San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio, Texas, was originally a Coahuiltecan Indian village in which Franciscans constructed the San Antonio de Valero mission for the purpose of converting and educating the Indians. The mission was later secularized and became a Spanish military installation known as The Alamo, the site of a crucial battle during the Texas War of Independence.


San Antonio Children's Museum, Ripley's Believe It or Not! & Louis Tussaud's Wax Works, and Scobee Planetarium at San Antonio College are other area attractions.

San Antonio offers performing arts of many cultures: Ballet Folklorico Boriken (Puerto Rican culture), Guadalupe Dance Company (Chicano/Latino/Native American), Ilé Bahia (Brazilian), Hula Halau Ohana Elikaapeka (Hawaiian), Karavan Studios (Middle Eastern), Matsuri Japanese Dancers (Japanese), Natyanjali School for Indian Dance (Indian), SA Tangueros (Argentinian), Musical Bridges Around the World (cross-cultural), and Urban 15 (modern). Other cultural opportunities include the San Antonio Symphony, Ballet San Antonio, San Antonio Metropolitan Ballet, Alamo City Men's Choral, San Antonio Choral Society, San Antonio Mastersingers, SOL Chamber Ensemble, The Texas Bach Choir, San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble, Magic Children's Theatre, and the San Antonio Jazz Orchestra at the Blue Star Brewery. In April, San Antonio celebrates Fiesta San Antonio!, which is an 11-day multicultural celebration with more than 100 events. The San Antonio Summer Art & Jazz Festival and the Texas FolkLife Festival are in June.

**Neighborhoods**

Downtown San Antonio has various residential options available, such as new condominiums, townhouses, apartment buildings, lofts, and apartments in converted historic buildings. San Antonio completely surrounds 10 smaller cities, including Alamo Heights. San Antonio has 27 locally designated historic districts. The King William Historic District was settled by German immigrants who named the area for the King of Prussia at the time. The neighborhood contains large houses designed in Greek Revival, Victorian, and Italianate styles. Covering 100 city blocks, the Monte Vista Historic District is characterized by large and modest homes from the early 20th century in Classical Revival, Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Queen Anne, and Craftsman styles. Tobin Hill Historic District contains homes in Craftsman bungalow, Colonial Revival, English, Tudor, and foursquare styles. The architecture in Olmos Park Terrace, an early 20th century sub-division, consists primarily of English stone cottages and minimal traditional style homes.

Stone Oak is a master-planned community that contains offices, shopping areas, churches, schools, banks, restaurants, and health care facilities. Development began in the 1980s, and new construction is still available. Housing options include apartments and single-family homes.

**Parks and Recreation**

Amenities at the 234 San Antonio parks include 52 community centers, 27 swimming pools, 155 playgrounds, 10 skate parks, 3 dog parks, and 3 disc golf courses, in addition to ball fields and courts. The San Antonio River Walk is a tree-lined linear park that winds along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath downtown San Antonio.