ranch Day with Horseback Riding and Cowboy Activities  
University of Texas Campus Tour  
Texas State Capitol Tour  
Austin's 6<sup>th</sup> Street excursion  
Personal Tour Director  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Luggage fees if not included with airline ticketing  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Lunches and other meals/snacks not shown in itinerary  
Dinner on day 3  
Cost of visas, full or collective passports  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation  
charges, purchases billed to room, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, dive instructors, boat captain  
and hand tips, ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.  
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

