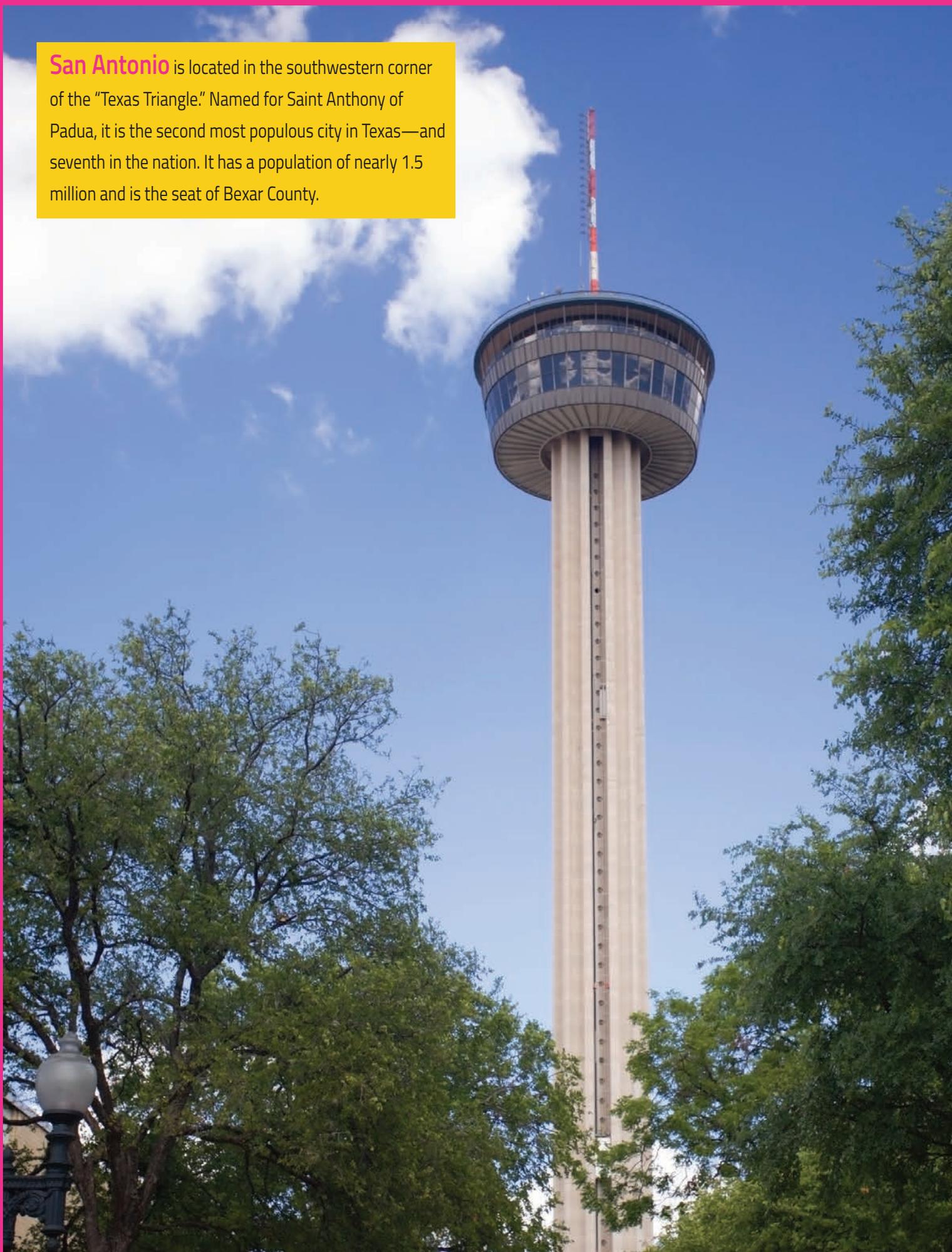


HOW TO BE A
SAN
ANTONIAN
An Old Timer's Guide to "Bein' From Here"

San Antonio is located in the southwestern corner of the "Texas Triangle." Named for Saint Anthony of Padua, it is the second most populous city in Texas—and seventh in the nation. It has a population of nearly 1.5 million and is the seat of Bexar County.





So you want to be a San Antonian?

If there's one thing that the San Antonio area is known for, it's the lively and diverse cultural scene. You'll find Spanish, Mexican, Tejano, and even German influences, as well as a western vibe like no other.

There's no shortage of things to do, either. You'll find shopping, dining, arts & entertainment, and more. The only question is how much you can handle at one time!

If you're new, it may seem like a lot to jump into, so here's a crash course in **"Bein' From Here"!**

What To Do:

Five Missions on the San Antonio River

In Texas' earliest days, five Spanish missions sprung up along the San Antonio River. As well as being historically significant, they are notable for being ingrained in the culture, and in the hearts and minds, of those who call themselves San Antonians.

The Alamo The first mission in San Antonio, it became the focal point for the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. For 13 days, close to 200 Texas defenders including the famed William Travis, Jim Bowie, and Davy Crockett held the Alamo from over one thousand of General Santa Anna's troops from Mexico, all of them dying in the name of freedom.

San José Not far from the Alamo, San Jose was also built. It's founder, Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus, came from East Texas and turned this fledgling mission into an important cultural center. San Jose is also known for being the most well defended garrison, protecting early Texans against Indian raids.



Concepción When Concepción was established, it quickly became known as a religious center in the area, often holding celebrations for the faithful. Within its walls, you will find a variety of religious art.

San Francisco de la Espada Originally located in east Texas, Espada was relocated to San Antonio in 1731. It is the southernmost of the chain of missions located on the San Antonio River. Known for its interesting architecture, it's a must see!

San Juan Capistrano Also originating in east Texas, mission San Juan Capistrano arrived in 1731. As a production powerhouse, it supplied the region with many useful goods. Nearby, the Rancho Pataguilla supplied thousands of sheep and cattle.

The San Antonio River Walk

In many ways, the history of Texas is the history of its rivers and waterways. Certainly the treasure of San Antonio is the San Antonio River Walk. First developed by the WPA (Work Projects Administration) in the 1930's, this romantic, relaxing area of Downtown San Antonio is host to millions of visitors each year and continues to grow in popularity. Restaurants of all sizes, shapes and culinary traditions line the River Walk, which also features luxurious hotels, shopping, great nightclubs and entertainment.

Natural Bridge Caverns

Ever-evolving, they're the largest commercial caverns in all of Texas. Stalagmites and stalactites are still forming as water filters through the limestone rocks above! Multiple guided tours and activities are available, including a lantern tour, gem & fossil mining, and an obstacle course & zipline. When the day is over, you can watch as the bats emerge from nearby Bracken Cave, home to the world's largest bat colony.

It's all about the people, the passion, the pride & the promise!

Theaters

Alameda Theater One of the last grand movie palaces built in America. When it opened on March 9, 1949, the Alameda Theater was the largest movie palace ever dedicated to Spanish language films & the performing arts. It's closed now, but it remains an iconic landmark on the streets of San Antonio.

The Majestic & Empire Theatres At these classic San Antonio theaters, you will find live events such as Broadway shows, concerts, comedy acts and more.

Magik Children's Theatre This historic venue is run by a non-profit group, staging children's classics and offering educational programs.

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts Comprised of multiple different venues, the Tobin Center offers live performances including dance, music, comedy and more.

Woodlawn Theater Originally opened in 1946, the legendary John Wayne hosted the premier of "The Alamo" here in 1960. The theater fell on hard times in the 80's, but has been "reborn" as a venue with outstanding theatrical performances by local artists!

Museums & Art

McNay Art Museum www.mcnayart.org

The Buckhorn Saloon and Texas Ranger Museum www.buckhornmuseum.com

Briscoe Western Art Museum www.briscoemuseum.org

San Antonio Museum of Art www.samuseum.org

La Villita Historic Arts Village www.lavillita.com

The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center www.guadalupeculturalarts.org

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Louis Tussaud's Wax Museum www.ripleys.com

San Antonio Saga www.mainplaza.org

The DoSeum www.sakids.org

The Southwest School of Art www.swschool.org

The Witte Museum www.witemuseum.org

Fun

El Mercado/Market Square www.marketsquaresa.com

Hemisfair Park www.toweroftheamericas.com

Tower of the Americas www.toweroftheamericas.com

The Pearl www.atpearl.com

Sea World www.seaworldparks.com

Fiesta Texas www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas

Schlitterbahn www.schlitterbahn.com/new-braunfels

Morgan's Wonderland www.morganswonderland.com

San Antonio Zoo www.sazoo-aq.org

San Antonio Eagle Zoo Train www.sazoo-aq.org

Splash Town www.splashtownsa.com

Alamo City Ghost Tours www.alamocityghosttours.com

Kiddie Park on Broadway www.kiddiepark.com

River Boat Rides www.riosanantonio.com

Botanical Garden www.sabot.org

tubing on the Guadalupe & Cormal Rivers

Wine Tours/Wine Tasting

185 + Parks

FIESTA San Antonio

Although it began as a tribute to the men who died for Texas' independence, FIESTA has evolved into a celebration of all things "San Antonio." For 10 days, The River City's rich culture and heritage is put on display for all to see with colorful parades, lively mariachis and the biggest party in San Antonio! Plus, the proceeds go straight back to the city, providing funding for services year-round.

If there's one thing that you should know about FIESTA, it's that the whole city gets involved. Also note the hats— you may need a budget for hats. And medals. And wreaths. And don't forget to shout "Show us your shoes" at the Fiesta duchesses, princess & queen!



©Photo by Jonathan Alonzo



What To Eat:

This Ain't Tex Mex In San Antonio, you'll find authentic Mexican food. San Antonians go real or go home.

Breakfast Tacos The official breakfast of San Antonio. If you haven't started your day with one of these, then you might as well go back to bed!

Barbacoa It's kind of a big thing.

Big Red Breakfast, lunch or dinner— any time is a good time for a bottle of Big Red.

Whataburger After the party, or for a late-night snack.

Chips & Salsa They come with every meal at restaurants. What, were you expecting bread?

Tortillas Corn? Flour? Both!

Tamales Ever wish you could be paid in tamales? In San Antonio, you just might.

Margaritas The San Antonian drink of choice.

Taco Cabana These fast food restaurants are everywhere!

Bill Miller BBQ A local tradition. Their sweet tea is a staple!

H-E-B & The Farmer's Market Where we get all our groceries!

What To Expect:

Spurs Mania In San Antonio, there are Spurs fans. The city can get a little rowdy when they win.

Easter Don't be surprised to see people camping on Easter. It's a big deal. And if someone cracks an egg over your head, it's not a prank— it's a cascarone.

Heat You haven't lived through a heat wave until you've spent an August in San Antonio. And we still wear shorts at Christmas!

Mariachis They're everywhere and they don't need a reason!

Spanglish A nice Spanish/English combination.

Let's Rodeo, San Antonio 10x PRCA Large Indoor Rodeo of the Year

Tejano Culture Not just Texan. And not just Mexican. It's a blend of both, and it's a vibrant cultural and musical scene in San Antonio.

San Antonio Traditions

Cowboy Boots They go with every outfit! Don't miss seeing the giant boots outside North Star Mall.

Military City It's no surprise that the city that houses the Alamo has a rich military history.

Bluebonnets When these spring up, you may want to give yourself extra time during your commute to admire them (and take some photos).

St. Patrick's Day on The River Walk Fun and festivities, and the river is dyed green!

Alamo Stadium Football is like a religion down here.

Marriage Island Considered to be one of the top 10 most romantic wedding destinations in the world!

The Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner A Thanksgiving feast for those in need.

Patio Dining Even in the heat of summer!

Christmas in San Antonio Be sure to check out the Christmas lights at the River Walk and at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Rules Of The Road

Inside & Outside The Loop Loop 1604, the outer loop— If you're inside, you're in San Antonio. If you're outside, you're in the suburbs.

Location Lingo You'll want to become familiar with Southside, Eastside, Westside, Northwest, Stone Oak, Alamo Heights (09'ers live here,) Downtown, Southtown, the Medical Center, and the Dominion. We tend to live in our "bubble," seldom leaving the neighborhood in which we reside.

20 Minute Commute You can get anywhere in about 20 minutes.

Turn Signals Optional.

Merging Every man for himself.

Yield Signs Stop at these.

Stop Signs Ignore.

Rain=Wrecks Don't travel in the rain if you don't have to. We seldom see it so we don't know how to drive in it!

We're friendly drivers who don't block intersections and we'll usually let you into our lane— just roll down your window and ask!

Common Words & Phrases

Bexar (Pronounced Bay-har or Bear)

Go Spurs Go!

Cedar Fever

The Enchilada (San Antonio Public Library)

"Where'd you go to high school?" We continue to support our high schools forever.

Remember the Alamo!

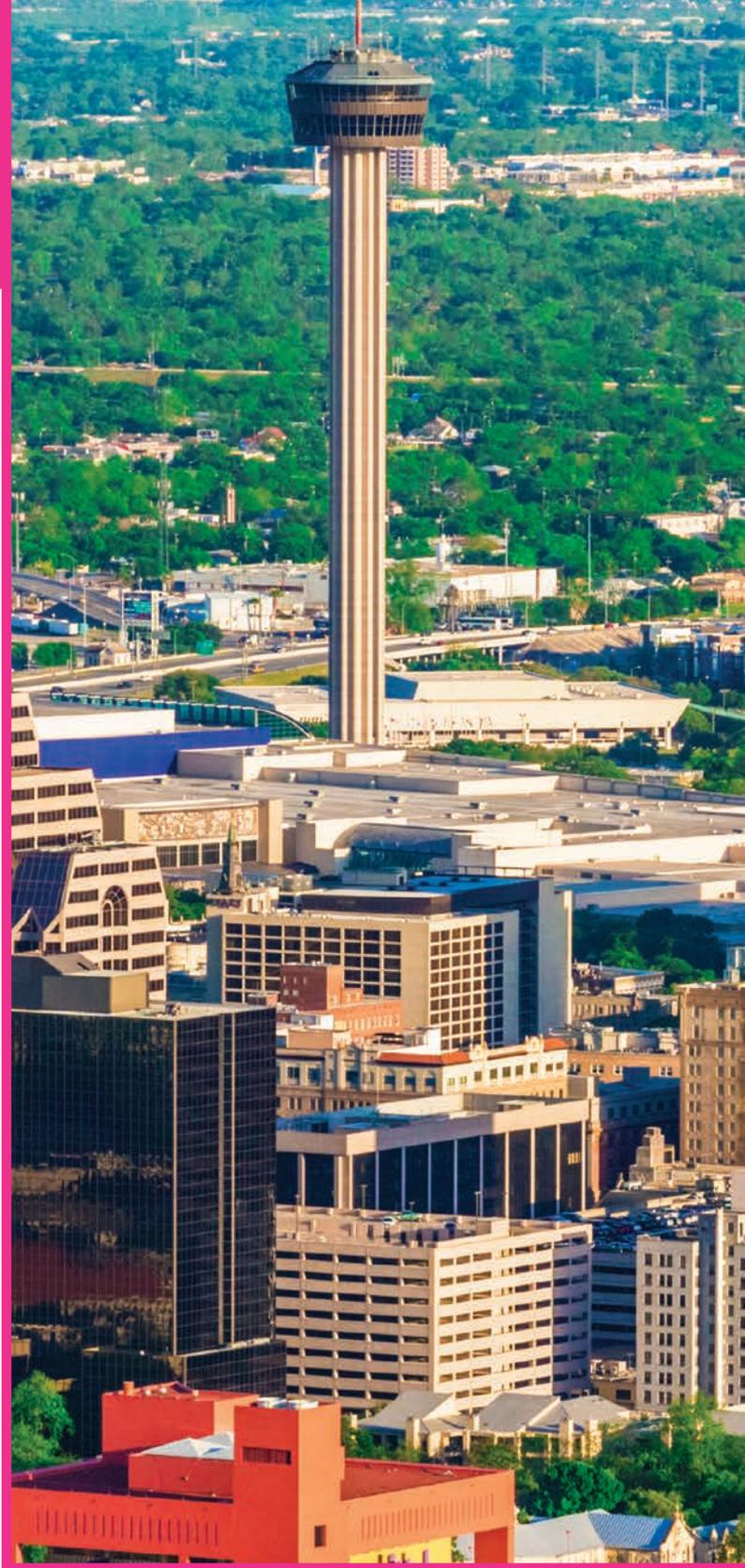
Family First

Big city, small town

NIOSA

Floating the river

Siesta We don't really take naps during the day . . . but our overall pace is laid-back & casual.



DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE!



Independence Title



IndependenceTitle.com