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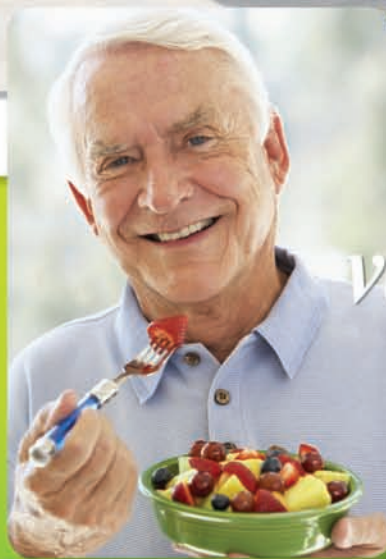
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FOR INFORMATION The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 602 E. Commerce, San Antonio, TX 78205, 210-229-2100, Fax 210-472-2343, rperez@sachamber.org, www.sachamber.org

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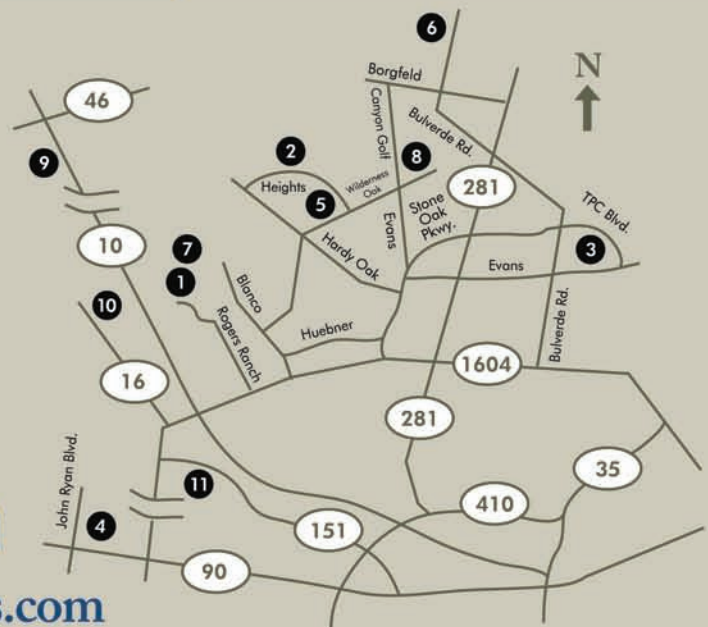


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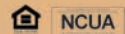
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Welcome

Letter From The Chamber President

I want to be one of the first to say “Welcome” and “Bienvenidos” to San Antonio. Growing up in this city, and watching it develop into such a great place to live, work and play, has been exciting for me. Looking ahead, I see even more great things on San Antonio’s horizon.

This Relocation Guide and Business Directory is one of the premier publications produced by The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and I hope you will find the information helpful in your relocation. We prepared it to provide information that will make your move smooth and successful. Here, you will find valuable information about our local neighborhoods, relocation and real estate experts, our local schools and universities, health care facilities, shopping and much more.

Within these pages, you will see why so many people choose to make San Antonio their home. Recently, the Alamo City was named one of the top 10 cities for young adults (*Forbes Magazine*, Dec. 2010). Additionally, San Antonio is ranked as one of the best cities in the world to do business in (Brookings Institute, Sept. 2010), and we are considered one of the most promising cities to live and invest in for tomorrow (Trulia.com, Dec. 2010).

If you are seeking a new job, you will find that our top industries continue to see growth and job creation. Our leading industries include health care and biosciences, manufacturing, education, hospitality and



tourism, information technology and financial services. This is also a great city to start a new business, and you will find many resources in the business listing that will help with your new endeavor.

If you are a sports enthusiast, we have state-of-the-art facilities for families, youth sporting events, and do not forget to cheer on our four-time NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs.

As a resident of San Antonio, you have access to unparalleled tourism resources and attractions such as the historic Alamo and expanded River Walk, world-class golf courses, renowned family attractions like SeaWorld and Six Flags Fiesta Texas and luxurious spas. We are also experiencing a surge in arts and cultural offerings. The City of San Antonio is renovating fine arts

facilities, expanding museums and adding new parks and hike/bike trails.

Finally, I hope you engage in The Chamber’s many events that are designed to connect you with San Antonio’s decision makers in order to establish a strong business network that will help you succeed. The Chamber wants to become your Chamber, and we are a ready resource when it comes to economic development, business advocacy, government relations and education/workforce development.

Take care,

Richard Perez
President and CEO
The Greater San Antonio
Chamber of Commerce

Looking ahead,
I see even more
great things on
San Antonio’s
horizon.



By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

San Antonio: One of America's Great Cities

Comprised of a strong community of citizens committed to working together intelligently and passionately, San Antonio is well on its way to becoming a model city of growth and development for the nation, and the world.

Texas is now recognized as one of the last states to fall into the recession — and one of the first leading the way out, relatively unscathed.

Signs are everywhere that Texas' economy is booming — and attractive to growing businesses. Its low taxes, fair legal system, educated workforce and predictable, pro-business regulatory climate make the Lone Star State one of the best places in the United States to live, work and raise a family. Not surprisingly, it now has more Fortune 500 companies than any other state. (About 70 percent of all jobs created in the nation between November 2007 and November 2008 were in Texas.)

San Antonio is a key reason why the Lone Star State is doing so well. *Forbes* identified our city as one of the country's most recession-proof cities (April 2008). And The Brookings Institute named San

Antonio one of the strongest-performing economies among the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the nation (December 2010). They also ranked it No. 1 in overall performance based on employment, unemployment, gross metropolitan product and housing prices.

Specifically, San Antonio weathered the recession for three reasons: its diversified economy, strong military investment and expanding manufacturing base.

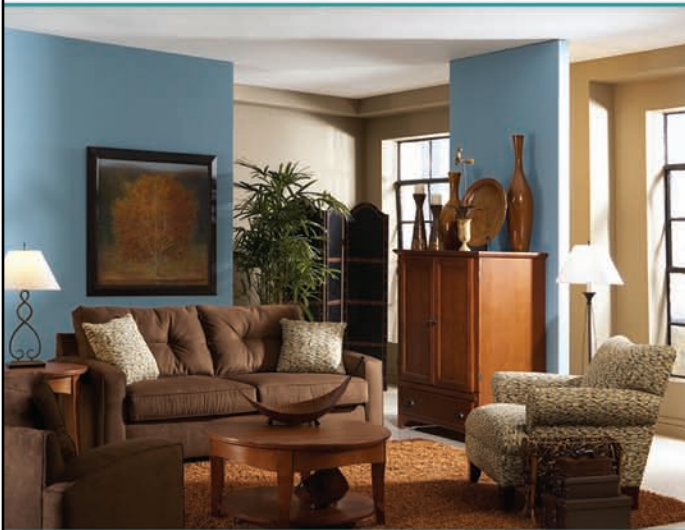
*Forbes identified
our city as one of
the country's most
recession-proof cities.*

Someone who understands what our city offers to relocating and expanding businesses is Mario Hernandez, president of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (www.sanantonioedf.com).

"For a long time the city played a backseat to other major Texas metro areas," he recalls. "We had to fight to get our economy growing to make sure we were seeing a better wage level and quality of life for our people."

Today, our community a successful economic delivery system that unites the city, county, utilities, educational system and other community partners to "do what it takes" to ensure significant opportunities aren't missed to attract companies to town. "We stay focused; it's a team effort and is less about who gets credit and more about continuing our success."

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Among all the time-tested, pro-business advantages the city offers, executives in corporate America "appreciate our ability to hold down costs, and they appreciate our predictability," sums up Hernandez. "In good times and bad, they know labor will be here due to our demographics, and our cost of living will be 5 to 10 percent below the national average. We're prepared for the future with our infrastructure, too; we have tremendous reserve capacities. We own our own municipal utilities, so it's tough to beat our power rates."

Like Texas, San Antonio's economy is well balanced. The city is known for its diverse, high-tech economy populated by many growth sectors, particularly in the areas of health care/biosciences (200,000+ jobs), manufacturing, IT and cybersecurity, government/military medicine (40,000+ BRAC-related jobs alone), and back office services. It also has a huge higher education network, annually enrolling well over 100,000 students at area colleges, universities and other post high school institutions.

**"In good times and bad,
they know labor will be here
due to our demographics,
and our cost of living will be
5 to 10 percent below the
national average."**

In fiscal 2010 the city of San Antonio's International and Economic Development Department worked on 18 projects creating 4,353 new jobs (including those by Nationwide, Kohl's and Allstate) and helping retain 6,053 jobs. Using incentives totaling about \$24 million, the city also attracted \$519 million in private investment.

Success stories abound. The financial services sector nationwide is rippling with consolidations and acquisitions due to the recession. However, San Antonio isn't losing employees in this industry — it's gaining jobs in this sector every day.

On the health front, InCube Labs chose San Antonio for its new bioscience incubator, expected to create about 400 jobs and to infuse about \$100 million into the local economy over the next 10 years. Medtronic Inc. opened a facility in 2010 for its diabetes business unit. It will create nearly 1,400 new jobs over a five-year period and generate more than \$23 million in capital investment.

Then there's Toyota. Even though the automobile industry has experienced great challenges in the past few years, you wouldn't know it in this town. After opening its new San Antonio plant in 2006 with one truck line, Toyota added another truck line at the plant in 2010. Also 1,500 new jobs were created by Toyota and its suppliers, bringing the total number of people working at Toyota's local campus to 5,000.

Bexar County Investments

San Antonio is the county seat of Bexar (pronounced “bear”) County, the 19th-most-populous county in the United States. A few years back, the municipality began a new round of investments — totaling almost \$2 billion — designed to transform the region on many fronts.

In sum, Bexar County is spending nearly \$900 million on health care; \$500 million on flood control infrastructure (a 10-year effort); and more than \$400 million on the arts, amateur athletic facilities, the San Antonio River and community arenas. (About \$415 million of those monies come from county visitor taxes and will be leveraged by another \$300 million county project partners.)

Many stages of the fast-tracked, more high-profile projects are completed or well under way. For example, the San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP) is a \$358.3 million ongoing investment funded by Bexar County in partnership with the city of San Antonio and other public and private groups. When finished, it will be a 13-mile, continuous connection between Brackenridge Park in the north to Mission Espada to the south.

SARIP is comprised of four distinctive reaches: The Museum Reach (partially completed), a four-mile segment of the river from Hildebrand Avenue south to Lexington Avenue; the Downtown Reach (completed 2002), a segment of the original River Walk from Lexington Avenue to Houston Street; the Eagleland, a one-mile segment from South Alamo to Lonestar Boulevard; and the Mission Reach, an eight-mile section of the river extending from Lonestar Boulevard south to Loop 410 South. All phases of SARIP will be finished by 2014.

These river enhancement efforts not only link communities by water, but also encourage millions of dollars in new economic development destined to make the San Antonio River region an even more popular place for leisure and business activities.

County funds also are helping to construct up to 13 amateur sports facilities and a dedicated performing arts venue, as well as to execute future improvements to the AT&T Center and the Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum. About \$4 million in county monies helped give birth to the new Dolph and Janey Briscoe Western Art Museum, opening in 2011 on the banks of the River Walk.

The county's nearly \$900 million public health program, “Target 2012,” will build a state-of-the-art emergency center and 10-story trauma facility at University Hospital (one of just 15



Level I trauma centers in Texas). It also will fund a six-story outpatient clinical services building at University Health Center-Downtown. This is the first major investment in the county's hospital system since its inception in 1968. It complements the military's \$800 million investment in the San Antonio Military Medical Center and other medical projects that are part of the new \$2 billion in BRAC activity.

"By investing our own dollars in our own local projects, we not only stimulate the local economy, but also position this community to thrive in the future," said County Judge Nelson Wolff in a speech about the county's future. "And when the rest of the nation starts to pick itself up off the mat after this economic slip, Bexar County and San Antonio will be a much more desirable place to live, raise a family and operate a business."

Judge Wolff is a former Chamber chairman and San Antonio mayor and served in the State House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. A prolific writer, his most recent book — *Transforming San Antonio: An Insider's View of the AT&T Center, Toyota, the PGA Village and the River Walk Extension* — is an excellent read for those new to town. It explores four recent major developments spurring today's remarkable urban renewal and growth in the city.

A Dynamic City Envisions Its Future

San Antonio desires to retain its small-town friendliness and outstanding quality of life as it moves from becoming the seventh-largest U.S. metro to a more modern global city. But how can this be done in the most creative, efficient and compassionate ways possible? The power of "crowd sourcing" ideas may hold the answer.

Last September, San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro launched an innovative "visioning" project for the city called "SA2020" to secure public feedback about the future of San Antonio. The process of opinion-gathering connects the mayor and other community leaders with thousands of citizens during public one-day meetings (view at www.NOWCastSA.org) as well as through a survey on its website (www.sa2020.org) and interactions via Facebook (www.facebook.com/SA2020) and Twitter (@SanAntonio2020).

"We saw ... San Antonians from every walk of life taking time out of their busy lives to say what they love about San Antonio and what they want to see improve," said Mayor Castro about the first of many public forums scheduled for 2010 and 2011. "That is a powerful statement that will propel us throughout this six-month process to dream about what kind of city we want to be by the end of the decade."

Suggestions shared by citizens cover a broad range of categories, from health and fitness, community safety, government accountability,

family life, and education to arts and culture, natural resources, environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness, and neighborhoods. Some specific ideas suggest that we:

- Become a multi-modal city, perhaps with a new light rail system or enhanced bus system.
- Aggressively strengthen our education system at all levels to increase high school graduation rates.
- Promote a "green roof" water-saving initiative.
- Embrace new public/private solar energy projects.
- Create a civic orchestra.
- Form relationships between the city and faith-based nonprofits.
- Add more safe bicycle routes.

And the list goes on.

Former GM Chairman and Chairman Emeritus of AT&T Inc. Ed Whitacre lauded San Antonio's diverse economy, history and quality of life — the "building blocks" to a greater future — during one SA2020 meeting. (Whitacre served as chairman/CEO of AT&T when the firm was headquartered here.) "Visions are not just for organizations that are struggling," he said. "They're also for those that are working to improve or trying to set the pace for others. I put San Antonio in that category. We have so much going for us right now."

In the past year or so the city of San Antonio embraced more projects enhancing San Antonio on a variety of fronts. For example, a little-used city warehouse is now "Café College," an innovative, one-stop counseling and advising center open to every San Antonian of any age and neighborhood. The Mentoring Matters to the Mayor initiative has been expanded to include more local businesses and professionals who mentor youths at risk of dropping out of high school. A new Mayor's Fitness Council promotes healthier living to reduce the city's high incidence of diabetes and other maladies, including obesity in both children and adults.

The city's urban core and its East Side are being revamped via the encouragement of new development to make those areas more safe and vibrant to residents and visitors alike. The number of bicycle lanes in downtown and around the city are on the rise, too; a first-ever bike-share program is under way. Those efforts led to San Antonio being named a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

*"We saw ...
San Antonians from
every walk of life
taking time out of their
busy lives to say what
they love about San
Antonio and what they
want to see improve."*



The municipal-owned electric utility, CPS Energy, created a one-of-a-kind partnership with San Antonio's flagship public university to jumpstart local green energy and conservation technology research. This 10-year, \$50 million agreement created the Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute (SERI) at the University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA).

UTSA, the third-largest component in the UT System, has been one of the state's fastest-growing public universities for much of the last decade. Its "UTSA 2016" strategic plan is now rapidly moving the school toward classification as a Tier One institution — and toward national and international recognition as a leader in research, education and public service. (UTSA's Institute for Economic Development estimates that a Tier One university in San Antonio could provide more than \$2.5 billion in additional dollars to our local economy and 41,000 more jobs; 9,500 of those would be the direct result of increased research.)

"In 2010, San Antonio logged much progress," notes Mayor Castro. "By continuing to engage our citizenry and by working together intelligently and passionately, we are well on our way to becoming one of the great cities in America."

The Chamber: Building San Antonio One Generation at a Time

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce has served as the community's most powerful and vocal community partner for almost 120 years.

"Since our inception, we've made great things happen," says Richard Perez, The Chamber's president and CEO. "We've helped bring new projects here, starting with those supporting the military. The first military air flight took place 100 years ago in San Antonio. We understand how important the military is to our community, and our nation." For example, it was The Chamber which secured the land for the region's Kelley, Lackland and Randolph military bases, he notes.

Over the past few decades, The Chamber has been involved in numerous high-profile projects, including the building of Freeman Coliseum, home to our world-famous San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo and a popular events venue; the development of the internationally renowned River Walk, the centerpiece of the city's vibrant tourism industry; the production of HemisFair '68, the first officially designated world's fair held in the southwestern United States; the relocation of Trinity University to San Antonio in the 1940s; and the development of

"Hard work and being friendly is in our DNA."

a strong biosciences beachhead at UT Health Science Center-San Antonio.

San Antonio's leaders at The Chamber and at the county and city levels, in conjunction with business owners and the universities, truly work together to attract and retain new companies, notes Perez. "Some other major cities don't have those same relationships, that synergy. There is

community organization that helps businesses of all sizes thrive through networking and support. The Chamber also works both publicly and "behind the scenes" to support issues that lift up the entire community, such as education, energy and water, to name a few.

The Alamo City's population reflects what the rest of the nation will look like in 30 years, explains Perez, with its broad mix of many ethnicities and its representation of peoples from worldwide cultures. "We're in the future already! So whatever market a company wants to penetrate, they can find it here. That's another reason why we're a great proving ground for products and services. We're also a bilingual, young community; we have many people being trained in the jobs of tomorrow. Add in our cost of living, low utility and housing costs, and excellent climate, and you come up with a formula for success."



a sense of purpose that everyone is investing in the community for the greater good. And maybe that's a reflection of San Antonio's culture; a family culture. We have a genuine love for our community, and for each other. Hard work and being friendly is in our DNA. And that's truly the secret to our success in economic development ... and doing the types of things that needed to be done to improve this city."

Today's Chamber is 1,800 businesses strong. People join for a variety of different reasons, but they all come for the same outstanding benefits of membership: to become part of a plugged-in

San Antonio has a great story to tell, continues Perez. "Everyone is working together — unscripted — to make our city a better place to live, work and be educated. We're one of the best-kept secrets in the nation and the world. I would invite individuals looking for an opportunity to start a business or find a job to give our city a hard look. The ground is very fertile here, and we need people to plant their seeds and help us grow them. I am convinced they'll be happy with the new life they'll lead in San Antonio, Texas."



Economic Profile

The numbers don't lie: San Antonio has a lot going for it.
And the nation is taking notice.

Population (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

San Antonio

2000	1,144,646
2009 est.	1,373,668
2000-2009 growth	20.008%

Bexar County

2000	1,392,931
2009	1,651,448
2000-2009 growth	18.559%

CLIMATE (Source: National Climatic Data Center)

MONTH	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		RELATIVE HUMIDITY	SUNSHINE	WIND
	AVG. HIGH (°F)	AVG. LOW (°F)	AVG. DAYS 90°F +	AVG. DAYS - 32°F	RAIN (IN.)	SNOW (IN.)	AVG. 3 P.M.	PERCENT POSSIBLE	AVG. MPH/ DIRECTION
January	60.8	37.9	—	8	1.71	0.5	51	47	10.4/NE
February	65.7	41.3	—	5	1.81	0.2	48	51	11.5/NE
March	76.5	49.7	1	1	1.52	—	45	57	11.5/SE
April	80.3	58.4	2	—	2.50	—	48	56	11.5/SE
May	85.3	65.7	9	—	4.22	—	51	56	11.5/SE
June	91.8	72.6	22	—	3.81	—	48	67	11.5/SE
July	95.0	75.0	28	—	2.16	—	43	75	10.4/SE
August	95.3	74.5	28	—	2.54	—	42	74	10.4/SE
September	89.3	69.2	18	—	3.41	—	47	67	9.2/SE
October	81.7	58.8	4	—	3.17	—	46	64	10.4/SE
November	71.9	48.8	—	2	2.62	—	48	54	10.4/S
December	63.5	40.8	—	6	1.51	—	49	48	10.4/NE
Annual	79.5	57.7	113	22	30.98	0.7	47	60	10.8/SE

Major Employers (Source: San Antonio Economic Development Foundation)

Company	Business	Employed in S.A.
Fort Sam Houston – U.S. Army	Military	30,793
Lackland Air Force Base	Military	28,100
USAA	Financial/Insurance	14,852
H-E-B Food Stores	Supermarket Chain	14,588
Northside I.S.D.	School District	12,597
Randolph Air Force Base	Military	10,700
North East I.S.D.	School District	10,223
City of San Antonio	Government	9,000
San Antonio I.S.D.	School District	7,581
Methodist Healthcare System	Health Care	7,013
University of Texas Health Science Center	Health Care Institute	5,985
Baptist Health System	Health Care	5,939
AT&T	Telecommunications	5,000
Bexar County	Government	4,765
JPMorgan Chase	Contact Center/Banking	4,300
Wells Fargo	Contact Center/Banking	4,300
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q	Fast Food Chain	4,190
Cullen / Frost Bankers	Financial	3,982
Valero Energy	Oil Refinery/Gasoline	3,777
Christus Santa Rosa	Health Care	3,721
CPS Energy	Energy	3,628
Brooks City-Base	Military	3,406
Southwest Research Institute	Physical Sciences Research	3,300
Harland Clarke	Check Printing	3,100
Citibank	U.S. Customer Service Center	3,000
SeaWorld of Texas	Amusement Park	3,000
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	Amusement Park	3,000
Judson I.S.D.	Education	2,997
Clear Channel Communications, Inc.	Media	2,800
South Texas Veterans Health Care System	Health Care	2,800
Alamo Colleges	Education	2,678
U.S. Postal Services	Central District Office	2,600



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► Measuring Up

San Antonio
National Recognition

No. 1

Best Overall Experience for Visitors
(TravelsAmerica, 2010)

No. 2

Best City to Find a Job
(Newgeography.com, 2010)

No. 5

Among Top 100 Places to Live
(RelocateAmerica.com, 2010)

No. 5

**Among Top 10 Cities Poised for
Economic Recovery**
(RelocateAmerica.com, 2010)

No. 5

**Among Top 10 Best Cities for
Recession Recovery**
(Forbes, 2010)

No. 14

**Among Top 25 Best-Performing
Large Metros**
(Milken Institute, 2010)

No. 2

Fastest-Recovering City in America
(Forbes, 2009)

**Among Best Cities for
New College Grads**
(Bloomberg Businessweek, 2010)

**Among Top 20 Strongest
Performing Metro Areas**
(Brookings Institution, 2010)

**Highest numeric population increase
among Texas cities, 2008-2009**
(U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

Among Most Recession-Proof Cities
(Forbes, 2010)

► **CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN SAN ANTONIO** (Source: San Antonio Economic Development Foundation)

COMPANY	BUSINESS	EMPLOYED IN S.A.
USAA	Financial/Insurance	14,852
H-E-B Food Stores	Supermarket Chain	14,588
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q	Fast Food Chain	4,190
Frost	Financial Services	3,982
Valero Energy	Oil Refinery/Gasoline	3,777
Southwest Research Institute	Applied Research	3,300
Harland Clarke	Check Printing	3,100
Clear Channel Communications, Inc.	Media	2,800
Cardell Cabinetry	Custom Cabinets	2,429
Rackspace	IT Managed Hosting	2,412
Kinetic Concepts, Inc.	Specialty Medical Products	2,156
Zachry Holding, Inc.	General Contractors	2,000
NuStar Energy L.P.	Petroleum Pipeline/Terminal Operators	1,600
American Funds	Financial	1,500
Taco Cabana	Fast Food Chain	1,500
CCC Group, Inc.	General Contractors	900
DPT Laboratories	Pharmaceuticals/Cosmetics	800
Tesoro	Petroleum	800
Whataburger	Fast Food Headquarters	700
Southwest Business Corporation	Financial/Insurance	675
Broadway Bank	Financial	630

► **Cost of Living**

San Antonio Metro

Composite	93.9
Grocery Items	84.4
Housing	90.8
Utilities.....	81.6
Transportation	101.3
Health Care	100.4
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	100.7

(U.S. average for all indices is 100.
Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 3Q2010.)

Taxes (Sources: Texas State Comptroller; Tax Foundation)

State

Sales	6.25%
Individual Income	—
Corporate Income	—

San Antonio Sales Tax

	LOCAL RATE	TOTAL RATE
San Antonio	.011250	.081250
San Antonio ATD	.002500	
San Antonio MTA.....	.005000	



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By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Military City USA

San Antonio, renowned as one of the country's most vital epicenters for the Armed Forces, has certainly earned the right to its nickname "Military City USA."

For decades the military's influence has played a role in shaping the San Antonio region's rapid growth in terms of population, infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies and booming economic development.

The reason for this phenomenal success is directly linked to city's numerous advanced military installations. Each year these facilities provide a wide range of services to thousands of recruits and enlisted personnel alike, ranging from basic training and modern technical instruction to medical training, education and research. That explains why it's commonplace to see a multitude of uniformed soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors strolling the River Walk and dining in area restaurants.

The military's presence is even more substantial when you include those veterans who actually live and work here. This proud community, one of the largest of its kind in the country, includes an estimated 48,000 military personnel (plus their family members) who have chosen "The Alamo City" as their retirement home. Most of them have experienced life in cities all over the world,

so their decision to reside in San Antonio is a testament to our amazing quality of life.

Each year these veterans collectively receive payments of more than \$1.2 billion annually and are responsible for an economic impact of well over \$2.1 billion. A

The military's presence is even more substantial when you include those veterans who actually live and work here.

significant portion of their monies flow back into the community to support the jobs of over 26,000 people. More importantly, the veterans' experiences and honorable "military values" are welcome additions to the

diverse cultural tapestry found in America's seventh-largest city.

However, in 2011 the military's role and presence will take a quantum leap forward.

Thanks to BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Round), a Department of Defense (DoD) law affecting communities nationwide, San Antonio is now on a "game changing" path destined to increase its visibility and stature on both national and global stages.

BRAC: A "Transformational" Project

For the past few years an array of multi-million-dollar BRAC construction projects, hidden from the public view, have quietly been brought to life at local bases.

But by the end of 2011, civilians and military personnel alike throughout the region will definitely feel the multi-faceted, seismic impact of BRAC — and applaud its ability to lessen the economic ramifications of the "Great Recession" in our city for years to come. Among the regional industry sectors expected to be energized by BRAC are health care, bioscience, health



care education, management support, communications, intelligence, security and technology.

In 2005 the DoD received Congressional authorization to implement BRAC — a law meant to reduce waste, save money, free up resources to recruit quality people, and modernize military equipment and infrastructure nationally. Of about 200 BRAC-related recommendations, 10 percent impacted San Antonio — and every one of its military installations.

Recognized as the largest economic development event in the city's history, BRAC will

2011, these facilities will share the new moniker of "Joint Base San Antonio" as well as a 40,000-acre mega-installation employing an on-base workforce of 73,000.

During this process over 20,000 federal employees (including paid military trainees) will move from, to, or between San Antonio bases. Of these federal jobs leaving town as a result of BRAC, the most notable will be the nearly 2,200 DoD military and civilian personnel jobs departing Brooks City-Base for out-of-state locations. Likewise, Lackland AFB will lose 1,439

students, and the remaining 8,500 will be filled by DoD military and civilian personnel. San Antonio's bases will also dramatically increase their student populations by training or graduating over 132,000 personnel each year.

By mid-September 2011 all units moving to San Antonio must be here, housed and operational. These new employees will bring with them an estimated 10,000 family members as well. Due to this tremendous influx of people from around the nation — and the growing base of military retirees — it's estimated that BRAC will vector an infusion of billions of dollars each year into the local economy thanks to the purchasing of homes and general living expenses by new residents.

Recognized as the largest economic development event in the city's history, BRAC will revolutionize military medical care, training and research.

revolutionize military medical care, training and research. Without a doubt, its physical, economic and cultural footprints on the community will be nothing less than transformational.

How will BRAC impact San Antonio's installations? Basically, it will consolidate and foundationally change the support functions at Fort Sam Houston Army Base, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base. After October

personnel primarily due to the consolidation of Level 1 trauma at Brooke Army Medical Center. Randolph AFB will gain 233 personnel, but an additional 509 personnel from other missions will be leaving the community.

To more than offset this loss, Fort Sam Houston — the major recipient of BRAC funding — will add about 12,500 new jobs. Nearly 4,000 of those will be filled by new military

Economic Development Boom With No End in Sight

By the close of 2011 BRAC will have gifted San Antonio with an estimated \$8.3 billion worth of economic development and employed over 46,000 people to complete this mammoth undertaking.

On the construction side alone, between 2006 and 2011, about \$1.75 billion will have been spent on 78 major projects totaling about 6 million square feet of space (that's equal to about 30 Walmart Supercenters). At the peak of construction in 2009, nearly 2,200 workers were employed on a daily basis.

But that's just the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

As a result of the new federal jobs and increases in the military trainee population, once

executed, BRAC will continue to add to the San Antonio economy by increasing consumer and operational expenditures by \$1.6 billion annually. That means the estimated total economic impact of DoD in San Antonio will be at least \$13.3 billion per year, according to military reports.

More good news: After 2011, BRAC is expected to attract additional federal, state and city investments to San Antonio. For example, over and above BRAC spending, the DoD currently is planning to spend another \$1.37 billion on construction here between 2006 and 2013, bringing the total amount of construction/renovation projects at military bases to over \$3.12 billion.

From 2012 onward, an additional BRAC-related 6,000 workers are expected to be hired. Their jobs will have an additional economic impact of \$621 million and increase local earnings by more \$500 million.

Local Operations to Make Generational Global Impacts

Construction at Fort Sam Houston, the city's oldest military base, is projected to total about \$2.8 billion to accommodate new strategic facilities built there.

The "crown jewel" of the base is the new Medical Education Training Campus (METC), which has consolidated military medical and training for all branches of the military. It is the largest center of its kind in the world and will have cost over \$1.2 billion to build and equip.

Encompassing 2 million square feet, at full ramp-up METC will serve more than 24,500 students each year, be visited by about 9,000 students each day, and employ over 1,400 staff and faculty. Over 100 courses will be taught. The 11 new facilities on the campus include classrooms, labs and other training facilities, dorms, and administrative offices. Its \$28.7 million, 80,000-square-foot dining facility (one of the largest in the entire U.S. military) features 2,016 seats and can serve up to 4,800 people during a 90-minute period. That's important, considering METC's dormitories will be feeding thousands of hungry airmen, sailors and soldiers.

"Everywhere our nation sends our finest to serve, our graduates will be there with them serving as a force for good because of the work done here," said Rear Adm. William R. Kiser, METC's first commandant, during the facility's grand opening ceremonies last June. "We will provide America's uniformed services the finest medics, the finest techs, the finest hospital corpsmen who are well-trained, capable and

Field training will continue at the 28,000-acre Camp Bullis, a training site located in northwest San Antonio.

ready to support the missions of our country anywhere around the globe."

"The souls that will walk the hallowed halls of this institution will make a difference in faraway lands for centuries to come," added Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lambing, formerly the Air Education and Training Command chief of the enlisted medical force.

By 2015 "every medic and corpsman under the grade of E-5 will have been educated at METC," he explained. Its curriculum and education "will preserve each service's identity while creating an environment where enlisted professionals can learn from their counterparts in sister

services." In addition to teaching our troops, METC will provide medical training to foreign nationals as well.

Field training will continue at the 28,000-acre Camp Bullis, a training site located in northwest San Antonio. The presence of (and improvements at) this camp was a critical factor in the decision to consolidate enlisted medical training to San Antonio. Another 63,000 square feet of space is being developed as a field training complex for METC students. This is in addition to the new 201,000-square-foot Armed Forces Reserve Center, designed to provide permanent facilities for 23 Army Reserve units and four Texas Army National Guard units.

Another significant Fort Sam Houston BRAC project is the establishment of the 502nd Air Base Wing. Its new \$7.4 million, 26,000-square-foot headquarters, sitting on 5.5 acres, is expected to be occupied this July. The wing consists of three major support elements: the Air Force's 802nd Mission Support Group at Lackland and the 902nd MSG at Randolph AFB, plus the Fort Sam Houston Garrison (renamed the 502nd MSG).

"We began working on these great changes to our military community in 2005, and every one of us has been touched by the decisions made [BRAC]," said Dr. Clarence Maxwell, deputy director of the San Antonio Joint Program Office



“Everywhere our nation sends our finest to serve, our graduates will be there with them serving as a force for good because of the work done here,” said Rear Adm. William R. Kiser.



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at Randolph Air Force Base upon the opening of the facility. “This may be a new building, but it will perform an age-old mission of sustaining our military and sustaining our national defense.”

The expansion and renovation of Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston includes the addition of a seven-story tower, adding 760,000 square feet to the existing facility and giving the medical center a total of roughly 2 million square feet of space. It will house a Level 1 trauma center, operating rooms, clinical and administrative space, and an extension of BAMC's internationally acclaimed burn center (the only burn center within the DoD verified by the American Burn Association).

When construction is complete this year, BAMC will be renamed the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) North and will absorb the inpatient care services formerly provided by Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB. BAMC's staff will increase from 5,500 to about 7,500 with the transfer of functions from Wilford Hall and elsewhere, and its number of hospital beds will rise from 275 to 425. Wilford Hall will then be transformed into one of the world's largest ambulatory surgical centers and will continue to operate as a fully accredited emergency department.



Other Notable BRAC Projects

In 2000 Congress authorized the creation of Brooks City-Base (BCB), a collaborative corporate community designed to enhance Air Force missions at the base and encourage future development in southeast San Antonio. Two years later, when the Air Force conveyed the entire Brooks Air Force Base property to the Brooks Development Authority (BDA), it created the nation's first (and only) city-base.

Today BCB is San Antonio's premier center for bioscience, academic, environmental and technical research. Located on 1,246 acres, over 300 acres are now available for immediate development. BCB includes 2 million square feet of lab space, office space, light industrial facilities and recreation/fitness areas available to companies looking to re-locate or locate here. Currently more than \$170 million in projects are being planned or constructed here.

Since the campus is a former military base, those tenants seeking a higher security buffer will appreciate its perimeter fencing with one 24-hour observed entry point, the additional electronic security measures incorporated within most buildings, and the ability to provide enhanced security as needed — all aspects not found at a "typical" R&D center.

Not surprisingly, in 2009 *Expansion Solutions Magazine* recognized BCB as one of the nation's top five emerging biotech centers. When

2,000-some personnel vacate the premises this year due to BRAC changes, more valuable space will open up for new and expanding businesses.

The 150,000-square-foot Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research (located next to Brooke Army Medical Center) is another new development at Fort Sam Houston. It brings together tri-service research teams to enhance the delivery of combat casualty care.

Not far away, the 181,000-square-foot Tri-Service Research Laboratory houses researchers who study the health and safety effects of exposure to a variety of "stressors" in the field.

In addition, about two dozen historic structures on Fort Sam Houston (many 75 to 100 years old) are being refurbished to prepare for administrative relocations associated with BRAC and other actions. These remodeled buildings will provide office space for several realigned commands and agencies, including the Army's Installation Management Command, Army Environmental Command, and the Network Enterprise Technology Command.

One notable Lackland AFB construction project is the new 40,000-square-foot Intelligence Operations Center. It will support units monitoring Air Force communications and computer systems and deploy personnel worldwide involved with telecommunications and computer security programs.

Many other BRAC-funded projects will be completed on San Antonio military bases in 2011. While diverse in nature, they all are part of the grand plan to consolidate, strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the entire U.S. Armed Forces for this generation, and the next.





CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE

By San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Getting Ahead When You Arrive in San Antonio

The metro area that San Antonio sits in is the second fastest growing in the nation and demographers have predicted it will continue to see impressive expansion. As someone who is new, or returning to our city, you are naturally looking for ways to make the very best of your new position or new company. The keys to your success in San Antonio are hidden in our business culture that is rooted in all that makes San Antonio an attractive place to work and build a business.

You will quickly discover that the glue that keeps our city's leadership on track and working together for a bright future is strong relationships. Although there are strong political party bases, the leadership in this region know that to get things done, you must work together.

"Our city has the unique ability to sit down at the table to talk through our differences to find mutually beneficial solutions for any challenge we face," Chamber President and CEO Richard Perez said. "San Antonians understand that we need to come together for a common vision to realize our dream of becoming America's greatest city."

Perez went on to say that to understand your new city, you should get involved in your neighborhoods, in schools and in the community.

This culture was developed from a culture that treasures family. In fact you will find that when you live in San Antonio, you are considered part of our larger family. Just the simple act of meeting your neighbors,

your children's teachers and joining a church will immediately pay benefits as you build a new network here.

Finding Opportunity at The Chamber

Another big key to success is to join a business association, like The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Since 1894, The Chamber, a nonprofit membership organization for businesses of any size, has been working to grow San Antonio in a way that makes it a better and better place to live and work.

The Greater San Antonio Chamber has a unique role in San Antonio. Just to clarify, The Chamber does not consist of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Instead, The San Antonio Convention and Visitor's Bureau, which is one of the nation's finest, is a separate organization that is managed and funded through the City of San Antonio. The Chamber's sole role is to build a pro-business culture, to provide valuable events that will help your business grow and to advocate for pro-business legislation at the local, regional, state and federal level. And The Greater San Antonio Chamber is

*San Antonians
understand
that we need to
come together for
a common vision
to realize
our dream of
becoming America's
greatest city.*



recognized by the US Chamber of Commerce as one of the nation's finest for its efforts.

Chamber Events

To get involved in the chamber is easy. Most of our networking events are open to everyone, and you can always join us at our lunches featuring key elected leaders like the mayor, county judge, state senators and representatives, congressmen and senators who represent Texas, and top CEOs. You can also take advantage of our monthly networking events such as the Greater Connections Mixers, Build Your Business Breakfast and Leads Explosions to find prospects and make connections.

"We consider it a successful event when someone can tell us that they found a new customer, a supplier or made a business connection of some kind at a Chamber event," Tuesday Knight, Chamber Vice President for Membership said.

Finding out about the next Chamber event is simple, just register to receive our weekly newsletters, visit our website, www.sachamber.org or

sign up directly for a specific event any day, on our website.

Chamber Committees

In addition to the many monthly opportunities to build your business network, you can get involved in one of our committees. The Chamber has committees in four areas that may be of interest to you, Economic Development, Education, Membership/Marketing/Communications and Public Affairs. You can get involved in as many as you would like.

Following is a list of current committees. You can contact The Chamber at 210-229-2100 or visit the website at www.sachamber.org for an updated list of everything available.

Economic Development

Aerospace Committee

Provides a forum for educating the community on issues of importance to the aerospace industry. This committee influences public policy at the local, state and federal levels.

Celebrate America's Military Committee

Coordinates the annual salute to the military, which occurs in November and involves more than a dozen events. CAM is recognized as one of the nation's largest community-wide celebrations of its kind, involving 200,000 people over a 10-day period.

Health Care and Bioscience Committee

Educates the community on the importance and impact of the local health care & bioscience industry.

Information Technology Committee

Leads the implementation of San Antonio Area Cyber Action Plan to further establish and promote cyber education, workforce development, cyber research and development, and collaborations among local cyber government, business and academic entities.

Military Affairs Committee

Maintains a strong relationship with local military representatives and works to ensure the military receives the support it needs from

the local business community. The committee partners with the City's Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF).

Military Special Events Committee

Hosts receptions for visiting military and civic leaders and related organizations. Committee members pay an annual fee, in addition to their Chamber dues, to participate.

Education

Education & Workforce Development Council

Establishes relationships with educational entities to help shape the advocacy efforts of The Chamber; enlists and promotes education volunteerism and workforce development initiatives to ensure that San Antonio has a skilled workforce for the future.

Membership/Marketing/Communications

Chairman's Club Committee

Recruits businesses to join The Chamber by generating leads for Chamber staff. Club

members meet with Chamber staff, receive public recognition and earn valuable prizes.

Membership Campaign Committee

Helps with The Chamber's membership campaign, including working with the marketing and communications team to design a fun, exciting opportunity to get to know San Antonio's business leaders.

Ambassadors Committee

Provides ceremonial assistance to members at commemorative events such as grand openings, ground breakings and re-dedication ceremonies.

Greater Rewards Committee

Selects and promotes discount programs for Chamber members, including exclusive Chamber partnerships and member-to-member discounts.

Retention Committee

Reaches out to new and long-time members in order to increase involvement and retention. This committee develops initiatives to increase the value that members receive.

Public Affairs, Government Affairs

Energy & Sustainability Committee

Identifies and supports long-term economic energy sources and policies to promote economic development.

Legislative Committee

Researches, discusses and implements The Chamber's priorities dealing with the Texas State Legislature during legislative and special sessions, as well as during the interims. The group also focuses on federal funding issues that impact San Antonio.

Transportation Committee

Advocates for new and innovative methods of transportation funding that satisfy the transportation needs of San Antonio and the region. This includes support of the Austin/San Antonio Rail Authority, the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, the San Antonio Mobility Coalition

Water Committee

Works to identify and support long-term solutions to ensure an adequate, affordable quality supply of water on a regional basis.



**San Antonio**

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By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Industry Briefs

San Antonio's leisure assets are internationally renowned. However, beyond the travel brochures, the seventh-largest city in America flexes robust business muscles that are the envy of cities throughout the nation.

Fact is, San Antonio offers one of the most recession-proof, strongest economies and most enviable lifestyles in North America. Its strategic location in the heart of the Southwest makes it an ideal entry point for companies looking to tap into both the rich markets of Mexico and the United States.

Part of that success story is due to its diverse and growing industry base, built upon the historically strong military and hospitality sectors. However, another reason is the thoughtful development of a globally competitive business environment fertile for the growth of entrepreneurial firms, medium-sized businesses and corporations.

The result? Consistently, San Antonio is listed by leading economic indicators as a high-performer in the areas of employment, cost of living, job creation and gross metropolitan product. Translated: This city is a phenomenal place to find and keep a good job — and offers an enviable, fantastic quality of life to its residents. In 2011, and in years to come, it will continue to help Texas retain its ranking as one of the most prosperous states fueling the nation's post-recession recovery.

What follows is a brief run-down of some of San Antonio's key industries.

This city is a phenomenal place to find and keep a good job — and offers an enviable, fantastic quality of life to its residents.

Health Care & Bioscience

BioMedSA is the “voice” of the health care and bioscience sector, comprised of health services providers, research and educational institutions, and bioscience firms. Working with corporate, military and other government partners it pursues projects that accelerate the sector's growth and enhance its reputation in the United States and abroad. For example, BioMedSA is part of the community effort to fund The National Trauma Institute (a locally based nonprofit supporting military and civilian collaboration in trauma care/research) and assists in

regional workforce development for current and future companies in the cluster.

According to The Chamber's most recent *Economic Impact Report*, this thriving industry represents the largest part of San Antonio's economy, employing one out of seven local workers. In 2009 it posted an economic impact of \$18.9 billion and paid nearly \$6.5 billion in wages and salaries to more than 141,250 employees. Overall, medical industry employees account for 17.2 percent of the workforce.

In the last 10 years the industry has fueled the city's growth by adding over 33,000 net new jobs. Hundreds more medical jobs are expected to be added in the near future as a direct (and indirect) result of the influx of military workers moving here due to BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) activity. Along with the \$2 billion-plus spent on new construction, this realignment of military facilities — with a strong focus on increased medical assets — has earned San Antonio the right to be called the “home of military medicine.”

The 900-acre South Texas Medical Center alone employs about 25,000 people. This West Side complex is home to over 45 of the San Antonio's finest medical facilities, including medical, dental and nursing

schools; medical treatment and research centers; 12 hospitals; five specialty institutions; and research labs. A few hundred acres await future development.

San Antonio's nationally recognized medical industry is engaged in cutting-edge research designed to prevent and/or treat both common and emerging diseases and conditions. Local R&D and commercialization projects target such areas as aging, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases and biothreat agents, trauma and wound care, neurosciences, orthopedics, transplantations, and women's health.

The region's dozens of bioscience companies bring hope for restored health with devices, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals and include Medtronic, Kinetic Concepts Inc. (KCI), Genzyme Corporation, INCELL Corporation, Vidacare, Biomedical Development Corp., Mission Pharmacal, Azaya Therapeutics and InCube Labs.

Among the dozens of prime research centers and related medical facilities are an emerging infectious diseases center, neural sciences institute and a bioengineering/translational research center (part of the University of Texas at San Antonio); two cancer research centers and an institute for longevity and aging (part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio); a genomics computer center, primate research center and a BSL-4 lab (part of Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research); the Southwest Research Institute; and South Texas Accelerated Research Therapeutics. Military medical assets abound. They include the Center for the Intrepid, the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research, and the Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma (all at the San Antonio Military Medical Center).

Manufacturing

When Toyota established its vehicle assembly plant on the South Side in 2003, the local manufacturing industry was thrust into the spotlight. Thus far, the company has invested \$1.5 billion into this facility, which employs over 2,800 workers. From the start it built Tundra trucks; however, in 2010 the Tacoma line was added — a move expected to have a local economic impact of a billion dollars a year. In total, about 4,000 people work at Toyota and the dozens of firms located in the car company's supplier park.

Most San Antonians don't realize that prior to Toyota's arrival, the region already had a large and robust manufacturing cluster whose roots reach back to the early 1730s, when Canary Island settlers began raising cattle here. Today, since most of the local manufacturers sell their

The region's dozens of bioscience companies bring hope for restored health with devices, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals.

wares to other manufacturers and distributors, they are not as well-known as businesses that market to the general public. However, the industry is ready for much-deserved recognition after growing about 50 percent between 1996 and 2006, and making a whopping \$14.4 billion economic impact on the local economy in 2006 alone (pre-Toyota statistics).

According to the "voice" of the industry, the San Antonio Manufacturing Association (SAMA), there are about 1,100 manufacturing firms in town. Collectively these firms employ almost 53,000 people, or about 7 percent of the total workforce (2006 data), and require highly

clusters in the nation. Key sectors are materials and electricity (30 percent), diversified products (29 percent), transportation (24 percent), and equipment and metal products (17 percent). Companies range in size from small mom-and-pop shops up to mega-large entities like Toyota and are active in everything from aerospace, textiles, processed foods, motor vehicles and storage batteries to furniture, electric power generation, steel products, food handling equipment and medical devices.

Clearly, much of San Antonio's economic foundation is based upon the manufacturing industry — and all indicators predict it is destined to thrive and expand in the years to come. But that success depends upon the cluster's ability to replace a graying workforce with well-trained, younger employees.

To meet that need, SAMA is ahead of the nation with its relatively new Manufacturing Technology Academy for high school juniors and seniors, which is offered through the Alamo Colleges. This two-year education, training and apprenticeship program helps students fast-track into manufacturing jobs by allowing them to secure certificates in manufacturing skills and/or earn college credits. Many students are even able to take advantage of this in high school — and it's tuition free. This program is a national model that has won the admiration of community college leaders for the past several years.

The Chamber's Economic Impact Report revealed that manufacturers employed 52,786 workers and paid almost \$2.2 billion in salaries.

skilled labor for jobs working with modern, high-tech processes. And they pay well, too. In 2006, The Chamber's *Economic Impact Report* revealed that manufacturers employed 52,786 workers and paid almost \$2.2 billion in salaries. The average manufacturing salary was \$41,496, about 13 percent more than the average local salary.

Because this cluster is so diverse, it has weathered the down economy better than most other regional industries and many manufacturing

Hospitality/Tourism

Each year, millions from around the globe come to San Antonio to shop, play, do business and enjoy the city's unique history and culture. Specifically, the most recent comprehensive study on local tourism indicates that over 26 million visitors visited our city in 2008. Of these individuals, 11 million were overnight leisure guests, a statistic essentially crowning San Antonio the No. 1 destination for "fun" among all Texas cities. (Top on the list of things to see: the world-famous River Walk, a cornerstone of

the flourishing hospitality industry, followed by the Alamo.)

San Antonio is popular with business travelers, too. And in these challenging economic times, the fact that it's an economical venue on top of being friendly, unique and customer-focused just adds to its attractiveness. In 2008, some 5 million business visitors came to the area for conventions and other business purposes. And with the 2008 opening of the new convention center hotel, the Grand Hyatt, the city is now hosting more (and larger) conventions and meetings than in the past.

There is no shortage of quality and affordable lodging to be found in the region. From downtown convention hotels to luxury Hill Country resorts, San Antonio offers more than 41,500 sleeping rooms in a Texas-sized variety of accommodations, at all price points. More than 12,700 rooms are available downtown. About 6,500 are within walking distance of the convention center (3,000 of those are within a block).

From 1998 to 2008, the economic impact of San Antonio's hospitality industry increased by more than 70 percent. In 2008 alone its economic impact totaled \$11 billion. Employing over 106,000 people, this sector contributed

some \$153.4 million in taxes and fees to the city of San Antonio and more than \$286 million to all local governments combined.

About one out of every eight workers in the metro area is a hospitality colleague. Most of them work in the restaurants and catering sector (42 percent), followed by the lodging sector (23 percent), the transportation/travel sector (22 percent) and the entertainment sector (13 percent).

Over the past 10 years, all four of the industry's major areas have experienced growth, with restaurant/catering remaining the most dominant. Employment is expected to bump up due to anticipated labor demand tied to booked conventions in 2012 and 2013.

IT/Cybersecurity

Information technology (IT) has a significant and growing presence in San Antonio's economy. According to the latest data, in 2008 alone its economic impact totaled \$8 billion. About 15,600 IT employees (an increase of 44 percent from 10 years ago) were paid \$882 million in high-paying wages/salaries averaging \$56,359. A recent Chamber survey of San Antonio's largest employers found that nearly 4,800 additional

IT professionals worked at 20 of the city's largest non-IT enterprises, with Valero, USAA and AT&T employing over half of those workers,

Why is IT such a red-hot industry in San Antonio? Besides being a magnet for many of the top intelligence experts in the world, the city boasts a strong military presence, a secure telecom network, low electricity costs and non-threatening weather. (A portion of its educated labor force is drawn from the University of Texas at San Antonio and Our Lady of the Lake University, two schools recognized as national centers of excellence in information assurance education.) Not surprisingly, *Computerworld* ranked San Antonio No. 2 in the nation for information assurance (behind Washington, D.C.), identified it as one of the best places to work in IT, and put two local firms on its list of the top IT companies in the U.S.

This robust industry grew 20 percent between 2005 and 2008 and continues to enjoy booming growth in two areas. Its products sector includes manufacturers of computer and electronic equipment/components, wholesale trade (including business-to-business electronic markets), retail trade, and Internet and software publishing. Its services sector encompasses digital reproduction



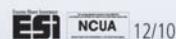
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Cybersecurity is a worldwide IT growth industry due to the increase of attacks on both military and civilian systems dealing with sensitive and personal identification data.

services, computer services and computer training, IT-related consulting, Web hosting companies, and IT equipment repair services.

Cybersecurity is a worldwide IT growth industry due to the increase of attacks on both military and civilian systems dealing with sensitive and personal identification data. San Antonio is a renowned national epicenter for cybersecurity due to the presence of many vital military centers requiring state-of-the-art information security systems. By 2016, local workforce experts predict at least 12,650 people will be employed in cybersecurity-related industries.

The city's cluster of IT security companies is growing and includes firms such as Pikeworks Corp., Digital Defense, Karts Technologies, Avnet Inc, P3s Corporation, Accenture, Amer Technology, Dahill Industries, Diversified Technical Services, Computer Sciences Corp,

Sirius Computer Solutions and General Dynamics C4 Systems.

Recently both the cybersecurity and defense contracting clusters benefitted when the Air Force Space Command chose San Antonio as headquarters for its cyber command, the 24th Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base, after conducting a nationwide search. The Command's mission is to secure the military's communications and data systems. At full ramp-up it's expected to employ about 400 highly skilled workers (salaries average \$72,500), as well as to generate many more jobs at over 80 private defense firms doing cryptology, data analysis and computer network security work.

Another key government facility is the Texas Cryptology Center, a National Security Agency data center and campus established at Lackland AFB. It employs at least 2,000 in code work and is expected to hire up to 1,500 more people in the near future.

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is developing a global research reputation in cybersecurity. It operates The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), part of the school's famed Institute for Cybersecurity. CIAS is a one-of-a-kind program providing community-based cybersecurity training to emergency management personnel, IT professionals and municipal/state leaders who need to learn how to respond collaboratively to potential cyber attacks. This training is offered in a number of states, and plans are to extend its reach if more federal monies are received.

Numerous Internet-related businesses also are thriving in San Antonio. For example, one of

the world's fastest-growing web hosting companies — Rackspace — has its headquarters here. And many large corporations (e.g., Microsoft, Valero, Kohls) operate large data centers in the region.

Aerospace & Defense

A century ago, on March 2, 1910, San Antonio became the birthplace of military aviation when Lt. Benjamin Foulois assembled and flew a Wright brothers aircraft at Ft. Sam Houston. A century later, San Antonio continues to be a vital component of our nation's military aerospace program as well as a strong leader in the commercial side of the industry.

The recent growth of our aerospace industry has been described as "substantial and dramatic." Its economic impact in 2007 (nearly \$3.8 billion) was double the impact in 1997 (\$1.74 billion). Data from 2007 also reveal that over 9,400 local workers held aerospace jobs and collectively earned \$479 million in total wages — more than twice the wages earned a decade earlier. About 43 percent of those workers held jobs in the services/manufacturing sector, while 57 percent were in the transportation sector. Individual employee wages averaged \$50,735 (about one-third more than the average San Antonio salary). New data predicts this expanding industry will employ at least 12,900 workers by 2016.

World-class aviation activity on the military side is found at Brooks City Base, Lackland AFB and Randolph AFB and on the commercial side at Brooks City Base, Stinson Airport, Port San Antonio and the San Antonio International Airport. The aerospace cluster includes notable firms such as Cessna Aircraft, Chromalloy, Embry





Riddle, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, Sierra Industries, StandardAero, Wright Flyers Aviation, Gore Design Completions, Aerospace Products SE, Atlantic Aviation, AVCHEM, Boeing and New Breed Logistics.

A few years back the former Kelly Air Force Base was transformed into Port San Antonio, now a thriving 1,900-acre aerospace complex/industrial center with an international airport and 70-plus corporate residents. According to a 2010 study, its 14 aerospace residents annually produce \$1.46 billion in regional economic activity, provide 14,000 direct jobs and 11,000 indirect jobs, and, together with their vendors, lease almost 10 million square feet of space. Wayne Alexander, chairman of the Port San Antonio board, said last year that with more tax assistance and infrastructure improvements

the Port's workforce of 14,000 "could grow to 30,000 people within 10 years." It's estimated the multi-modal Port's annual regional economic development impact totals \$4.2 billion.

The industry also is supported by the San Antonio International Airport, which continues to evolve to meet the aviation needs of the business, military and leisure communities. In a recent draft of its new "Vision 2050 Airport Master Plan," proposed changes include building a third terminal with eight more gates by 2030 and adding 2,300 parking spaces.

Nationwide, over 30 percent of people currently employed across the aerospace industry are eligible for retirement. That means communities must be proactive in finding qualified replacements. To that end, San Antonio's aerospace industry created a nationally recognized community partnership — the Alamo Aerospace Academy — to train high school students for aerospace careers with help from St. Philip's

NAFTA Corridor between Mexico and Canada, within reach of many major markets between the East and West coasts. Companies engaged in trade and logistics-related activities also come (and stay) here due to its world-class infrastructure, bilingual/bicultural workforce, cost-competitive business climate and vast experience trading with Mexico and other Latin American nations. More than 50 percent of goods moving between the United States and Mexico travel through San Antonio before reaching their final destination.

A vital and growing international trade asset is the aforementioned Port San Antonio. The entire development is a Foreign Trade Zone, meaning it saves companies money via duty deferral, elimination and reduction. The primary focus of Port San Antonio is on the opportunities created by increased trade with Mexico. San Antonio stands poised to be the platform for distributing products produced in Mexico

San Antonio's international trade success is partially due to its geographic location.

College-Southwest Campus, a part of Alamo Colleges. After graduation, students can apply for an industry job or further their aerospace education at area universities.

International Trade

Texas stands tall in America as a national center for world trade, having led the United States in exporting for over six consecutive years. In 2007 alone it exported \$162.8 billion worth of goods, and the state holds the No. 1 spot among all states for export revenue.

San Antonio is one of the major reasons behind this economic achievement. According to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, exports from the metropolitan area totaled more than \$5 billion in 2008, up from \$3.6 billion in 2007. Mexico and Canada were the leading export markets for regional San Antonio firms, with exports totaling \$989 million and \$980 million, respectively.

San Antonio's international trade success is partially due to its geographic location. The city is located strategically at a key node along the

throughout the U.S market. In addition to Mexico, the port concept appeals to companies from Asia, Europe and South America that are also looking to establish a platform for their products entering the North American marketplace.

The city of San Antonio's "Export Leaders Program" helps companies learn how to conduct business internationally by using time-tested and successful foreign market entry strategies. To date, the program has generated over \$85 million in new trade for more than 110 local firms penetrating world markets. Another initiative, the CASA San Antonio program, assists companies in exploring new trade opportunities specifically in Mexico.

More import/export activities are supported by the city's award-winning "Sister City" program, which fosters business and political relationships around the world. Presently San Antonio enjoys eight Sister City relationships with municipalities in Mexico, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and India; an "Alliance" relationship in Germany; and two "Friendship" city connections in China.





By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Education

One of the most important concerns parents have when moving to a new city is the availability of good schools for their children.

Fortunately, San Antonio excels in the number of institutions offering excellent educational options — from elementary to the graduate level — in both the public and private sectors.

Recognized as the fourth fastest-growing city in the nation from 2000 to 2006 and the fifth-fastest-growing city from 2007 to 2008, San Antonio has many well-established as well as newly founded schools ready to serve the academic requirements of diverse populations (including gifted students and those with special needs).

Public Schools, K–12

Texas public schools use the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test to measure student competency in subject areas. However, beginning with students entering ninth grade in the 2011–2012 school year, TAKS will be phased out and replaced with 12 end-of-year exams. TAKS still will be used for students in grades three through eight. TEA also requires third graders to pass the reading portion to be promoted to fourth grade.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) in Austin has oversight of the 21 Independent School Districts (ISDs) located in Bexar County and outlying counties in the San Antonio metro area. In addition to operating separately from each other, without

city or county oversight, each district functions with its own taxing authority, elected board of education and superintendent. The San Antonio region's six largest public high schools are Ronald Reagan, Douglas MacArthur and James Madison in NEISD; and Sandra Day O'Connor, John Paul Steven and Tom C. Clark in NISD.

Northside ISD www.nisd.net

With an enrollment of 91,600 students, Northside ISD (NISD) is the largest public school district in San Antonio, the fourth-largest in Texas and the 36th-largest in the nation. Northside has 109 schools, grows by about 3,000 students each year and opens three to five new schools annually to accommodate the rapid growth in the area. For the 2010–2011 school year it had an enrollment of about 95,000, and by 2013–2014 the district expects to educate 100,000 students. NISD is often called San Antonio's "destination district," because most new homes built in Bexar County are within its borders.

On the technology front, thanks to about 5,000 wireless access points throughout the district, NISD is recognized as having the largest school district wireless deployment in the United States. It employs about 13,000 people, including the 2001 Texas "Teacher of the Year," a fifth grade teacher at Esparza Elementary. NISD boasts 51 schools ranked as "Exemplary" and 37 ranked as "Recognized" in Texas (2010). Last year seven NISD high schools ranked among *Newsweek's* top 1,600 best high schools in America.

Northside ISD has 109 schools, grows by about 3,000 students each year and opens three to five new schools annually to accommodate the rapid growth in the area.

► BEXAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEB
Alamo Heights ISD	7101 Broadway St., San Antonio, TX 78209-3797	210-824-2483	www.ahisd.net
East Central ISD	6634 New Sulphur Springs Road, San Antonio TX 78263-9701	(210) 648-7861	www.ecisd.net
Edgewood ISD	5358 W. Commerce St., San Antonio, TX 78237-1354	210-444-4500	www.eisd.net
Ft. Sam Houston ISD	1902 Winans Road, San Antonio TX 78234-1497	210-368-8701	www.fshisd.net
Harlandale ISD	102 Genevieve St., San Antonio, TX 78214-2997	210-989-4300	www.harlandale.net
Judson ISD	8012 Shin Oak, Live Oak TX 78233-2457	210-945-5100	www.judsonisd.org
Lackland ISD	2460 Kenly Ave., Building 8265, San Antonio TX 78236-1244	210-357-5000	www.lacklandisd.net
North East ISD	8961 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio TX 78217	210-407-0541	www.neisd.net
Northside ISD	5900 Evers Road, San Antonio TX 78238-1699	210-397-8500	www.nisd.net
Randolph Field ISD	P.O. Box 2217, Universal City, TX 78148-1217	210-357-2300	www.rfisd.net
San Antonio ISD	141 Lavaca St., San Antonio TX 78210-1039	210-554-2200	www.saisd.net
Somerset ISD	P.O. Box 279, Somerset TX 78069-0279	866-852-9858	www.sisd12.net
South San Antonio ISD	5622 Ray Ellison Blvd., San Antonio TX 78242-2214	210-977-7040	www.southsanisd.net
Southside ISD	1460 Martinez Losoya Road, San Antonio TX 78221-9648	210-882-1600	www.southsideisd.org
Southwest ISD	11914 Dragon Lane, San Antonio TX 78252-2647	210-622-4731	www.swisd.net

► CHARTER & PRIVATE SCHOOLS

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEB
Academy of Careers and Technologies Charter School	5503 Grissom Road, Suite 102, San Antonio TX 78238	210-534-9690	
Brooks Academy of Science and Engineering	3803 Lyster Road, San Antonio TX 78235	210-633-9006	www.brooksacademy.org
City Center Health Careers	1114 Willow, San Antonio TX 78208	210-255-8265	
George Gervin Academy	6944 Sunbelt Drive S, San Antonio TX 78218-3336	210-568-8800	
George I. Sanchez Charter HS San Antonio Branch	201 Meredith Drive, San Antonio TX 78228	210-270-8567	
Guardian Angel Performance Arts Academy	107 Blue Star, San Antonio TX 78204	210-253-9064	
Harmony Science Academy (San Antonio)	8505 Lakeside Parkway, San Antonio TX 78245	210-674-7788	www.hsasa.org
Henry Ford Academy Alameda School for Art + Design	439 Arbor Place, San Antonio TX 78207	210-226-4031	www.thealamedaschool.org
Higgs Carter King Gifted & Talented Charter Academy	511 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio TX 78201	210-735-2341	
John H. Wood Jr. Public Charter District	3201 Cherry Ridge, Suite C-315, San Antonio TX 78230	210-638-5003	
Jubilee Academic Center	4434 Roland, San Antonio TX 78222	210-333-6227	
Kipp San Antonio	735 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio TX 78201	210-735-7300	www.aspireacademy.org
La Escuela de las Americas	2300 W. Commerce, Suite 200, San Antonio TX 78207	210-978-0515	
Lighthouse Charter School	2718 Frontier Drive, San Antonio TX 78227	210-674-4100	
New Frontiers Charter School	1313 SE Military Drive, Suite 117, San Antonio TX 78214	210-533-3655	www.newfrontierscharter.org
Por Vida Academy	1135 Mission Road, San Antonio TX 78210-4598	210-532-8816	www.por-vida.org
Positive Solutions Charter School	1325 N. Flores, Suite 100, San Antonio TX 78212	210-299-1025	
Radiance Academy of Learning	12470 Woman Hollering Road, Schertz TX 78154	210-659-0329	
San Antonio Can High School	325 W. 12th St., Dallas TX 75208	214-943-2244	www.texanscan.org
San Antonio Preparatory Academy	P.O. Box 29690, San Antonio TX 78229	210-543-7218	www.saprep.org
San Antonio School for Inquiry & Creativity	4618 San Pedro, Suite 104, San Antonio TX 78212	210-738-0020	www.thesanantonioschool.org
San Antonio Technology Academy	7300 Blanco Road, Suite 606, San Antonio TX 78216	210-733-8100	
School of Excellence in Education	1826 Basse Road, San Antonio TX 78213-4606	210-431-9881	
School of Science and Technology	1450 NE Loop 410, San Antonio TX 78209	210-804-0222	www.ssttx.org
School of Science and Technology Discovery	5707 Bandera Road, San Antonio TX 78238	210-804-0222	www.ssttx.org
Shekinah Radiance Academy	12470 Woman Hollering Road, Schertz TX 78154	210-659-0329	
Southwest Preparatory School	1258 Austin Highway, San Antonio TX 78209-4820	210-829-8017	www.swprep.org

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San Antonio parents can select from over 100 private schools offering pre-K through high school instruction.

North East ISD www.neisd.net

Over 9,000 people work for North East ISD (NEISD), the second-largest public school district in the area and the eighth-largest in the state. It has more than 70 schools and magnet programs and welcomed about 66,000 students in 2010–2011. NEISD is proud of its 25 schools ranked as “Exemplary” and 30 ranked as “Recognized” in Texas (2010). Last year seven NEISD high schools ranked among *Newsweek’s* top 1,600 best high schools in America.

San Antonio ISD www.saisd.net

The San Antonio ISD serves about 55,000 students. It is the third-largest public school system in the Bexar County area and the 13th-largest in the state of Texas. In 2010, one SAISD high school ranked in *Newsweek’s* top 1,600 best high schools in America.

Magnet Schools

San Antonio offers a number of public magnet schools and magnet programs focused on unique fields of study. One example of these programs is the Science and Engineering Academy at John Jay High School, which educates about 750 students from every area of NISD. Tremendous academic successes have been achieved by SEA students, including the highest honors at the Alamo Regional Junior Academy of Science and Science and Engineering Fair for six years in a row. Students have traveled across the nation and the world showcasing their work and meeting several Nobel Prize-winning scientists.

Other magnet programs include Business Careers High School, Communications Arts High School, Health Careers High School, the Film School of San Antonio at Harlandale High School, Fine Arts Magnet Academy at Jefferson High School, the School for Leadership and Public Service at McCollum High School, International School of the Americas, Law and Research at Fox Tech High School, the Fine Arts Magnet Academy at Jefferson High School, Business and Finance Magnet at Lanier High

School, World Languages at Brackenridge High School, and Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology at Sam Houston High School.

Charter Schools

In 1995, Texas established charter schools to give students more innovative learning opportunities and greater flexibility than what is traditionally offered in public schools. San Antonio has some 30 such institutions teaching all grade levels, including the Academy of Careers & Technologies, Jubilee Academy, Irving Academy (music), Martin Luther King Academy (public service and leadership), and Riverside Park Academy (technology).

Private Schools, K–12

San Antonio parents can select from over 100 private schools offering pre-K through high school instruction. Most are rooted in religious traditions and provide intensive academic experiences; some reflect a particular pedagogy or target specific populations. These diverse and

often faith-based communities help fulfill the American ideal of educational pluralism.

Catholic Education

Parents seeking a faith-filled, rigorous Catholic education for their children will be pleased to know the Archdiocese of San Antonio operates 45 elementary and secondary schools (most are in the metro area). Recent figures show an enrollment of 14,303 students in Pre-K to grade 12. The curriculum in all of the schools is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the national standards in specific academic areas, along with the integration of Gospel values. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills is required testing for all elementary school students, while high school students are given a variety of standardized tests (may include NEDT, PSAT, SAT, ACT, ITBS).

In 2010, 701 young men and women graduated from the archdiocese’s 10 high schools: Central Catholic (the first boys’ school in San Antonio), Antonian College Prep, Incarnate Word, Holy Cross, Providence, St. Anthony, St. Gerard and Atonement Academy in Bexar County; John Paul II in Comal County; and Our Lady of the Hills in Kerr County. That same year, those schools collectively posted a 98.8 percent graduation rate. About 93 percent of graduates entered a college, university or technical school, and a sizable number of them were offered, in total, over \$43 million in scholarships.

Not everyone can afford a Catholic school education. That’s why each year many economically





disadvantaged families receive tuition assistance through the archdiocesan agency “Hope for the Future.” Since its inception in early 2007, some 1,600 children have been given \$1.7 million in tuition aid thanks to the generous support of individuals, universities, corporations and foundations.

More Private School Options

Many more private high school options abound in the region. For example, TMI-The Episcopal School of Texas has been educating leaders since 1893, when it was founded as the West Texas Military Academy. Today, it’s the oldest Episcopal college-preparatory school in the Southwest, with over 400 students in grades six through 12. It posts a 100 percent college-placement rate. St. Mary’s Hall, founded in 1879, gives its almost 1,000 students a comprehensive college-preparatory program and offers 25 AP courses and many Honors courses.

Other private school options include Keystone School, The Christian Academy (Baptist), Lutheran High School, Zoe Christian School, San Antonio Christian Schools and Cornerstone Christian Schools. Students who are learning-disabled benefit from targeted instruction offered at the Spirit Christian Center and the Winston School of San Antonio.

Home Schooling

For decades, the increasingly popular home-schooling education option for both grade school and high school students has been embraced by thousands of San Antonio families. Parents will find a large number of organized groups in the region ready to support individual

home-schooling efforts and the larger home-schooling community.

For example, the local chapter of the national TORCH support group for Catholic home educators offers a variety of monthly educational and faith-formation programs. Another well-known group, Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (FEAST), operates a bookstore and teaching co-op and offers workshops, team sports programs and much more. Visit www.hcentralsa.org for a listing of local home-schooling resources.

Higher-Education Institutions

San Antonio is definitely a city that values higher education. Students can choose from a wide range of programs offered at 14 public and private colleges and universities, as well as vocational and technical schools, a medical school, a major research university, and several schools of theology. What follows is a brief introduction to some of these outstanding institutions.

University of Texas at San Antonio www.utsa.edu

Founded in 1969, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is a comprehensive, four-year public university serving the San Antonio metro area, South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. Its eight colleges offer over 130

Founded in 1969, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is a comprehensive, four-year public university serving the San Antonio metro area, South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.



degree programs to nearly 30,000 students. It's the second-largest component in the University of Texas system, and has been one of the state's fastest-growing public universities for much of the last decade.

University of Texas
Health Science Center-San Antonio
www.uthscsa.edu

Another top learning center in San Antonio is the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC). Each year over 3,000 students are trained at its more than 100 affiliated clinics, hospitals and health care facilities located in South Texas. They include the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Health Professions, Dental School and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Last year the University Health System broke ground on the first of many construction projects that will transform its two largest campuses during a five-year, \$899 million capital improvement program.

Alamo Community Colleges
www.alamo.edu

Five colleges comprise the Alamo Community Colleges in Bexar County: Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, St. Philip's College and Northeast Lakeview College. Collectively they educate nearly 60,000 students. The schools offer associate degrees, certificates and licensures in occupational programs that prepare students for jobs, as well as arts and science courses that transfer to four-year colleges and universities (and lead to A.A. and A.S. degrees). The Alamo system is a national model for building a pipeline of workers with knowledge and skills for today's labor market.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
www.tamuk.edu/sanantonio

An exciting development is the opening of the new campus of Texas A&M University-San Antonio, operating as a system center under the Kingsville banner. This public school currently serves 3,500 students from a temporary location in town, but come this fall it will move operations to the first of many buildings to be constructed on 700 acres in south San Antonio. The university offers upper-level undergraduate and graduate programs in areas such as education, business, arts and sciences, history, sociology, and kinesiology. Enrollment is projected to top 25,000 by 2025.

Trinity University
www.trinity.edu

Trinity University, founded in 1869, is one of the nation's top private universities. It educates 2,600 undergraduate and graduate students from 45 states and 64 countries and offers 39 majors and 52 minors. The school is renowned for its rigorous academics, distinguished faculty and superior facilities. For 18 consecutive years *U.S. News and World Report* has listed Trinity University with a No. 1 ranking in their "America's Best Colleges" guide.

St. Mary's University
www.stmarytx.edu

St. Mary's University is a Catholic school with more than 4,100 students, five schools, nearly 50 academic programs and numerous pre-professional programs. *U.S. News and World Report* ranked the school No. 19 in the West for academic reputation in 2010. (That recognition represents the 17th consecutive year the university has placed in the

ALAMO COLLEGES
 ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE

Why St. Philip's College?

St. Philip's College is among the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the nation and one of the fastest growing in Texas. A Historically Black College and Hispanic Serving Institution with a semester enrollment of more than 11,000 students and 8,000 continuing education students, St. Philip's College is meeting the educational needs of San Antonio's growing and diverse community. **St. Philip's College is a multi-campus institution of the Alamo Colleges.**

For more information visit alamo.edu/spc or call (210) 486-2333
 1801 Martin Luther King Drive | San Antonio, Texas 78203





Culinary Institute of America
www.ciachef.edu/sanantonio

Since 2005, New York's famed Culinary Institute of America (CIA — the world's premier culinary college — has operated one of its two branch campuses in San Antonio at the famed Pearl Brewery center near downtown. CIA-San Antonio attracts a unique blend of students: future chefs, food lovers and established culinary leaders. In addition to a 30-week Culinary Arts Certificate Program, this campus hosts Latin American cuisine courses for food-service professionals and programs for food enthusiasts.

Art Institute of San Antonio
www.artinstitutes.edu/san-antonio

Last year the Art Institute of Houston opened a new branch in the Alamo City. The Art Institute of San Antonio prepares students for careers in the visual and practical arts, offering degrees in culinary management, culinary arts, fashion and retail management, graphic design, interior design, media arts and animation, photography, and Web design and interactive media.

Texas State University-San Marcos
www.txstate.edu

Texas State University-San Marcos, located halfway between San Antonio and Austin, has 30,803 students enrolled in 97 bachelor's, 89 master's and nine doctoral degree programs. *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* ranks Texas State No. 13 in the nation for the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanic students.



Schreiner University
www.schreiner.edu

Up in the Hill Country is Schreiner University, a liberal arts institution founded in 1923 and affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Its 1,120-some students are educated in the liberal arts, sciences and professional disciplines.

Wayland Baptist University - San Antonio Campus
www.sa.wbu.edu

Wayland San Antonio has been serving the higher educational needs of San Antonio and South Texas since 1984. With a focus on the adult learner and a commitment to the University's mission of educating students in an academically challenging and distinctively Christian environment, you will find an unparalleled college experience.

first tier of colleges/universities listed annually by the magazine). In addition, both its Bill Greehey School of Business and School of Law were recognized as outstanding schools in *The Princeton Review's* 2011 listing of "Best Business Schools and Law Schools."

University of the Incarnate Word
www.uiw.edu

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word founded the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) in 1881. This Catholic school offers degrees in over 40 undergraduate programs and state-of-the-art technology both in and out of the classroom. A leader in international education, UIW provides study-abroad opportunities — and the ability to earn credits applicable towards a degree — in any of nearly 100 "sister schools" in 34 countries.

Our Lady of the Lake University
www.ollusa.edu

Established in 1895 by the Congregation of Divine Providence, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) is a small Catholic university that has developed a reputation for its personal teaching style and expertise in Mexican-American culture. IT offers 33 bachelor's, 14 master's, and two doctoral programs. OLLU was ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* in Tier 1 of Regional Universities–West in the magazine's 2011 "America's Best Colleges" list. Last year *Washington Monthly* ranked OLLU among the top 50 master's universities in the country for contributing to the public good.



By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

San Antonio Housing & Neighborhoods

Is there nothing more refreshing to the spirit than “home, sweet home”? In San Antonio, you’ll enjoy searching for your own version of home ownership bliss thanks to the wide selection of single-family and multi-family residential housing available for purchase or rent.



Photo by Don Craighead Homes, Cibolo Canyons

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Affordable Housing

Recognized as one of the fastest-growing cities in Texas, San Antonio also is the seventh-largest city in the United States — and is experiencing a major growth spurt. That means its population of 1.4 million is expected to increase steadily, and by 2040 the population should be about 2.5 million.

Fortunately, home builders have been keeping up with demand throughout the metro area by adding to the robust existing home market. In 2009, 6,099 single-family building permits were issued, compared to an estimated 7,341 for 2010.

But are homes in the Alamo City affordable? Most definitely! *Builder Magazine* named San Antonio the fourth “Healthiest Housing Market in the Nation” in 2010. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), in 2009 the median home price in San Antonio was \$152,800 (25 percent below the national average of \$200,500 for the same year).

From 2006 to 2008, the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University reports that the majority of homes sold in San Antonio were in the \$120,000 to \$139,999 price range (and cost \$50,000 less than similar homes in other markets, according to *Builder Magazine*).

Renters find plenty of affordable space here, too. Recent data from Apartment MarketData

Research states that the average rent per square foot for multifamily housing in San Antonio is \$0.82, compared to \$0.83 in Texas as a whole. The average multifamily residence occupancy is 93.4 percent. About 20 percent of San Antonio homes are leased to renters.

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Neighborhoods

Northwest Region

Many new homes are being built in the Northwest Region to take advantage of easy access to highways and the explosion of development along IH-1604, San Antonio’s circle freeway.

One of the fastest-growing developments is The Rim, a 3 million-square-foot retail center at 1604 and I-10. Anchor tenants include Bass Pro Shops’ Outdoor World (the largest Bass Pro store in Texas and the fourth-largest in the country) and the Palladium, a 19-screen movie theater with an IMAX screen. Other stores include Target, Best Buy, JCPenney, Ranch at the Rim (a Texas-centric boutique), plus plenty of other shopping options and restaurants. Just a few minutes west, past Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme park, is The Shops at La Cantera. This open-air shopping center features over 160 specialty stores and major retailers.

North Central Region

Expect to see large lots and an abundance of well-defined neighborhoods (including many gated communities) in the North Central areas. Generally these neighborhoods are defined as starting as far south as the Alamo Heights area, which is bound by US 281, the north end of downtown, and I-35 on the east.

Included in the North Central area are many of the city’s oldest neighborhoods, like Monte Vista, Olmos Park and Alamo Heights, as well as some of the newest, more upscale areas, including Castle Hills, Hollywood Hills and the Stone Oak development on the far north side. This area is filled with great shopping, such as The





Quarry (near downtown), North Star Mall and many smaller shopping areas found along the way as you go north on US 281.

People who live in this region appreciate its proximity to businesses and schools, downtown, and the San Antonio International Airport, as well as an abundance of stores and lots of parks and recreational options.

Northeast Region

Many who select the Northeast side are looking for a comfortable, short commute either up I-35 toward Austin or for nice homes situated near two of San Antonio's military bases: Fort Sam Houston, located north of I-10, west of I-35; and Randolph Air Force Base, found just on the outskirts of the city limits adjacent to San Antonio and the cities of Converse, Selma and Universal City.

Several universities are located in or near this area, including Texas Lutheran University in Seguin and the San Antonio Campus of Wayland Baptist University. Alamo Colleges also has built

its newest lush campus, Northeast Lakeview, in this area.

If you're out and about in the Northeast area, you'll find ample shopping at The Forum, an outdoor mall, and Rolling Oaks Mall. Two side-by-side outlet malls in San Marcos are only a short commute away going north on I-35.

East Region

San Antonio's East Side is a family-focused community with many historic neighborhoods and a relatively low cost of living. It's known as the area with three major large-scale, well-used entertainment venues: the Alamodome, the AT&T Center and the Freeman Coliseum.

West Region

While downtown is the heart and soul of San Antonio, the West Side is where the "action" is when we all want to celebrate Fiesta — or anything else calling for a communitywide party. This area is rich in culture, is full of traditional Latino restaurants, and has plenty of shopping.

The West Side also stretches out to some of the city's newest and most affordable high-end homes located in Westover Hills. They're surrounded by many parks and new shopping centers and are close to attractions like SeaWorld and the Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa.

Due to its affordability, this section of town is a popular choice with many retirees, as well

San Antonio's East Side is a family-focused community with many historic neighborhoods and a relatively low cost of living.

This area is also heavily populated by our military families commuting to nearby Fort Sam Houston.

A number of buildings have been renovated to reflect the early 1900s in the quaint historic district of St. Paul's Square, now undergoing its own resurgence in this new century. One key advantage of the East Side is the very convenient commute to downtown and the business district.

as with military personnel commuting from Lackland Air Force Base or Port San Antonio.

Some of the more reasonably priced of San Antonio's newer neighborhoods are found near SeaWorld in the far western sector. Established neighborhoods closer to the center are in Helotes, Anaquia Springs and The Dominion, an upscale community where a number of the city's wealthiest and most influential citizens reside.

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The main driver for myriad developments of all kinds, including clusters of new subdivisions, is the recently built Toyota manufacturing plant.

South Region

The South Side of San Antonio is enjoying a long-awaited renewal and growth spurt destined to further expand the allure of the city to newcomers seeking an affordable quality of life.

The main driver for myriad developments of all kinds, including clusters of new subdivisions, is the recently built Toyota manufacturing plant, as well as its dozens of supplier companies located on the Toyota campus. About 5,000

people are employed by these businesses, and they want to live here to be close to work.

In addition to the new housing, retail and commercial opportunities springing up, the area is home to the new Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus, which is now under development. Alamo Colleges' Palo Alto campus also features new, high-tech facilities.

Downtown

The world-famous River Walk — a sub-tropical botanical garden along the banks of a narrow, meandering river — is the glue holding together a development mix of unique attractions, urban living spaces, hotels and restaurants.

Living in the center of our city is more popular than ever thanks to the number of new condos, lofts, townhouses and apartments joining



► Ready to Find a Home?

San Antonio has many resources available to help you find a home or rent a property in the metro area.

- SABOR is the city's largest professional and trade organization. Visit its website to conduct a free property search and connect with any one of SABOR's 7,000 realtor members. (www.sabor.com, 210-593-1200)

- If you are in the market for a new home, contact the Greater San Antonio Builder's Association (GSABA). Its New Home Center, open to the public, offers brochures and other information about San Antonio area builders, communities and developments. The "Find a Builder" feature on its website allows you to search for builders and homes by area, price range and specialty features. (www.sabuilders.com, 210-696-3800)

the established homes found in and near this high-energy region. All these downtown housing options offer a cosmopolitan, fun and low-maintenance lifestyle with easy access to the events and amenities drawing millions of visitors each year.

Just south of Downtown is the 25-block King Williams District. Formerly one of the most fashionable, upscale neighborhoods for wealthy San Antonio merchants in the late 1800s, the homes in this historic district still fascinate residents and visitors alike with their dramatic architectural features.

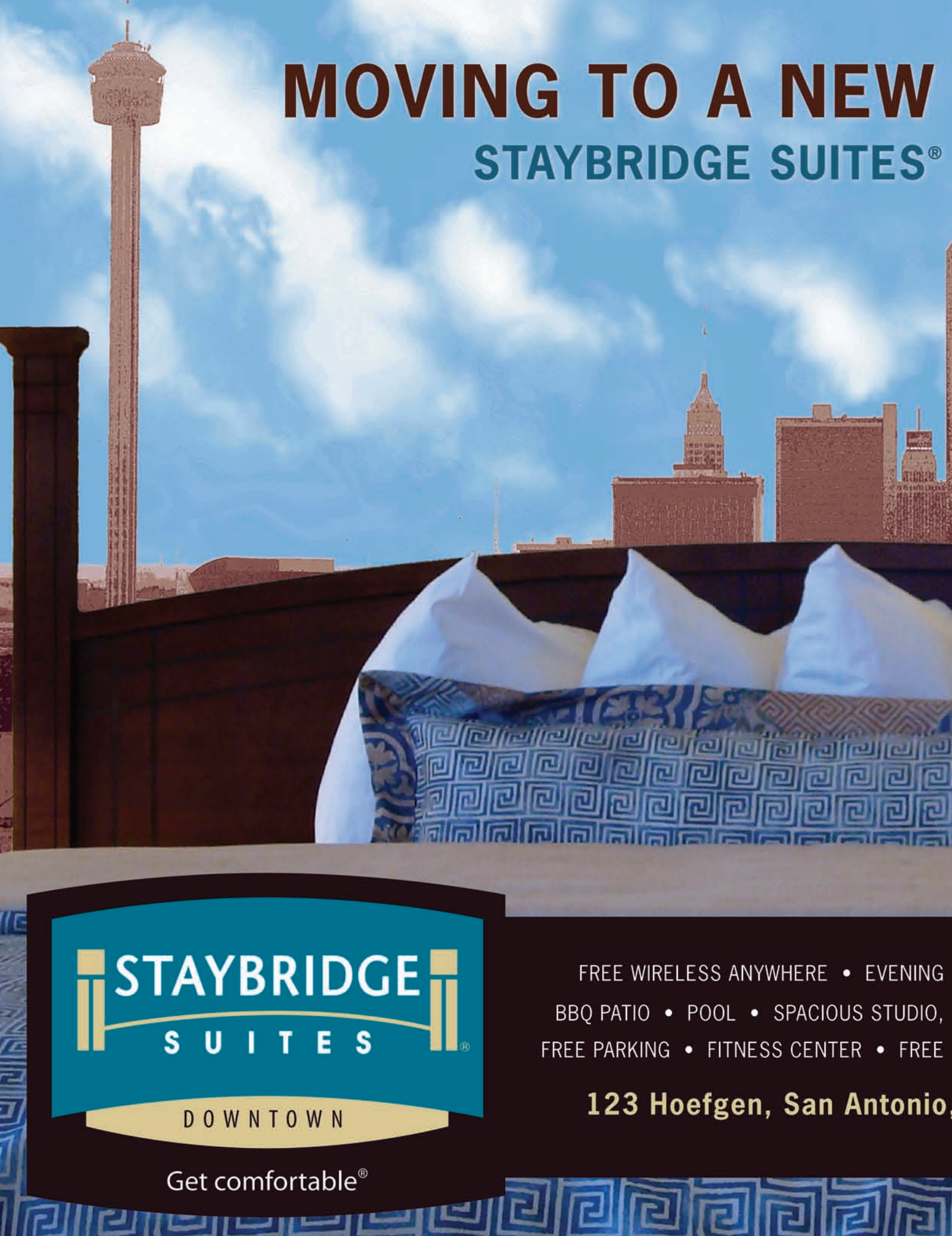
Midtown

A few miles north of Downtown is Midtown, a wide swath of an area filled with vibrant educational, entertainment and shopping options. The newly revamped Pearl

(former Pearl Brewery) is an exciting mixed-use development nestled on 22 acres along the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River. It features residential (apartments and condos), retail, educational, entertainment, office and recreational components. One of its newest "residents" is the Culinary Institute of America-San Antonio. Check out the Aveda Institute for discount salon services provided by its students.

Other Midtown community anchors include the Witte Museum, San Antonio Botanical Gardens, the University of the Incarnate Word, upscale boutiques scattered within many small shopping districts, and numerous eclectic restaurants.

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By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Health & Wellness

Thanks to the recent BRAC consolidation activity, San Antonio now boasts one of the two largest military medical centers in the United States. However, on the civilian side of life, the city also is home to a well-established community of health care providers, many of whom consistently earn state, national and even global recognition for their programs and innovations.

Following are brief introductions to many of the region's most prominent health and wellness industry players.

UT Health Science Center

www.uthscsa.edu

The primary catalyst for the region's \$16.3 billion biosciences and health care industry is the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Recognized as one of the country's leading health science universities, each year over 3,200 students train in its schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, health professions and graduate biomedical sciences.

The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio dedicates considerable resources to the health and wellness needs of San Antonio and South Texas residents through three medical entities (see below). In addition to offering fee-based care, each year it contributes \$119.6 million in uncompensated health care to the uninsured and underinsured.

- **UT Medicine San Antonio** is an academic medical practice with more than 700 doctors, comprised of faculty from the School of Medicine, who represent 60-plus branches of medicine. Over 200 of its doctors practice within the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC), and hundreds more practice in facilities located throughout Greater San Antonio. 210-450-9000 or www.UTMedicine.org
- **Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC)**, one of the nation's premier cancer centers, provides state-of-the-art outpatient radiation therapy. Patients come from South Texas as well as cities throughout the United States, Mexico and other countries. CTRC is one of the few elite academic cancer centers in the nation — and one of only four in Texas — to be named a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center. 210-450-1000 or www.ctrc.net

- The **Dental School** at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio has three clinical programs offering a full array of oral health care services. 210- 567-3222 or www.DentalScreening.com





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Major Hospital Systems

Methodist Healthcare www.mhshealth.com

"Serving Humanity to Honor God" is the mission of Methodist Healthcare, San Antonio's largest private hospital system — and the largest provider of health care to rural communities in South Texas and international patients from Mexico.

Operating 24 facilities, Methodist is the largest and most preferred health care system in South Texas. Eight of its facilities are acute-care hospitals: Methodist Hospital, Methodist Heart Hospital, Methodist Children's Hospital, Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital, Northeast Methodist Hospital, Metropolitan Methodist Hospital, Methodist Stone Oak Hospital, and Methodist Ambulatory Surgery Hospital.

Specifically, Methodist Hospital is recognized as the pioneer flagship hospital of the South Texas Medical Center. Opened in 1963, this 683-bed, acute-care, regional referral center employs 2,500. About 2,000 physicians, representing virtually all medical specialties, comprise Methodist's medical staff. The hospital maintains one of the highest nurse-to-patient ratios in the Southwest.

There are multiple critical care units at Methodist: surgical intensive care, medical intensive care and neurological intensive care, and a highly specialized bone marrow transplant unit. The facility also offers coronary care units and heart services. Intermediate critical care units are available for patients requiring less intensive nursing attention.

Methodist Hospital is our city's "Baby Central," as it delivers more than 10,000 babies a year — more than any other hospital in San Antonio. Its full obstetric and maternity care services meet the varying needs of newborns and their mothers through birthing and labor/delivery/recovery rooms, numerous childbirth services, and different levels of nurseries available in its Women's Pavilion.

Methodist's Gamma Knife Center uses new gamma knife radiosurgical technology for the non-invasive treatment of malignant and benign brain tumors, vascular malformations, and other neurologic disorders. The center is the only one of its kind in San Antonio and South Texas.

This year Methodist Healthcare assumes ownership of Teksan Heart Hospital. This modern facility provides the organization with an additional 120 beds, four operating rooms, four cardiac catheterization labs and an ER department.



Baptist Health Systems www.baptisthealthsystem.com

Baptist Health System (BHS) operates as the fourth-largest civilian employer in San Antonio. Its five acute-care hospitals offer 1,753 licensed beds: Baptist Medical Center, North Central Baptist Hospital, Northeast Baptist Hospital, Southeast Baptist Hospital and St. Luke's Baptist Hospital.

The system also includes these facilities: Baptist Regional Children's Center, Baptist Women's Health Center, Healthlink Wellness and Fitness Center, and Baptist M&S Imaging Centers. In addition, BHS offers community health and wellness programs, ambulatory and rehabilitation services, air medical transport, a School of Health Professions, and other health-related services and affiliations.

BHS health care professionals provide everything from state-of-the-art, robotically assisted surgery and comprehensive women's health services to expert care in areas such as oncology, bariatrics, orthopedic, pediatric, radiology, emergency, rehabilitation and wound care.

Less than a year after developing The Brain & Stroke Network to improve stroke care in



San Antonio and South Texas, in 2009 BHS has earned Primary Stroke Center Certification at each of its five hospitals. It was the first system in San Antonio to be so recognized. And in 2010, The Joint Clubs at Northeast Baptist and St. Luke's Baptist hospitals were the first orthopedic programs in the city to earn the Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission, the nation's largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. The Center of Excellence designation is for quality care in total knee replacement.

Christus Santa Rosa Health System www.santarosahealth.org

The origins of Christus Santa Rosa Health System (CSRHS) date back to 1869, when The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word founded Christus Santa Rosa Hospital to serve the health needs of San Antonio's 12,000 residents suffering from the lack of a public hospital. From these humble beginnings, the health system has grown and flourished.

Today it remains the only Catholic faith-based, nonprofit health care system in San Antonio and New Braunfels and includes five full-service hospitals with 1,159 licensed beds

and a number of specialty centers. Its children's hospital is an academic teaching facility affiliated with the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Last year HealthGrades, the nation's leading independent health care ratings organization, recognized Christus Santa Rosa Health System as the only hospital in San Antonio to be named one of "America's 50 Best Hospitals." HealthGrades also gave the health system a 5-Star rating (2011) for its treatments of stroke, heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture repair, pneumonia, carotid surgery and sepsis from. CSRHS is also the preferred health system of the San Antonio Spurs NBA basketball team.

University Health System www.universityhealthsystem.com

Owned by the people of Bexar County, University Health System (UHS) is a nationally recognized academic medical center. In partnership with The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, it's consistently recognized as a leader in advanced treatment options, new technologies and clinical research. UHS is the third-largest public health system in the state of Texas and one of the largest employers in Bexar

County, with over 5,000 employees and nearly 700 resident physicians. It has several world-class centers of excellence in the areas of cranio-synostosis (premature fusion of an infant skull), neurosciences, rehabilitation, stroke, diabetes, trauma and transplants.

University Hospital, with almost 500 beds, is one of just 15 Level I trauma centers in Texas, the lead trauma center for all of South Texas, and the only local hospital able to provide expert trauma care for critically injured and burned children. Its ER Center is the region's busiest, averaging nearly 70,000 visits each year. UHS operates well over a dozen other facilities in San Antonio; collectively they offer over care in more than three dozen medical areas.

UHS' \$899.4 million Target 2012: Capital Improvement Program calls for the construction of a new 10-story, 1 million-square-foot tower at University Hospital; a large diagnostic and treatment building at University Health Center (downtown); and parking/landscape enhancements and significant renovations at both locations. The first of the two health care facilities will open in 2012; the entire project will not be completed until 2013.



The health system ranked among the Top 50 in the nation for care of patients with kidney disorders, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "2010–11 Best Hospitals" report, and was just one of eight Texas health care facilities to receive this prestigious recognition. More accolades: Last year UHS was the sole health system in the city to be on the list of the nation's "100 Most Wired and Most Wireless Hospitals," and ranked as one of the "Top 25 Most Connected Healthcare Facilities in the Country" (*Health Imaging & IT Magazine*). UHS is the first and only health system in San Antonio and South Texas to earn Magnet status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. (Magnet facilities are said to attract the best nurses and health professionals.)

Nix Health www.nixhealth.com

Nix Health is a hospital and health care system that has served San Antonio and South Texas since 1930. Its facilities are: Nix Medical Center, Nix Specialty Health Center, Nix Alamo Heights, Nix Primary Care Center and Nix North Orthopaedic Center.

Nix Health's full menu of services include those provided at eight specialty centers (e.g., sleep, sports medicine, senior health, bariatrics), home health care, physical rehabilitation, medical imaging, women's health and much more.

For overall bariatric surgery, Nix Health is rated by HealthGrades as "Best" in the San Antonio/Austin Area and ranked among the top 10 hospitals in Texas. Relatedly, the Nix Weight

Loss Surgery Center is recognized as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence by The American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

Nix Health also was recognized as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, and its Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center has been formally recognized as one of the top treatment facilities in the U.S. by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

Specialty Hospitals

San Antonio has a number of private health care facilities and hospitals providing specialized medical care in diverse practice areas.

Warm Springs Rehabilitation System www.warmsprings.org

Warm Springs Rehabilitation System has been caring for Texans for over 70 years. Patients with amputations; life-threatening wounds; brain injury; pain management problems; orthopedic, pulmonary and spinal cord issues; and strokes benefit from its rehabilitation, skilled nursing and long-term acute care services.

Locally, Warm Springs has a 65-bed specialty hospital with a well-equipped rehab center; it offers inpatient and outpatient programs for adults and children. The system is now renovating the former Compass Hospital into a 34-bed rehab facility (expected to be open fourth quarter 2011) and is building a new 40-bed rehab hospital in northwest San Antonio (opening early 2012).

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Institute of San Antonio www.hsriosa.com

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Institute of San Antonio (RIOSa) is a 108-bed acute medical rehabilitation hospital providing comprehensive inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation services, including home health care. This 97,364-square-foot facility serves patients throughout South Texas with the latest rehab technology and a team approach to medical care.

Southwest General Hospital www.swgeneralhospital.com

Southwest General Hospital, a 327-bed, acute-care hospital, boasts specialties in cardiology, general surgery, orthopedics, rehab, women's health, emergency services, physical therapy, wound care, hyperbaric medicine and psychiatric services. Southwest General has earned numerous distinctions for quality, including a HealthGrades 5-Star rating for maternity care four years in a row.



South Texas Spine and Surgical

<http://southtexassurgical.com>

South Texas Spine and Surgical specializes in advanced medical and surgical treatment of patients suffering from diseases of the joints and the spine, as well as in pain-management procedures. Procedures are performed on an inpatient and outpatient basis. Its wide range of surgical procedures includes everything from total hip, knee and shoulder replacements; knee and shoulder arthroscopy; and various “fusion” surgeries to carpal tunnel release and ACL repair. The hospital also has a 24/7 emergency department.

Promise Hospital of San Antonio

<http://promisehealthcare.com>

Promise Hospital of San Antonio is one of the 15 member facilities in the Promise Healthcare system, one of the largest long-term acute-care hospital organizations in the country. It specializes in comprehensive rehabilitative cardiopulmonary care for adult and geriatric patients with difficulty breathing due to complex and unresolved acute illnesses, as well as multi-organ failure, diseases, complications or severe injury. Its more than two dozen services range from comprehensive wound care, ventilator weaning, cardiac monitoring and IV antibiotic therapy to dialysis services, pain management and physical/occupational/speech therapy.

Foundation Surgical Hospital of San Antonio

www.fshsanantonio.com

Foundation Surgical Hospital of San Antonio is a 46,043-square-foot facility with four state-of-the-art operating arenas and 20 private patient

Both women and men of all ages enjoy visiting these wellness and beauty centers to relax, refresh and renew their bodies and minds.

suites. Surgeons here specialize in bariatric surgery, orthopedics, general surgery, neurosurgery, pain management and spinal surgery.

Health Clubs & Spas

With so many excellent restaurants and great cooks in San Antonio, it's easy to overindulge in local cuisine and gain a few extra pounds. Fortunately, San Antonio has hundreds of gyms, fitness centers and health clubs offering a variety of exercise, physical fitness and personal trainer programs designed to keep you fit and healthy.

Most facilities are part of local, regional or national chains, including the **Greater San Antonio YMCA** (health/fitness programs), **Curves**, **Bally Total Fitness**, **Spectrum Athletic Clubs**, **Gold's Gym**, **Anytime Fitness** and **Fitness 19**. In addition, a number of independent gyms and health clubs are scattered through neighborhoods all over town.

You'd expect a resort town like San Antonio to have quite a few day spas. It's true. But these facilities aren't just popular with tourists; they do a booming business with local residents, too. Both

women and men of all ages enjoy visiting these wellness and beauty centers to relax, refresh and renew their bodies and minds. Services offered include everything from facials and manicures to therapeutic skin care, anti-aging, cleansing, acupuncture and other holistic treatments.

Luxurious hotel spas abound. For example, try the peach pecan body scrub at **Windflower-The Hill Country Spa**, located at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. Experience an active organic facial, a signature treatment of the **Lantana Spa** at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa. Or reserve a full- or half-day pampering package at the **Mokara Hotel & Spa**, honored as a top spa by both *Travel & Leisure* and *Condé Nast Traveler* and recognized by the 2010 *Forbes Travel Guide* as the only “Four Star Spa” in San Antonio.

Some of the other most-visited spas include **The Woodhouse Day Spa**, **Isabelle's European Day Spa**, **Patricia's Day Spa**, **Salon David Escape Spa**, **Whispering Waters Day Spa**, **Facelogs Spa** and **Hill Country Spa**.



By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Things to Do in San Antonio

Not long after settling into new communities and work routines, newcomers invariably ask the question: “What’s there to do in San Antonio?” Fortunately the region’s smorgasbord of quality-of-life options, served up “Texas style,” are culturally rich, diverse and numerous.

Yes, we’re a world-famous destination for leisure and convention visitors. But more than that, our countless community-based activities and amenities make San Antonio a welcoming, inviting place to make a life for well over 2 million residents.

Outdoor Adventures Galore

Thanks to San Antonio’s tropical, sunny weather, most every day is a perfect day to do something outside.

City of San Antonio Recreation Department

Not surprisingly, the city of San Antonio owns/maintains 233 parks offering diverse activities. They include nine skate plazas; 21 outdoor swimming pools; a natatorium; gymnasiums; disc golf courses; dog parks; a lake with fishing and canoeing options; an assortment of walking, hiking and mountain biking trails; and many other sports and recreation centers. The

Thanks to San Antonio’s tropical, sunny weather, most every day is a perfect day to do something outside.

city’s Recreation Department coordinates everything from soccer leagues and dance classes to swimming and music lessons, and its summertime day camps for children are very popular. In addition, a variety of sports leagues for different age and skill levels offer football, basketball, tennis, softball, soccer and volleyball.

The city’s newest “signature” recreation area is the 311-acre **Phil Hardberger Park** on the North Side. On track for completion

this year, its amenities include a large playground, two dog parks, picnic facilities, a few miles of multi-use trails and a multi-purpose play field.

Another notable park on a grander scale is the 33-acre **San Antonio Botanical Garden**. It connects people and plants through the \$7 million Conservatory, outdoor gardens and trails, community events (a favorite is “Gardens by Moonlight” in the fall), and much more.

Golf

With over 50 public, private, military and resort golf courses scattered throughout the metro area, San Antonio is recognized by *Golf Magazine* as a golf lover’s paradise. For example, the **Alamo City Golf Trail** features seven city-operated municipal golf courses, while the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa offers **TPC San Antonio**, a magnificent pair of championship golf courses designed by Pete Dye and Greg Norman.

Caving

For those seeking more unique adventures in the natural world (and a place to go to beat the summer heat), there's nothing better than a South Texas cave! A number of these underground wonderlands are open to the public and are fully safe to explore through family-friendly guided tours. They include **Natural Bridge Caverns**, **Cascade Caverns**, **Wonder World Park Cave**, **Inner Space**, **Cave Without a Name** and **Caverns of Sonora**.

More

Other popular activities enjoyed include "tubing" (floating down Hill Country lazy rivers on inflatable inner tubes), camping, hiking, bike riding, horseback riding, marathon walking/running, hunting and fishing, swimming, bird watching, and even high-tech geocaching (GPS treasure hunting).

World-Famous River Walk

Every year millions of people from around the world visit San Antonio's picturesque River Walk, the single most popular destination in all of Texas. Scores of attractive shops, luxurious hotels, and enticing dining and entertainment venues line this 2.5-mile cobblestone

path winding through downtown along the San Antonio River. Its botanical-garden landscapes, waterfalls, colorful art and outdoor patios create a refreshing gathering place unlike any other urban oasis on the planet.

Every year millions of people from around the world visit San Antonio's picturesque River Walk, the single most popular destination in all of Texas.

Attractions

Most people are surprised to see the world-famous **Alamo** (the second most-visited site in Texas) located adjacent to the busy River Walk. Established in 1718 as San Antonio's first mission, the Alamo later became known as the fort where 189 of its defenders died on March

6, 1836, after fighting Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's army. Make time to visit its chapel, Long Barracks Museum and Library, a museum full of Republic of Texas artifacts, and a large gift shop like none other in the city.

In the same vicinity of the Alamo are such attractions as **Ripley's Haunted Adventure** (a multi-million-dollar haunted house), the **Guinness World Records Museum**, the **Tomb Rider 3D** adventure ride, the **Ultimate Mirror Maze and Laser Challenge**, the **Buckhorn Saloon and Museum** (houses intriguing Old West and wildlife exhibits) and the **Texas Ranger Museum**.

Other popular places to visit not far from the River Walk include the 750-foot-high **Tower of the Americas** (gives a panoramic view of San Antonio), the **La Villita** historic art and crafts/shopping village, and further south, the famed and highly historical **missions San Jose, Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada**.

Improvements Projects: Museum Reach—Urban Segment and Mission Reach

In 2009 the River Walk doubled in length with the opening of its **Museum Reach—Urban Segment**. Spanning Lexington Avenue to





Josephine Street, the 1.3-mile urban stretch features new walkways, flower-infused landscaping and pocket parks along the meandering San Antonio River. It also links several downtown historic, commercial and cultural institutions, including the **San Antonio Museum of Art** and the 22-acre **Pearl** — a former brewery turned into a hip culinary and cultural center complete with urban residences, restaurants, shops and offices.

All along this new stretch are found fascinating public art installations designed by renowned local, national and international artists. Integrating sound, waterfalls, architecture, light and movement, they're fun to view via a

river taxi tour or more casually on a self-guided walking tour.

This \$72 million investment marks another milestone of the **San Antonio River Improvements Project**, a decade-long partnership plan by local authorities to create a 13-mile linear park through the heart of city. All the project's many enhancements will benefit San Antonio residents for generations to come in by encouraging new economic development, cultural resources and recreational opportunities.

Set for completion in 2013, the \$271.9 million **Mission Reach** will extend eight miles from South Alamo Street to Mission Espada and connect four of the five missions. Essentially an

ecosystem restoration project, this area will feature hike and bike trails alongside a transformed river environment made more suitable for wildlife and native vegetation (20,000 young trees will be planted here). Future water activities may include the use of canoes or kayaks.

Arts, Culture & Music

San Antonio is home to well over two dozen renowned cultural and art institutions. Here is a sampling of some of the more well-known ones that have delighted millions of visitors and residents alike over the years.

Museums, Galleries and the Visual Arts

The **Witte Museum** focuses on South Texas history, science and water resources. Its extensive permanent collection features historic artifacts and photographs, Texas art, textiles, the world-renowned Hertzberg Circus Collection, dinosaur bones, cave drawings, Texas wildlife dioramas, and a four-story science tree house for children of all ages. It also showcases many nationally acclaimed traveling exhibits.

The newly renovated **San Antonio Children's Museum**, located downtown, is especially fun for youngsters (ages 0 to 10) and includes three



NEED HELP DOWNTOWN? ASK AN AMIGO!



i

You always have a friend downtown: Just look for the friendly Centro San Antonio Ambassador **Amigos** in yellow shirts and purple jackets (pictured above) for free information, help, and directions.

Welcome to downtown San Antonio - not only home to the two most visited sites in Texas: The Alamo and the River Walk, but also a great place to live, work, shop, eat and play.



Have a smartphone? For more free info on businesses, restaurants, shops, events, parking and coupons text the word **DOWNTOWN** to 45384.

www.downtownsa.org



floors of interactive exhibits, plus science and art activities.

The **McNay Art Museum** opened as Texas's first museum of modern art in 1954. This former residence of an art patron features stunning Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Each year over 100,000 visitors view works by modern masters such as Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

The **San Antonio Museum** features numerous renowned permanent collections featuring Western antiquities, Asian art and Latin American art, as well as contemporary American paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. Each collection is curated by internationally known specialists.

More modern and traditional works are found in 60-some local art galleries. **ArtPace San Antonio** features cutting-edge international art, while **Blue Star Contemporary Art Center** hosts over 20 exhibits annually within four galleries. On the north side of the city, most art galleries in Hill Country towns tend to focus on realistic Western art in all mediums.

Want to create your own masterpieces? Contact **The Southwest School of Arts and Crafts**. This nationally recognized leader in arts education provides studio programs for 4,000 adults, children and teens annually and sponsors art exhibits, too.

If you're new to the Lone Star State, you may want to learn more about the diverse ethnic groups in Texas and San Antonio. First stop: the 182,000-square-foot **Institute of Texan Cultures** (a new Smithsonian Institute affiliate). Its most popular exhibit, "Texans One," explores the stories and customs of the 20-some original cultural groups who settled in the state.

Likewise, another Smithsonian affiliate museum to visit is the **Alameda National Center for Latino Arts & Culture**, where the Latino experience in America is communicated through art, history and cultural exhibits/events. The newly restored Japanese Tea Gardens beautifully represents one Asian culture with deep roots in San Antonio. Created on the grounds of an old rock quarry, this magical garden delights the senses with lush vegetation, a pagoda, lily ponds, koi-stocked tranquil pools, pebble walkways, stone bridges and a 60-foot waterfall.

Music and Theater

The influence of music upon Texas culture — and Texas' musical influence upon the world — is legendary and ongoing. As the **Center for Texas Music** at nearby Texas State University

explains it, “many different ethnic musical influences [are] involved in the development of the region, including Hispanic, Anglo, African-American, Irish, German, Polish, Czech, French and others.”

Here in San Antonio, those same diverse musical genres are integral parts of our culture. It's relatively easy to find performers playing country-western, mariachi, Latin, reggae and rock 'n' roll tunes at local joints, festivals and rodeos.

Jazz is also “hot.” One local jazz legend, Jim McCullum, has been drawing jazz devotees each week to the Hyatt Hotel on the River Walk for almost five decades.

Tejano music, an accordion-centric sound born in South Texas that's known for its mix of Mexican and Texan-American influences, enjoys a strong fan base in San Antonio. One

starring some of the world's greatest opera and music stars, including Plácido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli, Frederica von Stade and Roberta Peters.

And each July, “Chamber Music That Sizzles!” comes alive at the annual classical-focused **Cactus Pearl Music Festival**.

Throughout the region, more talented performance groups present an even wider array of music, dance and theatre productions at the **Majestic Theatre**, **Lila Cockrell Theatre**, **Municipal Auditorium**, **Arneson River Theater**, **Josephine Theater**, **Steven Stoli Backyard Theatre**, **San Pedro Playhouse** and similar venues. In addition to gifted home-grown talent, on a regular basis San Antonians enjoy a multitude of “big time” performers on national tours who make appearances here at the **AT&T Center** and the **Alamodome**.

Many San Antonio families buy season passes to our numerous theme parks, as one weekend just isn't enough to fully explore these adrenalin-producing destinations.

of Graham Central Station's five nightclubs regularly features Tejano tunes as well as karaoke, housetechno, hip hop, top 40 and country music. True Tejano devotees never miss the six-day **Tejano-Conjunto Music Festival**, held downtown every year. It attracts nearly 40,000 fans, over 30 Tejano-Conjunto bands and dancer groups from across the nation. (San Antonio's own Selena, the “Queen of Tejano Music,” was the first female Tejano music artist to win a Grammy.)

Classical buffs will find myriad opportunities to enjoy their brand of music. Each season the **San Antonio Symphony**, a professional orchestra with over 70 world-class musicians, presents a large and diverse selection of classical and pops programs.

Over the years the **San Antonio Opera** has produced 50-some major operas and concerts

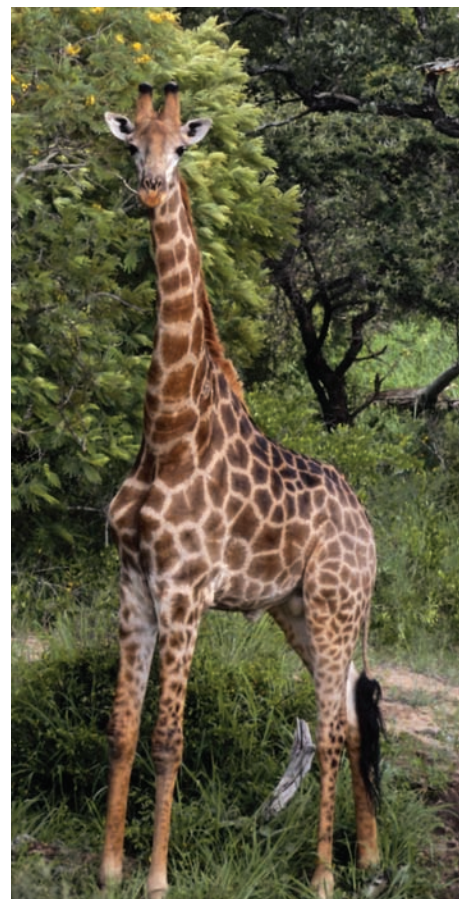
Thrilling Theme Parks

Many San Antonio families buy season passes to our numerous theme parks, as one weekend just isn't enough to fully explore these adrenalin-producing destinations. Our local attractions always rank among the best in the nation for their excitement and innovative shows, whether you are an animal lover or just enjoy a great water slide.

Animal Attractions

Every year 1 million guests visit the 56-acre nationally recognized **San Antonio Zoo** to view 3,500 creatures representing 600 animal species.

SeaWorld San Antonio offers amazing animal attractions, sensational shows, thrilling rides and water parks.





Just outside San Antonio, you'll find even more opportunities for great adventure and family entertainment. For those who dream of going on Safari to see exotic big game, that's possible at **Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch**. Here, guests on self-guided auto tours get up-close and personal with wild animals from six of the seven continents.

Water and Amusement Parks

A huge water park is just one of many exciting amenities at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, a nationally renowned theme park offering live entertainment on top thrilling roller coaster adventures and dozens of other heart-pounding rides. Both **SeaWorld** and Six Flags Fiesta Texas also have holiday hours and spectacular fireworks shows throughout their seasons, and both feature water parks that are included in their admission price.

Also along the theme of water, more family fun is found at the 20-acre **Splashtown** water park, featuring 50 rides and attractions. And in San Marcos you'll find the 65-acre **Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort**, named the No. 1 waterpark in the world by the Travel Channel. Among its 40-plus attractions are tube chutes, water slides, uphill water coasters, pools, hot tubs and kiddie water playgrounds. The laser-and-fireworks show shown at night is worth the price of admission alone.

Opened last year, the 25-acre **Morgan's Wonderland** is the world's first ultra-accessible family fun park for children and adults with special needs (they get free admission) and their caregivers. Volunteering here as a staff support person is one of the most satisfying ways for newcomers 16 and older to become involved in the local community.

Texan & World Cuisines

Sampling menu items from San Antonio's diverse delectable cuisines is one of the most popular "activities" enjoyed by everyone in this serious foodie town. Hundreds of home-grown eateries and establishments with roots outside the area provide an eclectic mix of familiar and yet-to-be-explored flavors in fancy and casual environments.

What constitutes regional "comfort" food in these parts is debatable. True, most natives love to eat **Tex-Mex** (try Casa Rio, Mi Tierra), **Mexican** (La Fonda on Main, El Mirasol), **BBQ** (Rudy's, Bill Miller's) and good ol' **American** cuisine (Biga on the Banks, Bohanan's, Bin 555, Big'z, Chris Madrid). But they also enjoy the range of gastronomic delights served up at area **Asian**, **Mediterranean**, **French**, **Indian** and **vegetarian** establishments as well.

Few foods define San Antonio more than the **breakfast taco** — a soft tortilla filled with any combination of eggs, breakfast meats, potatoes, beans or cheese. Another local favorite is the **puffy taco**, a deep-fried tortilla (soft inside, crunchy outside) filled with traditional taco ingredients. Year-round — but especially during the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas season — the entire town goes crazy for **tamales** handmade in family (preferred by many) or restaurant kitchens. To make a tamale, corn-based dough is filled with seasoned pork or chicken, then steam cooked inside a corn-husk wrapping.

Those wishing to learn how to cook at home with the spices of San Antonio's Latino cuisines may want to enroll in classes at the new **Culinary Institute of America**, a world-famous culinary college. Cooking classes exploring more varied cuisines are also offered through the **Central Market Cooking School**.

*What constitutes
regional "comfort"
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is debatable.*

ANNUAL EVENT • CALENDAR •

For an up-to-date calendar and details on these events, go to www.visitsanantonio.com or contact our Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-447-3372.

► JANUARY

January 6: Light the Way at the University of Incarnate Word

A million twinkling lights will illuminate the night sky at the University of Incarnate Word to celebrate the holiday season in style. This walking or driving experience has been going on for more than two decades and is truly a San Antonio-style holiday event. Free.

U.S. Army All-American Bowl

The game showcases the nation's top high school football players. Spot the talent that will be tomorrow's college and NFL superstars. A week of festivities leads up to the big game day.



► Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Rally

Honoring the Civil Rights leader, this is the largest people's march in the country. Other events throughout the city include a rally, art exhibits, workshops and candlelight vigils.

► FEBRUARY

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Features great entertainment with star-studded country, rock 'n' roll and Latin artists during all 20 PRCA rodeo performances. This spectacular of fun also includes shopping, a carnival and livestock centers. AT&T Center. Admission.

Asian Festival at The Institute of Texan Cultures

This event honors Asian cultures and traditions from the Middle East to the Pacific Rim. Features a variety of delicious foods (Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Pakistani, Filipino and Polynesian, just to name a few!) and an array of performances, including martial arts and dance demonstrations.

► MARCH

SeaWorld San Antonio Opens for 2011 Season

SeaWorld San Antonio's combination of unique animal attractions; entertaining shows that combine artistry, emotion and marine animals into amazing performances; the thrill of our state-of-the-art coasters; and educational experiences for all ages make this park an exciting place to be! Admission.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas Opens for 2011 Season

Let the fun begin! Check out themed rides, thrilling roller coasters, attractions and shows for every age, including opportunities to meet the Looney Tunes characters throughout the visually stunning 200-acre park. Admission.

Remember the Alamo Weekend

This event is a dramatization of the events in the final two days (March 5 and 6, 1836) of the 13-day Alamo siege by Gen. Santa Anna's Army of Operations, played out in Alamo Plaza. Free.

Luminaria — Arts Night in San Antonio

All manner of creative endeavors — art, music, poetry, performance, light shows — explode across San Antonio. The vortex is in the city center, where all the streets are closed to vehicles. Patterned after similar Paris and Madrid arts festivals, Luminaria features hundreds of local, national and international talent.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Make sure to get a good spot on the River Walk for the St. Patrick's Day River Parade, and then head over to the Alamo for solemn ceremonies to honor the fallen heroes. Free.

► APRIL

Poteet Strawberry Festival

More than just a celebration of the strawberry, this festival is one of the oldest, most popular events in the state and is recognized as the largest agricultural festival in Texas. Located just south of San Antonio, the Poteet Strawberry festival includes concerts, dancing, rides, gunslingers, rodeo performances and, of course, lots of strawberries.



Fiesta San Antonio!

More than 100 unique events satisfy every taste and interest and draw spectators from around the city, nation and world. Since 1891, when the first Fiesta event, the Battle of Flowers, honored the memory of our Texas heroes, Fiesta has expanded the initial commemoration to include the recognition and celebration of San Antonio's rich and diverse cultures. Come celebrate Fiesta San Antonio! More than half of the events are FREE. Visit www.fiestasa.org for details.

► MAY

WNBA - San Antonio Silver Stars

Go Silver Stars Go! San Antonio's WNBA team will continue to rock the AT&T Center as they kick off their 2011 regular season, May–September. AT&T Center. Admission.



Cinco de Mayo

Celebrations commemorate the Mexican Army's defeat of the invading French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Events include a festival with music and food at historic Market Square, concerts, and other commemorations.

Culinaria

Get great deals on amazing meals at San Antonio's top restaurants.

Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio

Features live performances by more than 20 of the best musical groups, from traditional Conjunto to progressive Tejano. Rosedale Park. Admission.

Valero Texas Open

The third-oldest tournament on the PGA Tour (originated and played in San Antonio since 1922). It has been one of the top three most charitable PGA tournaments for the last several years. 72 holes. Admission. 210-345-3818.

► JUNE

Texas Folklife Festival

Join in the celebration of all things Texas at the Texas Folklife Festival. Hosted at The Institute of Texan Cultures, this three-day cultural extravaganza brings more than 40 ethnic groups together in one place to showcase their authentic food, traditional music and dance, and authentic crafts. Come celebrate your heritage and share in a Texas tradition. The Institute of Texan Cultures is located in HemisFair Park, a short walk from the Alamo and the River Walk.

► JULY

Fourth of July Celebration

Enjoy festivals, concerts and fireworks at locations across San Antonio celebrating Independence Day. Some highlights include Freedom Fest at Market Square, an arts and crafts show along the River Walk, and extravaganzas at local theme parks.

► AUGUST

Ford Canoe Challenge

Over 90 canoe teams, including local celebrities, city officials, corporate teams, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, compete in the FORD Canoe Challenge. River Walk.



► SEPTEMBER

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA

Catch a month-long celebration at art galleries and many businesses as they display the photographic art of some of the country's and city's best photographers.

Diez y Seis Events

Marking Mexico's independence from Spain, San Antonio celebrates September 16 with special events all over town, including a street parade with floats and marching bands, a gala, Market Square celebrations, festivals, dance presentations, and other special activities.

Jazz'SAlive

Some of the nation's top jazz entertainers, along with regional and local talent, take over Travis Park and dazzle the crowd with their smooth sounds. Travis Park. Free.

► OCTOBER

► Oktoberfest San Antonio

Head over to the Beethoven Halle & Garten to celebrate the ultimate German festival! Music, food and dancing plus German specialties like bratwurst, reubens and beer will be available to help put you in the spirit! Suggested donation at the gate.



Decorated floats wind through the river in one of the country's only nighttime river parades. Admission for all river-level access.

► DECEMBER

Mariachi Vargas

Experience the best of mariachi music during the holiday season with the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan. San Antonio's 16th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza features numerous free and ticketed events late November–early December.

Ford Fiesta de las Luminarias

Stroll along the lush banks of the San Antonio River guided by more than 2,500 luminarias. Warmly glowing candles in sand-filled bags line the walkways to symbolically mark the "lighting of the way" for the Holy Family. This centuries-old tradition begins at dusk Friday, Saturday and Sunday only.

Valero Alamo Bowl

Major college football comes to the Alamodome in San Antonio. It features teams from the Big 12 and Big Ten conferences.

AT&T Championship

The PGA Champions Tour returns to San Antonio for its 24th year. Nestled within 200 acres of majestic oak trees and rolling hills, the Oak Hills Country Club is the perfect setting for this tournament and charity event. Oak Hills Country Club.

San Antonio SPURS Season Begins

GO SPURS GO! The four-time World Champions take on their 2011 regular season from October through April in the AT&T Center. Admission.

Wurstfest

A unique celebration rich in German culture and full of Texas fun! During this 10-day salute to sausage, you'll find a variety of entertainment options, including a polka contest, games, rides, food and drinks on the Wurstfest Grounds in Landa Park, as well as special events throughout New Braunfels and Comal County. New Braunfels at Landa Park.

El Día de los Muertos

Translated literally as "the Day of the Dead," this Mexican cultural tradition is a celebration in which the family welcomes back departed loved ones, sharing the joys of life with them as their memories live on. Creative and respectful altars are set up around town at galleries, cultural centers, cemeteries and restaurants to commemorate loved ones who have passed on. Poetry readings and calavera processions (participants dress as skeletons) are typical events as well. Citywide. Some events have an admission charge.

Diwali San Antonio: Festival of Lights

Diwali, one of the biggest festivals celebrated in India, is for the second year being celebrated in the Alamo City. Event starts at 6 p.m. Experience this colorful event filled with Indian music, dance, food and a special lighting ceremony, as a thousand tea lights are released into the fountains at HemisFair Park. The event rounds out with a professional fireworks display at 8:45 p.m.

San Antonio Rock 'N' Roll Marathon & ½ Marathon

This one-of-a-kind marathon features over 70 bands along the course, which passes several historic missions and wraps up at the Alamodome.

Ford Holiday River Parade and Lighting Ceremony

The day after Thanksgiving, the switch is pulled to turn on over 122,000 lights that illuminate the River Walk until New Year's Day.



► Celebrate San Antonio

Ring in the New Year San Antonio style! Enjoy spectacular fireworks, live music on multiple stages, food booths, family activities and more. On S. Alamo between Durango and Market streets; La Villita and HemisFair Park. Free.

► NOVEMBER

Celebrate America's Military

This annual event which starts the first of November and lasts through Veteran's Day is packed with events that honor our men and women in uniform. Visit The Chamber's website for a schedule.



By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Sports

For fans who love watching competitive sports, San Antonio has a variety of big-league teams, collegiate sports and amateur events, none of which come with scary “Big League” prices. And for those athletes who would rather be part of the action, San Antonio has the event, the spirit and the weather to satisfy almost every inclination.

Frankly, there isn't a time during the year when newcomers and their families cannot find an exciting Big League event or outdoor activity to enjoy. San Antonio is home to professional basketball, baseball, football, hockey and golf. The city also is a perennial host of a number of NCAA teams and prime-time NCAA events.

Professional Sports

San Antonio Spurs

www.nba.com/spurs/

Of course, the 800-pound gorilla of the local sports scene is the San Antonio Spurs, one of the NBA's most successful franchises and winner of four NBA titles. This star-studded team of exceptional players has been the Alamo City's top draw since beginning play in San Antonio in 1973.

Originally part of the American Basketball Association (ABA), the Spurs were one of four ABA teams to join the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1976. The Spurs have been on a tear ever since. They boast one of the highest-winning percentages in the NBA — 16 division titles and

four NBA titles — and have only missed the playoffs four times in their 37-year history. During that time legends such as Avery Johnson, James Silas, George Gervin, David Robinson and Tim Duncan have worn the black-and-silver Spurs uniform.

► Go! Spurs Go!

The Spurs have become one of the NBA's dynasty teams, winning four NBA championships since the 1998–1999 season. Their championship years:

► 2006–2007 ► 2003–2004
► 2004–2005 ► 1998–1999

After playing many years in the Alamodome, in 2002 the Spurs moved to the state-of-the-art AT&T Center. Opened in 2002, the AT&T Center seats nearly 19,000 for basketball and offers 50 luxury suites. Ticket prices typically range from

\$10 to \$300 for seats by the court. Although the Spurs are far from average, their average ticket price of \$53 is right in line with the average ticket price for an NBA team.

San Antonio Silver Stars

www.wnba.com/silverstars/

The Spurs aren't the only basketball stars to light up the AT&T Center. The San Antonio Silver Stars are proof that “this town is big enough” for two. Ever since moving from Utah to San Antonio for the 2003 season, the Silver Stars have truly become the “sister team” of the Spurs, donning the same black and silver colors. Just as the Spurs finish their perennial drive to become NBA champions in mid-spring, the Silver Stars begin their quest for a WNBA title. The team plays more than 30 games from May through August.

The Silver Stars have only added to San Antonio's playoff fever: They have played in the WNBA playoffs every year since 2007, winning a conference championship in 2008. Tickets range from about \$10 to \$125 for the best courtside seats. The team's roster includes WNBA all-stars Sophia Young and Becky Hammon.



San Antonio Rampage

www.sarampage.com

If basketball playoff fever isn't "cool" enough for you, The AT&T Center is also known to get iced over every winter and invaded by a bunch of Canadians who like to two-step it with a hockey stick. They are better known as our local hockey team, the San Antonio Rampage.

Since playing their inaugural season in San Antonio in 2002, Rampage tickets have become some of the hottest tickets on ice. In 2009, the team set a season attendance record with nearly 210,000 attendees, an average of more than 5,000 a game.

The Rampage are part of the American Hockey League, which is the primary developmental circuit for the National Hockey League (NHL). The team is affiliated with the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes, and each year typically sends a number of players to the Coyotes for NHL action. It shares an affiliation with the Spurs and Silver Stars by sporting the same black and silver colors, and the team's mascot — a snorting bull — is a fan favorite as well as a fun allusion to Texas folklore.

Even though the team is growing quickly in popularity, Rampage tickets are still very affordable, ranging from \$7 to \$35 for seats along the ice. Most games include promotional events, including \$1 Drink Night (\$1 beer and sodas) and All You Can Eat Weeknights (\$20 for a ticket and all the food and soda you can

eat). The team plays 80 games; 40 of them at the AT&T Center.

San Antonio Missions

www.samissions.com

Our local baseball team, the San Antonio Missions, has a history that seems almost as lengthy as the Spanish missions after which they are named. The team actually traces its roots back to 1888 as a founding member of the Texas League. The Missions won their first title in 1897 and have matched the Spurs success by winning four league titles since 1997.

During the past 110-plus years, the Missions have been affiliated with the Chicago Cubs, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Seattle

Mariners. More than 700 players have played in San Antonio, only to go on to the Major Leagues, including Joe Morgan, Fernando Valenzuela, Mike Piazza and Alex Cora. The team currently is the Double-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres.

The Missions are one of the city's most affordable sports attractions. Their "clubhouse" — Wolff Stadium — is easy to access, offers great seating, and is full of fun amenities and promotions. Opened in 1994, this facility can accommodate up to 9,000 fans and has all the trimmings of a big league venue: 14 luxury suites, a large picnic area for groups up to 500, and an all-you-can-eat fiesta deck that can be rented for groups of up to 200. Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$10, and you'll find exciting theme nights every week, including Dollar Night (\$1 hot dogs, popcorn, beer and soda), Fireworks Nights and a number of free giveaways.

The Missions season begins in April and ends in September. The team plays about six games a week, including road games.

Cowboys Training Camp

www.dallascowboys.com

The city does have NFL football as well — at least for a few weeks. In the summer the Dallas Cowboys spend several weeks of their training camp in the Alamodome. The team typically holds two practices a day, and admission is free to all.

In the summer, the Dallas Cowboys spend several weeks of their training camp in the Alamodome. The team typically holds two practices a day, and admission is free to all.

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

www.sarodeo.com

The Alamo City also boasts one of the largest and most celebrated stock and rodeo shows in the nation — and that's a lot of bull! Founded in 1950, the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo is so big that it requires three weeks in February



to host all of its events. Its full schedule includes judged animal shows, rodeo competitions, carnival rides and booths, and first-run concerts with nationally and internationally recognized musical talent. It ranks as one of the top five rodeos for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), attracting over 1 million visitors.

Perhaps most impressive of all, this home-grown rodeo with a global reputation is completely staged by about 5,000 volunteers. Better yet, the millions of dollars in proceeds from the event go to support scholarships and other educational endeavors. Everyone is welcome to volunteer to work at the event.

Golf

San Antonio's unspoiled, rugged hills, semi-tropical weather and clear skies make it an ideal setting for golf. Each year, the city hosts PGA golf professionals at two marquee events.

Valero Texas Open

<http://valerotexasopen.org>

The Valero Texas Open dates back to 1922, and Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Nick Price and Justin Leonard have been among its winners. Today the Valero Texas Open is part of an elite set of PGA events that make up the FedEx

Cup. It is held at TPC San Antonio, one of San Antonio's newest golf resorts and one of the jewels of the PGA Tour. Located in the beautiful Hill Country in north San Antonio, the golf course is open for public play and is part of the sprawling JW Marriott Hill Country Resort & Spa complex.

Televised nationally by CBS and the Golf Channel, the Valero Texas Open is held in May. It has an impressive purse of \$6.1 million and typically draws about 50,000 attendees. Tickets can be purchased for as little as \$10.

Approximately 2,000 volunteers help make this high-profile event run smoothly. In 2010 it raised about \$8 million for charity, one of the highest totals of any PGA event.

AT&T Championship

www.attchamp.com

San Antonio also hosts a premier golf event every fall: The AT&T Championship. This event is part of the PGA Champions Tour, the PGA tour for golfers age 50 and over.

The AT&T Championship is held in October at Oak Hills Country Club and has a purse of \$1.75 million, one of the largest purses on the Champions Tour. Golf legends such as Tom Kite, Fred Couples and Ben Crenshaw have played at

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the event. Past winners have included Chi Chi Rodriguez, Lee Trevino and Craig Stadler.

The AT&T Championship is supported by nearly 1,000 volunteers, and in 2009 it raised more than \$350,000 for charity. It is televised nationally on the Golf Channel and watched by hundreds of thousands of fans worldwide.

NCAA/College Sports

San Antonio has received the national spotlight for being the host of several **NCAA Final Four** basketball championships, but it is home to many other NCAA sporting events and college teams.

The New Year kicks off the collegiate frenzy with **The Alamo Bowl**, which pits a top Pacific 10 team against a top Big 12 team. The event has a team payout of more than \$6 million and sells out the Alamodome.



San Antonio has its own slate of college sports teams, including prominent NCAA football, baseball and basketball teams.

The city also has been host to several **Big 12 football championships** at the same facility. (Opened in 1993, the Alamodome seats about 65,000 spectators for football and is expandable to hold 72,000. It has 38 luxury suites.)

In part, again, of its great weather and neutral location, San Antonio also has been host to several **NCAA women's Final Four** basketball championships, the most recent being the 2010 Final Four. The city has hosted the **NCAA Big 12 soccer championships** and, when it isn't hosting the NCAA Final Four basketball championship, is a host for the **Southwest Regional games** (part of the Sweet 16).

Additionally, San Antonio has its own slate of college sport teams, including prominent NCAA football, baseball and basketball teams. **The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Roadrunners** operates one of the more prominent programs. UTSA has men's and women's basketball, soccer, women's volleyball, and men's

baseball, and in 2011 UTSA will kick off its inaugural football season in the Alamodome. Other universities in the city, including Trinity University, St. Mary's and the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), offer a full slate of collegiate sports entertainment.

Athletic Events

Although you can fill your weekends trying to watch all the sporting events that San Antonio has to offer, you can find yourself equally as busy by competing in them personally. The city is host to a number of prominent runs, walks and cycling events, enough to fill the calendar year.

Among the most notable local events is the **Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon and Half Marathon**, held every November. With more than 30,000 runners and walkers, the course is major San Antonio event and a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. The event is part of the Rock 'n' Roll marathon series of events held at cities throughout the United States, and the

3 SAN ANTONIO LOCATIONS



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course is lined with 40 bands and numerous cheerleading groups. It's a fun event to compete in — or just to watch from the sidelines!

In 2010, the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon and Half Marathon raised money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure, but San Antonio also is host to a major **Race for the Cure** in mid-spring. The event includes a 5K run and a one-mile walk, with proceeds benefitting breast cancer awareness and research.

For those who prefer to support their favorite charitable endeavor on two wheels, San Antonio also hosts the **Valero MS Ride to the River** in October. Thousands participate in this two-day bicycle event, which begins in San Antonio and winds through several beautiful Texas towns and the Texas Hill Country. Ride to the River has two tour options — 135 miles and 160 miles — with

an overnight stay in historic New Braunfels. The event raises money for multiple sclerosis and is one of the major MS bike rides in the nation.

In today's economy, most people around the nation have found that their sporting events are no longer affordable. In contrast, San Antonio is truly one of the most financially accessible sports cities, especially when you consider that the price of taking a family to a football or baseball game in many markets has skyrocketed to \$500 and up. There really isn't an event that a family of four can't attend for well under \$100 — even after you factor in the price for parking, food and refreshments. On top of offering reasonable ticket prices, San Antonio's sports attractions are easy to get to, thanks to its modern highway network, and user-friendly to those patrons with special accessibility needs.

► San Antonio Sports: Kids' Programs. Premier Events.

For more than 25 years, San Antonio Sports, our community leader in wellness education and sports programming, has put our city on the global stage. From NCAA championships to the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon, the premier events hosted have delivered more than \$311 million for the local economy. If you love to volunteer or buy tickets for these big events, you can contact SA Sports for these opportunities.

But San Antonio Sports does not just produce big games. They are a nonprofit organization that works every day to **KEEP SAN ANTONIO MOVING**. Year 'round, the **KIDS PROGRAMS** deliver sports and fitness programs to thousands of children in every part of our community. They have established partnerships with 262 local elementary schools in the School Rock Challenge and Go!Kids Challenge™. The Dreams for Youth Athlete and Wellness Development Program introduces U.I.L. sport fundamentals after school to inner-city children via coaching and equipment. Their new Fit Family Challenge expands San Antonio kids' fitness efforts with a fun, incentivized four-month, countywide program for the whole family.

To sign up for their family programs, volunteer or support their work, contact them at www.sanantonioposports.org or call 210-820-2100.





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By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Shopping

Stylish San Antonio is a genuine shopper's paradise, offering a buffet of shops ready to satisfy those seeking the latest and greatest in fashion, decor, electronics and everything in-between.

From large-scale indoor/outdoor malls and outlet centers with well-known national chains to trendy boutiques and unique treasures, the Alamo City has something for everyone.

Open-Air Malls

On the grounds of what used to be the Alamo Cement Plant, the huge smokestacks now welcome shoppers to the **Alamo Quarry Market**. A fabulous collection of 75 stores, restaurants, movie theaters and beauty/fitness options await. From Ann Taylor to Yankee Candle Company and Alta Moda Salon to Whole Foods Market, the Alamo Quarry Market is truly a landmark for shopping, dining and entertainment found just minutes from downtown off Highway 281.

Huebner Oaks Center, in the north central part of town, offers a variety of shopping favorites, including Banana Republic, Eddie Bauer and Borders. Stop by the host of casual dining options, such as La Madeleine, Romano's Macaroni Grill and Starbucks, to refuel. AMC Huebner Oaks 24 movie theatre is conveniently close by.

The sign at the **Los Patios** entrance invites all to dine, shop, discover. And what a discovery it is ... 20 acres of wooded green space off Loop 410. An oasis in the heart of

the city, Los Patios welcomes shoppers to stroll the Paseo Salado nature trail alongside the Salado Creek in addition to enjoying the unique boutiques, galleries, salon and day spa that dot the grounds. Top off a day of shopping with a visit to the onsite Gazebo restaurant, featuring a lunch-only menu with dog-friendly dining on the patio and a not-to-be-missed Sunday buffet.

Once considered one of the best breweries in the nation, what's now just called "the Pearl" has been transformed into one of San Antonio's hottest cultural and culinary destinations. Its unique architecture, found

just outside the center of downtown on the new Museum Reach of the River Walk, welcomes shoppers with one-of-a-kind offerings, including the Melissa Guerra Tienda de Cocina, which was recently voted the best new retail store in the city. Make time to browse nearby resident artist studios, take classes at the newest branch of the Culinary Institute of America, buy fresh produce at the Saturday morning farmers market, luxuriate in the Aveda Institute, and simply sample the best local flavors of the city at the renowned Il Sogno or Gloria's. Those new to San Antonio also will find chic residences being built and offered on the site.

The Shops at La Villita Historic Art Village, located in downtown's River Walk area, are built on a former settlement constructed "back in the day" for Spanish soldiers. Its Victorian and palisado-style buildings now house shops, galleries and upscale restaurants. Alongside Latin American imports of tin art and rugs, craftspeople create everything from handmade jewelry to sculpture, Southwest art and shawls. It's a terrific place for souvenir shopping.

The Forum at Olympia Parkway is one of the largest outdoor shopping centers in all of Texas. Easily accessible from I-35 and Loop 1604, there's something for everyone, including plenty of storefront

On the grounds of what used to be the Alamo Cement Plant, the huge smokestacks now welcome shoppers to the Alamo Quarry Market.



parking thrown in for ease. It's a place where you can run to the bank, get some automotive work done, visit an optometrist, find a special gift and pick up office supplies in addition to outfitting the kids and your home. Restaurants span the gamut, from Asian to British, Mexican to Italian — and everything in between.

On the northwest edge of the city, **The Rim** is an amazing 3 million-square-foot retail destination for serious shoppers. The largest Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World in Texas, as well as off-price outlets such as Nordstrom Rack and Saks Fifth Avenue's Off Fifth, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with major department stores, specialty shops and designer boutiques. A spectrum of restaurants, a 19-screen movie theater with IMAX, and other entertainment venues round out The Rim.

Just minutes away, **The Shops at La Cantera** is comprised of 160 specialty retailers, restaurants and department stores — including Neiman Marcus — with lush greenery and soothing water. All of your favorite designers have taken up residence in this garden-like retail paradise: Burberry, Betsey Johnson, Lilly Pulitzer, Lacoste, Ralph Lauren and Tiffany. Designed by an award-winning architectural

firm, the surrounding master-planned community also includes The Westin resort and two world-class golf courses. For the ultimate in shopping luxury try the valet parking, available at three locations.

Artisans Alley is a tempting shopping treat about 10 minutes from the airport. Locally owned and operated for more than 30 years, this village of shops is bursting with opportunities to find out-of-the-ordinary gifts, antiques, funky decor and clothing. A recent renovation infused its boardwalk with even more new stores plus a brand-new restaurant, Pomegranate's, offering lunch, afternoon tea and Sunday brunch.

The Collection at Broadway and Sunset offers an assortment of galleries, antique and accessories shops, quirky local designers, and trendy labels, along with a Bikram yoga studio and sushi bar at a convenient in-town location.

Indoor Malls

When it's just too hot outdoors, San Antonio's indoor malls offer respite.

The largest pair of cowboy boots in the world greets visitors to **North Star Mall**. At 40 feet high and 20 feet long, they're easy to spot on your final descent into the San Antonio

International Airport right next door — and a sure sign that everything (including the mall) is bigger in Texas! North Star Mall, reportedly one of the first enclosed malls in the country with 50 stores when it opened, recently turned 50 years old. Today, it boasts over 200 specialty stores and restaurants spread out across 1.3 million square feet. One reason why the mall has been successful for so long is that it has continued to change with the times and offers a broad mix of stores attracting all kinds of shoppers.

Crossroads of San Antonio is often called the city's bargain mall. Over 50 of the best brand-name retailers, including Stein Mart, Burlington Coat Factory and Super Target, plus small discount stores and a six-screen dinner theater fill this mall with "what you need, when you need it." Crossroads is near the South Texas Medical Center off I-10 and Loop 410.

One of the largest regional shopping centers, **Ingram Park Mall** is filled with distinct department stores such as Dillard's (with a separate Dillard's home store), JCPenney, Sears, Macy's and Bealls, plus over 150 specialty stores. Would you believe there are over 10 shoe stores here? And kids are sure to enjoy the Disney Store, Cyber Zone and Gymboree. Situated on the



energetic northwest side of the city, the mall also features more than 10 casual dining restaurants.

Rivercenter Mall is an indoor mall with an outdoor feel, thanks to the tons of natural light streaming in from huge glass walls and its prox-

Obviously an attraction for tourists, the mall is also a favorite with locals, who enjoy its exciting mix of “fashion, flavor and fun.” Plans are in the works to expand the space even more over the next few years.

Rivercenter Mall is an indoor mall with an outdoor feel, thanks to the tons of natural light streaming in from huge glass walls and its proximity to the River Walk.

imity to the River Walk. (The river taxis dock right at the facility’s lagoon.) The energized, festive atmosphere here is reflected in the mall’s myriad options, including dining options ranging from A&W Hot Dogs to four-star Morton’s of Chicago; more than 130 stores; Texas’ biggest IMAX 3D screen; and a popular comedy club.

Located in the northeast outskirts of San Antonio is **Rolling Oaks Mall**. Dillard’s, Macy’s, Sears and JCPenney join over 100 specialty shops, a movie theater and a food court that satisfies a variety of tastes. While you’re busy browsing, your young ones will love the Inflatable Wonderland, an 18,000-square-foot

indoor playground with giant slides, obstacle courses, a moonwalk and more.

South Park Mall serves the south side of town and is conveniently located along I-35. One of the city’s most popular indoor malls, South Park Mall maintains a family-friendly image by featuring a children’s play area and frequent community entertainment. Macy’s, JCPenney, Sears, Bealls and more than 70 of your favorite stores join two sit-down restaurants and seven food court dining options.

Outlet Centers

Located along I-35 about 45 minutes northeast from San Antonio, “Exit 200” at San Marcos is home to two adjacent outlet malls and has earned its reputation as a true shopping mecca. (If you’d like to share the ride and have someone else drive, Alamo City Shuttle and My Shuttle Home provide regular shuttle service to the area.)

San Marcos Premium Outlets is the place to go for upscale shopping at savings of 25 to 65 percent off retail prices. Its offerings range from Armani to Zegna and every high-end designer you can think of representing classic and trendy styles. In addition to being a feast for the



Unique Stores to Visit

H-E-B's upscale "Central Market" grocery store brand is heaven on Earth for foodies searching for the freshest, finest edibles Texas and the world have to offer. When the first location opened in Austin in the 1990s, it was dubbed an amusement park for food lovers, and it still attracts 2 million visitors a year. After learning that customers drove all the way from San Antonio to Austin to stock up, HEB opened a Central Market store on Broadway Street north of downtown. This cool place celebrates food every day and is known for its cooking classes, fun events ("Hatch Chili Festival") and even live music from time to time. The Broadway store features over 700 hand-cut cheeses, organic and local produce, meat and seafood, hot-baked breads, and specialty items galore.

Located near North Star Mall, high-end store **Julian Gold** is 30,000 square feet of pure designer luxury. It offers products from Armani, Escada, Pucci and other exciting contemporary collections, plus lingerie, shoes and the ultimate bridal salon. Since 1945 its acclaimed "gold standard" in service has been delighting customers through exclusive trunk shows, custom tailoring, after-hours appointments and the company's trademark attention to detail.

A legend in bootmaking, the **Lucchese Boot Company** has been a San Antonio favorite since 1883. Probably best known for its jaw-dropping

fashionista's wallet, the center is a feast for your eyes. It features exquisite arches, statues and even a gondola pond (in the parking lot) styled after the Piazza San Marco in Venice, Italy.

Tanger Outlets (right next door) was recently named the "Official Best Outlet Mall in Texas" at the 2010 "Best of Texas" awards. General Manager Michelle Carswell attributes

the praise to the center's great value. "When you offer shoppers more than 100 of their favorite brand-name and designer outlet stores, guarantee they are paying the best price possible, and back it up with great customer service, they definitely notice and appreciate it," she said. More than 10 million avid bargain hunters visit Tanger each year.



list of celebrity clientele, Lucchese handmade boots have been spotted on Prime Minister Tony Blair and Prince Harry of England, countless country music legends, and legions of celebrities (e.g., the Kardashian sisters).

Satel's men's store on Broadway has been tailoring Texas businessmen since 1950. Known for its high-quality suits, formal wear and sportswear, the personal service makes this men's store a standout.

Worth the Drive

The German village of **Boerne** (pronounced "Bernie"), less than 30 minutes from downtown San Antonio in Texas Hill Country, is a popular draw for its "Hauptstrasse" (or Main Street) lined with crafts and antiques shops. Hundreds of stores, restaurants, galleries and small-town friendliness beckon. Don't miss the many popular festivals, including Second Saturday Art & Wine, the summer concert series, Oktoberfest and Dickens on Main.

Fredericksburg is a charming city about an hour's drive north from San Antonio. Its "widest Main Street in Texas" features 200 shops and stores filled with a boundless array of antiques, art, home decor, gifts, furniture, fashion, books, specialty food, wine and collectibles. Over 100 bed-and-breakfasts cater

to the flocks of women visiting here on multi-day shopping excursions.

The website for **Gruene** (pronounced "Green") proudly admits that the town has been "gently resisting change since 1872." The perfectly preserved community, now a part of New Braunfels, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. But what was once a ghost town has no shortage of things to do! A 6,000-square-foot dance hall attracts major performers and two-steppers, while fun and funky boutiques lure shoppers. Add in wine tasting or tubing on the Guadalupe River, and this area is a perfect weekend getaway.

The picturesque village of **Wimberley** is well known as the hometown of many artists and authors. Clustered around the town square are creative studios plus quaint shops filled

Gruene (pronounced 'Green') is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

with handicrafts and souvenirs. On the first Saturday of each month, the town is magically transformed with "Market Days," the second-largest outdoor market in the state. Over 550 vendors attract lots of happy bargain-hunters as live music plays. The local Lions Club provides plenty of food booths, too, with all of their profits going to charity.

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By Lisa A. Bastian, CBC

Worship

Newcomers to San Antonio who follow a faith tradition of one kind or another can be assured of one fact about their new city: God — and a community of like-minded believers — are waiting here with open arms to welcome them.

Scattered throughout the region's neighborhoods are well over 1,200 religious worship spaces representing dozens of faith denominations, large and small in membership — including a few non-denominational chapels housed on military bases. Collectively these churches, temples, mosques and centers serve the spiritual needs of San Antonio's families who come from all walks of life. Chief among the many dozens of creeds found here are those representing major monotheistic religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam, as well as Buddhism, Hinduism and Unitarianism.

The city's strong community of faith is mirrored throughout Texas, the "Bible Belt" state with the highest percentage of people claiming a religious affiliation. A sizeable number of Texas' citizens are Evangelical and Conservative Protestants or Roman Catholics (6.5 million).

The special relationship between San Antonio and the Catholic faith stretches back to 1691. Upon discovering a beautiful site with a nearby lovely river on June 13, a Franciscan priest accompanying Spanish explorers christened them both with the name "San Antonio" in honor of Saint

Anthony of Padua (it was his feast day). That same year Mission Espada was built. As decades passed, several other Spanish missions were constructed or moved to the area, including Mission San Antonio de Valero (later known as the Alamo), which was founded in 1718.

The special relationship between San Antonio and the Catholic faith stretches back to 1691.

In 1731 Spain established the first civil community here and the Catholic Church built San Fernando Cathedral in what is now downtown San Antonio. Almost 300 years later the Cathedral remains the oldest-standing church in Texas and is a vital

ecumenical, cultural, civic and service center for people of all faiths. It draws 5,000 Catholics to Masses each weekend and thousands of visitors every year.

Today the 28,000-square-mile Archdiocese of San Antonio serves the religious, educational and charitable works of more than 700,000 Catholics in San Antonio and 17 Texas counties. Countless lay people assist hundreds of priest, deacons, brothers and sisters in operating 170-some parishes/centers, over 40 schools and numerous ministries for Catholics and the wider community.

Some of San Antonio's hundreds of main-line and non-denominational Protestant Christian churches have ministered to generations of believers. Many of their leaders and ministries have touched the lives of millions of people not only in our city, but throughout Texas and/or the world as well.

For example, Max Lucado, the best-selling Christian author (50 books, 80 million copies in print), has been named "America's Best Preacher" by *Reader's Digest* and "America's Pastor" by *Christianity Today*. He is the minister of preaching at Oak Hills Church (OHC), a non-denominational church he has served for over 20 years.

In 2008 OHC brought on Randy Frazee as its new senior minister (he teaches and leads in partnership with Max) and celebrated its 50th anniversary. Today the church has over 8,500 worshipers attending weekly services in five Greater San Antonio locations and is in the beginning stages of creating new neighborhood groups throughout the city.

In 1975 Pastor John Hagee founded the non-denominational Cornerstone Church with 100 people. Today it has 19,000 members. He globally reaches more than 99 million people each week through an international radio/TV ministry as well as books and seminars.

Here is a snapshot view of some other influential Protestant churches:

- The roots of the 6,000-member University United Methodist Church, one of America's top 25 largest Methodist churches, go back to the first Methodist church founded here in 1890. Its renowned 500-member music ministry is involved with many community musical events.

- More than 400 people worship at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a famous Gothic Revival building erected in the late 19th century.
- Established in 1951, the 6,000-member Concordia Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) is one of the largest Lutheran communities in the city. Over 2,500 people worship together each weekend. (Don't miss its popular "drive-through Nativity in December.")
- First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1846 as the first Protestant church in San Antonio, sponsors global mission trips as part of its diverse ministry offerings.

The local Jewish community is comprised of 9,200 Jews representing the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist streams of this ancient faith. Its major synagogues are: Congregation Agudas Achim (Conservative), Temple Beth-El (Reform), Congregation Rodfei Sholom (Orthodox), Chabad Lubavitch of South Texas (Orthodox), Temple Beth Am (Reconstructionist), and Temple Chai (Reform).

The 9-acre Weinberg Campus of the San Jewish Community, located on the northwest side of town, is home to key organizations serving the Jewish population. These include the Barshop Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Eleanor Kolitz Academy (day school), and Golden Manor Jewish Senior Services.

The Islamic Center of San Antonio — the largest of about two dozen mosques in the city — opened in 1997 in the middle of the medical district. Led by Imam Yousef Said, it serves the increasingly diverse community of 10,000 Muslims living in San Antonio and neighboring communities. Members are largely from the Middle East, India and Pakistan, with newer members coming from Somalia, Bosnia and Israel/Palestine. The Center is actively involved in local interfaith activities and places "hospitality" as a core mission value. For example, it holds an annual Open House for non-Muslims (includes tours and Q&A sessions) and sponsors member visits to area churches to explain Islamic teachings. Every week "Islam



These days, this interfaith organization is comprised of congregations representing over 40 different faith groups.

101” classes are held for new Muslims and non-Muslims. And during Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, the Center invites the public to share evening meals with members.

For more information about our region’s diverse faith communities, contact the San Antonio Community of Congregations (SACOC). It was established in 1943 during WWII as a means for the city’s religious forces to collectively find ways to best serve the growing military and civilian populations. These days this interfaith organization is comprised of congregations representing over 40 different faith groups. Every two years SACOC publishes a directory of churches, synagogues, mosques and other local places of worship. To purchase its 2011 directory, call 210-733-9159 or visit www.sacoc.info. To buy the 2011 Archdiocese of San Antonio directory, listing its various parishes and ministries, call 210-734-2620.





Important Phone Numbers

Where to find key information in and about San Antonio.

ORGANIZATION/DEPARTMENT	PHONE (ALL NUMBERS ARE AREA CODE: 210)	WEB
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO	207-6000	www.sanantonio.gov
City Services	Dial 311	
Airport Information	207-3433	www.sanantonio.gov/aviation/
Animal Care Services	207-3338	
City Council – main number	207-7040	
City Manager's office	207-7080	
Convention and Visitor's Bureau	207-6700	www.visitsanantonio.com
Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities (Alamodome, Convention Center)	207-8500	
Economic Development office	207-8080	www.sanantonio.gov/edd
Fire/EMS	207-8400 or 911	
Historic Preservation	207-8316	
International Relations	207-8100	
Library	207-2644	www.mysapl.org
Mayor's Office	207-7060	
Parks and Recreation	207-8480	www.sanantonio.gov/sapar
Police	207-7360 or 911	
Solid Waste Management	207-6470	www.sanantonio.gov/swmd
BEXAR COUNTY – PRONOUNCED “BEAR”		
Main information	335-2258	www.bexar.org
Most Wanted Tip line	335-0455	
County Clerk's office	877-800-3132	gov.propertyinfo.com/tx-bexar/
Voter Registration	335-VOTE (8683)	www.bexar.org/elections/
The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce		
Main number	229-2100	www.sachamber.org
Membership	229-2107	
Publications and advertising	229-2117	
Events	229-2129	
UTILITIES		
Electric and Gas: CPS Energy	(800) 870-1006	www.cpsenergy.com
Water: San Antonio Water System	704-7297	www.saws.org
Water: BexarMet Water District	922-1221	www.bexarmet.org



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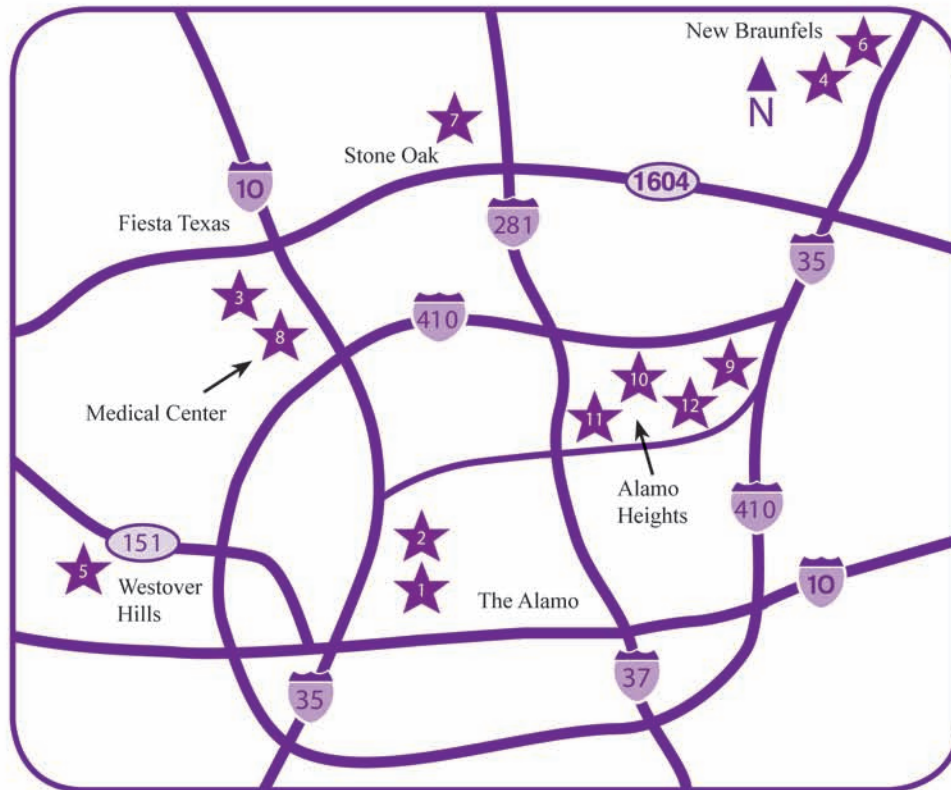
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