

Don't Pass It Up

The hottest ticket in San Antonio? The San Antonio and Beyond Attraction Pass, which buys you admission to some of the city's most popular attractions. Buy the 3-day pass and visit the Texas Ranger Museum and the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter. Or go for the Super San Antonio 7-day pass and check out the San Antonio Children's Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and 14 other faves. Rates start at \$29 for children, \$39 for adults. sanantonioattractions.com



Play

"DOWNTOWN, EVERYTHING'S waiting for you," says an upbeat '60s song. But in San Antonio, downtown isn't the only place to have a good time. Like colorful bits of confetti, fun spots are scattered all over the city—from one end of the River Walk to the other, from Six Flags Fiesta Texas to SeaWorld San Antonio, from Stone Oak to the historic Mission Trail. Even the club scene isn't confined to a certain area, so there's not just one main artery pulsing if you're looking for the heart of a Saturday night. That's why we've mapped out merely a few sizzling areas in this hot metropolis of music, salsa, and more.

Southtown

Just a short trolley ride from downtown, a

Map out a good time in San Antonio.

vibrant arts district comprises converted warehouses, industrial loft spaces, and Victorian-era buildings. Southtown's hip bohemian enclave offers an eclectic mix of art galleries, taco joints, Cuban-fusion restaurants, tapas bars, sushi spots, vintage clothing stores, and hot music venues. By day, it's a quiet strip where you can sip coffee and pop into shops, but by night the street pulses to a sassy salsa beat. During the "First Friday Art Walk," galleries such as San Angel Folk Art stay open late, but almost every night, music and art spill into the streets, and margaritas cool down the steamy scene. The Blue Star Brewing Company offers jazz on Tuesdays at the Blue Star Arts Complex. On Fridays, fall down the rabbit hole of live local music at MadHatters Tea House and Cafe. On Satur-

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE STANKIEWICZ

days, locals line up for soup specials at El Mirador (try the "Sopa Azteca"). Spice up Saturdays with salsa dance lessons at Azuca Nuevo Latino Restaurant and Bar. Sip minty mojitos and sample spicy paella, then rumba into the wee small hours.

Downtown

Forget the Alamo—it's the River Walk that's San Antonio's most enchanting attraction. This corridor of quiet walkways, planned in the 1920s as a flood-control measure and begun in 1939 as a project of the Works Progress Administration, features arched bridges, shade trees, and lush landscaping flanking the slender San Antonio River, rambling just below street level. Romantic restaurants, clubs, galleries, and shops line narrow walkways. Float on a river barge by day, dine beneath colorful umbrellas at dusk, and sway to the sounds of Jim Cullum's Jazz Band at The Landing after dark. Kids love the kitschy Buckhorn Museum and Saloon and the *Battle of the Alamo* blasting from the big screen at the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter, as well as Ripley's Believe It or Not and Louis Tussaud's Wax Works.

Blocks away in Market Square, musicians serenade you over a Tex-Mex meal at Mi Tierra Café and Bakery. Stroll through shops at La Villita; then take a glass elevator to the top of the Tower of the Americas in HemisFair Park, built for the 1968 World's Fair. We love Las Canarias' lavish Sunday brunch at The Omni La Mansion del Rio. Have after-dinner drinks at the "Teddy Roosevelt Bar" in the historic Menger Hotel, or a Guinness at Dirty Nelly's Irish Pub. At the Majestic Theatre, terraced balconies depict a Spanish village scene so enchanting it steals the show (this month, check out the San Antonio Symphony or the Tony Award-winning *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps*). Then enjoy a cigar in Club Cohiba at the Havana River Walk Inn.



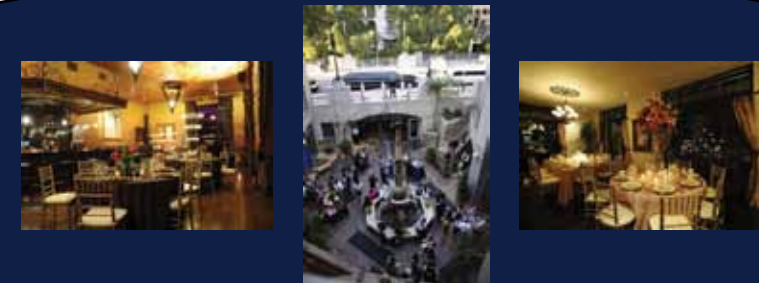
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MEET SAN ANTONIO

The Pearl Brewery and Beyond

North of downtown, the former Pearl Brewery has become a new hot spot since the recent Museum Reach expansion of the River Walk turned the area into an arts and entertainment complex near the San Antonio Museum of Art. The San Antonio branch of the Culinary Institute of America has settled at Pearl, with a focus on Latin cuisine, and other restaurants are joining. Try chic eateries like Il Sogno Osteria or Texas Farm to Table Cafe, and enjoy art installations along the river, such as Donald Lipski's *F.I.S.H.*, giant multicolored fish sculptures suspended from the Interstate 35 overpass. Nearby, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center hosts exciting events year-round, including a Tejano Conjunto Festival, ballet folklorico performances by the Guadalupe Dance Company, and film festivals. And you'll find tango lessons Wednesday nights on McCullough Avenue at the Olmos Bharmacy, an old drugstore/soda fountain turned new late-night hot spot.

In the Stone Oak area, where new upscale neighborhoods and shopping centers abound, locals gather at stylish restaurants like Brasserie



The Museum Reach connects the River Walk to the San Antonio Museum of Art.

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Pavil, a French brasserie where chef Scott Cohen's New York strip and French onion soup are sure to please. The Watermark Grill is popular for its cool oyster bar, and the newest Paesanos location is legendary for owner Joe Cosniac's coveted recipe for shrimp paesano.

To the northwest, The Shops at La Cantera are the cure for those

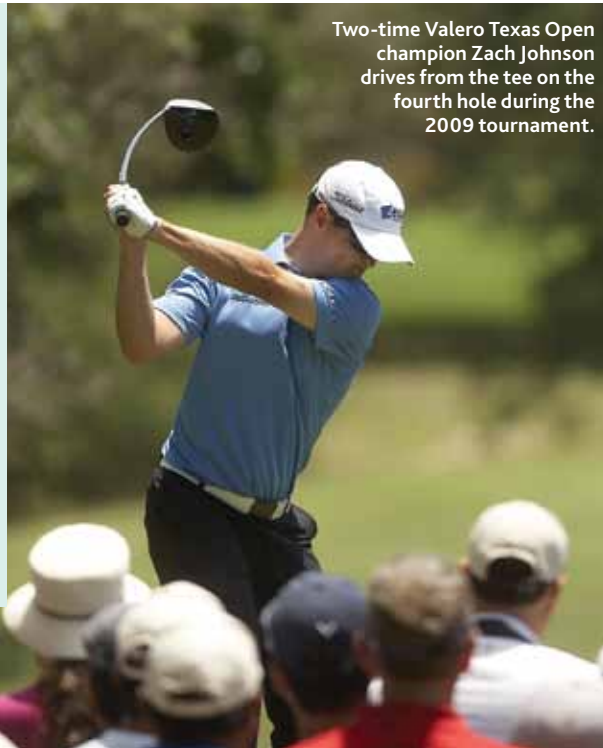
craving high-end stores. Meanwhile, families vacation at The Westin La Cantera Resort and the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa (golf courses, pools, and lush grounds!) in between visits to nearby SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas.

Head farther out of town on Interstate 10, and you'll be up to your boots in cowboy culture in the Hill Country. Saddle up at a dude ranch in the Old West town of Bandera, meander through shops in the hamlets of Boerne and Comfort, and taste the *jäger schnitzel* at the Welfare Café in the tiny town of Welfare. Book a bed-and-breakfast and visit a *biergarten* in the German settlement of Fredericksburg, or climb to the top of Enchanted Rock, a giant granite batholith nearby. Wineries, lavender farms, and wildflower centers are hidden in these hills.

No map is large enough to chart all the fun you can have, but here along the cattle trails where cowboys once roamed, all things converge to create a Texas-sized adventure in San Antonio—even if you don't make it downtown.

Fore!

Golf fans, mark your calendars for May 10–16, when the Valero Texas Open brings the PGA to town. In its first year at TPC San Antonio at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa, the Valero Texas Open expects renowned players such as defending two-time champion Zach Johnson to take on its Greg Norman–designed Oaks Course, with stands of mature live oaks and rolling Texas Hill Country terrain. It's a fitting home for the PGA's third-oldest tournament. golf-sanantonio.org/valero



Two-time Valero Texas Open champion Zach Johnson drives from the tee on the fourth hole during the 2009 tournament.

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