

ONE DESTINATION, THREE WAYS...

SAN ANTONIO

Tick all the Texan boxes with a vibrant and much-loved holiday here

Once a hard-drinking cattle city, this gem is growing fast – but still boasts a laid-back vibe. It also drips with history – and a river runs through it, bringing a touch of old Venice to the sprawling plains of southern Texas.

MINTED

If you need an instant touchstone for divining the local rhythm, it will be found in the Pearl District. This bustling area was once home to the riverfront Pearl Brewing Company. Since the early 2000s, it has been undergoing a vast reimagining and is now a thriving conglomeration of restaurants, shops, green spaces, farmers' markets and apartments.



HOTEL EMMA is housed in the former brewery's brick shell. Huge cast-iron tanks and machinery still dot the interior, and there's a 3700-volume library, culinary concierge and French macaroons from local Bakery Lorraine on offer. From \$460 a night.



Visit the nearby **HIATUS SPA + RETREAT** and indulge in The Comeback, which blends Swedish and deep-tissue massages; \$215 for 90 minutes.

MID

The world-famous, 24-kilometre River Walk is a must for visitors. When it hits downtown, the sights, sounds and flavours of Native America, Old Mexico and the Wild West mix with modern trappings. You can shop, lounge in a cafe, or simply stroll and listen to the mariachi music.



In the birthplace of Tex-Mex, **ÁCENAR** stands out. The menu is full of clever twists – pair an order of chilli corn crepes filled with roasted duck confit with a pear cactus margarita. Aim for a table by the river.



SWELL CYCLE is the local bike-share program designed for adventures taking less than an hour. Rent, ride and return your wheels to one of the city's 50 station docks at your convenience; \$16 for a day-long pass.

MODEST

San Antonio is drenched in history, with a story to tell at every turn. Few things raise a Texan's pride for their state like the Alamo, where revolutionaries defended the fort against Mexican troops in 1836. If you're after a city with culture and tradition, you've hit the honey pot.



The five Spanish colonial missions in San Antonio have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and entry to each is free. Mission San Antonio de Valero is better known as the **ALAMO**, and is a pillar of American history.



The Broadway Cultural Corridor packs in the **DoSEUM** (the city's museum for kids), a local zoo, the San Antonio Museum of Art, Brackenridge Park and a Japanese tea garden among others.

★ TRAVEL NOTES

If you have time for a road trip while you're in Texas, tee up your visit with one of the globally famous music/tech/pop-culture festivals taking place in nearby Austin, which is located just 80 minutes away by car.

Don't leave home without...

- 1. UNDERSTATED LEATHER** jacket, \$685, understatedleather.com
- 2. ISABEL MARANT** boots, \$1030, mytheresa.com
- 3. BENEFIT** Gimme Brow+ Brow-Volumizing Fiber Gel, \$40, benefitcosmetics.com/au
- 4. LEXON** luggage tag, \$22, top3.com.au
- 5. SOJOURNE** accessories pouch set, \$89, sojourneluggage.com

