The 10 Best New Restaurants

Meet the 10 best new restaurants in San Antonio. From fresh takes on South Texas cuisine to artfully crafted classics and pizza worth planning a night out for, the menus and atmospheres at these eateries prove that the city’s culinary scene is more than hitting its stride. https://www.sanantoniomag.com/the-10-best-new-restaurants-in-san-antonio/

MAKO’S ON THE CREEK
Grab a seat overlooking Cibolo Creek and taste why this small town is turning into a dining destination. The clean, modern lines of the sprawling, 5,000-square-foot building contrast with the rustic and historic surroundings, while the menu offers contemporary takes on comfortable ingredients, and a skilled bar presents classic cocktails and original creations with equal aplomb. Service is polished, knowledgeable and helpful—general manager Mitch Petersen honed his craft at Southleigh and learned his lessons well. This spot offers an intimate feel in its food and service, and is well poised to retain it even as it gains more regulars in the coming months. Lunch & Dinner Wed-Mon. 169 Buffalo Place, Cibolo, 830-730-5947, makostx.com

KINDLING TEXAS KITCHEN
Culinary couple Gwyn and Justin Hammerson have created a vision of Texas cuisine that eschews stereotypes. Instead of tacos, chicken-fried steaks and barbecue, they bring a delightful blackened red fish, a seared pork chop with German pannas and a treatment of tinned oysters that elevates simple munchies into a craveable small plate. Their accessible and delicious dishes, the homely vibe and friendly service offer strong reasons for making a trip to Cibolo. After cooking in some of Austin’s most high-profile restaurants, they say they want to focus on simply turning out excellent food. We’d say they’re succeeding. Dinner Tues-Sat. 209 N. Main St., Cibolo, 210-957-0158, kindlingtexaskitchen.com

FONTAINE’S SOUTHERN DINER & BAR
Chef/owner Tim Ratray, once called the “future of barbecue” for his work at The Granary, delves into his family’s heritage with excellent renditions of Southern classics at his newest place. The space and menu evoke a personal, intimate sense, while his considerable culinary chops remain understated to maintain the focus on an intriguing menu. Don’t expect fancy plating and exotic ingredients, just a consistent array of terrific dishes, from Oradean’s cheeseburger to the fried bologna sandwich or the brunch shrimp and grits. Friendly, knowledgeable service, very good cocktails and a solid wine selection round out the experience, which can easily become a regular habit. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Tues-Sun. 906 E. Elmira St., 210-236-9013.
The 10 Best New Restaurants

PLAYLAND
Don't try to categorize the pizza creations from chef Stefan Bowers. He and his crew assemble innovative combinations of flavor on a sourdough crust that adds to the thrill. Try a decidedly non-pizza appetizer—the sweet/sour/spicy char siu cauliflower is one of the most clever and delicious—and get a cocktail or two while you're at it. Feel some of the downtown energy and plenty of natural light from the plate glass windows overlooking Houston Street. After a well-made cocktail, switch to wine from the expertly curated list. This spot does a brisk takeout business, but the best experiences come from lingering a while. Dinner daily. 400 E. Houston St., 210-908-9362, playlandsa.com

EASTSIDE KITCHENETTE
Culinary power couple Jeff and Jenn White bought an old house in Government Hill that would become their dream restaurant, and after two years, 28 city inspections and countless frustrations renovating the historic property, they have created a place that brings fine dining kitchen finesse with casual flavors in a comfortable setting. Enjoy a well-made cocktail, a craft beer and some of Jeff White's creative dishes. You'll find generous portions, clever combinations and a showcase for some serious cooking chops. Call it elevated comfort food, or whatever you want, just call it a must-stop for a good meal. Lunch Mon-Fri, Dinner Mon-Sat, Brunch Sat-Sun, Breakfast Mon-Fri (starting Oct. 1). 2119 N. I-35, 210-507-2568, theeastsidekitchenette.com

SOUTH BBQ & Kitchen
Come for the meats; come back for the sides. The meats from owner and pitmaster Andrew Samia, who also owns Dignowity Meats and Crazy Carl's food truck, deliver all the goodness expected from top-notch barbecue. Whether you're choosing the prime Angus brisket, St. Louis-style pork ribs, pulled pork, sausage or chicken legs, it all works well. But don't stop there. Make sure to leave room for the surprisingly elegant green bean and tomato salad topped with cotija and almonds plus a belt-busting loaded tater tot casserole and several of the pickled vegetables. All of the sauces and sides are made in-house. Samia does the pickling, and the care he brings elevates the sides into a true co-star with the meats. Lunch & Dinner Wed-Sun. 2011 Mission Road, 210-437-0070, southbbqkitchen.com

MEADOW
Chef PJ Edwards is a veteran of the Jason Dady Restaurant Group and further honed his cooking skills at the famed McCrady's in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Contigo Restaurant Group in Austin. He puts his artistry in service of his ingredients at the site that formerly held Dady's Bin 555, Umal Mi and Tre Enoteca. Its new eggshell blue walls and natural wood accents bring a sense of style and informality that let the dishes shine at dinner and brunch. The Memphis native who moved to La Vernia as a child brings a seasonal Texas and Southern perspective to cooking with dishes like the crispy chicken skin biscuit or fried chicken with bacon braised cabbage. His wife and partner, Lindsey Edwards, keeps the service and business sharp. Dinner Tues-Sat, Brunch Sat-Sun. 555 W. Bitters Road, Ste. 110, 210-481-4214, meadowsanantonio.com

SAVOR
It's not an exaggeration to say that you may enjoy the cooking of a future celebrity chef at your next visit to the showcase restaurant of the Culinary Institute of America San Antonio. Students handle the cooking and the service here. The teams, their chef/instructor and the menu change every couple of months, but the standards and level of execution remain impressively consistent. Select a three or four-course menu and add wine pairings if you'd like, or sit at the bar and try some of the munchies du jour. Dinner Tues-Sat. 200 E. Grayson St., Ste. 117, 210-554-6484, savorcia.com
Nightlife

San Antonio is a little bit of this and a little bit of that, with a lot in between. The nightlife can be as thrilling or chill as you wish it to be. Whether you're looking for a special place to take a new love or a bunch of old friends, read on to find out what this top tourist town has in store for you! The city's east side is growing by leaps and bounds with new restaurants and entertainment options. Pastiche is one of the newest venues to open its doors. Located unexpectedly along Houston Street, just a few minutes from downtown, this Parisian-themed cocktail bar is a true gem, with extraordinary handcrafted cocktails unlike anything else in town, a super cozy lounge area and a friendly kitty to meow away those blues. If you happen to be drinking by yourself. Throw in a library and a funky backyard patio, and you might just feel like you've found your home away from home. It's always fun to explore the local arts and theater, and few can give you a taste of the talent here more than the Overtime Theater. Local writers, actors and crew work tirelessly together to bring people a truly unique entertainment experience. The Saturday night improv group is also a ton of fun and the most bang for your buck!

COWBOYS DANCEHALL

Go to Cowboys Dancehall for some boot-stomping fun and authentic live Texas music! They are located on the northeast side of San Antonio and are probably the largest and most impressive music venue in the city. Besides great music and country dancing, Cowboys sports an indoor rodeo arena where you can see live events, such as professional bull riding. You'll want to plan ahead so you can buy your tickets early because many of their concerts feature well-known artists of all genres so they sell out fast. If your shy or out of practice, be sure to take advantage of Cowboys' dance lessons.

CANDLELIGHT COFFEE HOUSE AND WINE BAR

The warm, LGBT-friendly atmosphere abounds at this coffeehouse, where you can relax on the patio with friends from work or stake out one of Candlelight's comfy couches. Thanks to a reasonably priced but thorough selection of coffees and a range of tasty desserts (including Italian cream cake), the neighborhood hangout is a stylish after-dinner choice. Sandwiches, beer, and wine are also available. In fact they have an admirable wine list. Candlelight is an inexpensive option that has been around for decades and provides a uniquely intimate and relaxing atmosphere. It's a great place to mingle and make some new friends.

HOWL AT THE MOON

Shrinking violets beware: With two dueling piano players, a raucous atmosphere, and audience participation near 100%, Howl at the Moon is a great place to let loose. Musicians keep things boisterous with witty banter, good-natured ribbing, and familiar tunes that all seem to be crowd favorites. Get your courage up with tube or jello shots or an old-fashioned mixed bucket of beers. A mainstay of younger crowds, the bar also pulls in business travelers on a quest for a good time. Located in a hub of bars and restaurants, Howl at the Moon is a fun place to stop at along the way.

RIVER WALK

Travel + Leisure ranked the San Antonio River Walk as the #1 River Walk In America. Also known as Paseo del Rio, this major tourist attraction brings in over five million visitors a year. Delight yourself with a relaxing dinner at one of the numerous restaurants or cafes that line the river. Spice it up by visiting one of the numerous night spots or enjoying the sounds of mariachis and other live music. Adults and children enjoy floating on river boats piloted by San Antonio's humorous tour guides. The River Walk is the perfect place to hang out with family or sit quietly with your date while you enjoy the sounds of a bubbling waterfall.

THE COVE

For a relaxed atmosphere with great gluten-free food, including burgers, and great entertainment, The Cove has become one of the most popular places in town to grab a drink and a meal. This one-of-a-kind restaurant, beer garden, live music venue is also, strangely, a Laundromat and carwash. The picnic-style seating, both inside and out, makes for a very casual yet intimate atmosphere that is both family-friendly and dive bar-esque at the same time. Expect to hear some great local bands every night of the week (except for when they're closed on Mondays), including big jazz bands, folk music, country and more. The menu is exceptional with care for using local, organic ingredients, grass-fed beef and the like.
Nightlife

TOBIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Tobin Center is a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose 1,759-seat (2,100-seat with flat-floor configuration) performance hall, a 250-seat studio theater, and an outdoor performance plaza connected to the river walk with a permanent 30-foot video wall and water taxi portal. The building itself is an architectural accomplishment. The Tobin is situated along the banks of the river walk and within walking distance of some of the city’s finest hotels, such as the Havana Hotel and Tropicana, as well as San Antonio’s enchilada-colored library and many fantastic restaurants. What was once a Historic Municipal Auditorium, with its original facade preserved, has been transformed into an incredible venue that will be a huge draw for acts of all kinds, from opera to music and A-list comedians and speakers. A wide variety of stellar acts and performers can always be seen at the Tobin!

BURLESON YARD BEER GARDEN

Located on the east side of downtown, Burleson Yard Beer Garden is simply one of the most enjoyable venues in all of downtown San Antonio. Although they have an indoor bar, this is the preeminent place to go when you just want to kick back outside with your friends and a few brews. Bring your dog, kids, parents or co-workers - the vibe is always super chill. They have a ginormous patio, a stage for live music or a DJ, ping pong tables and a wide variety of libations, from beer (of course) to creative cocktails. As a bonus, they offer food, whether its in-house or from one of the many popular local food trucks. The staff is always friendly and it seems so are the guests. Everyone’s here just to have a good time! A local’s favorite, it’s also a great place to get in on fun event, featuring San Antonio chefs or holiday celebrations.

JAZZ, TX

There’s something quite magical about Jazz, TX with its stellar live music, cool speakeasy vibe, out-of-this-world cocktails and incredible food. It simply hits on every note! Located in the basement of the once bottling plant, now a food hall, at the Pearl Brewery, stepping into this jazz joint is like stepping back and forward in time all at once. There’s nothing else like it in San Antonio, perhaps, in the entire state of Texas. Doc Watkins is the star of this show - a jazz artist, pianist, and singer. When he takes the stage, he lights up the room and sings an array of classic tunes across genres. You can also find some traveling acts here, but there’s a primary focus on local, very talented, musicians. Jazz, TX is the purest definition of “dinner and a show!”

THE OVERTIME THEATER

San Antonio’s Overtime Theater may be the only theater house in town dedicated to featuring original works written by ingenious San Antonio writers and played by talented San Antonio actors. Every performance is a collaboration of true heart, blood, sweat and immense creativity. The Overtime has some exciting upcoming performances and is always open on Saturday nights for their hilarious Improv troupe! They consider themselves the “theater for the people,” and it must be working because they’ve won the San Antonio Current readers' favorite theater award for four years in a row now. You’ll find everything from community-based plays, science-fiction and superhero epic adventures, broad comedy, gritty realism, and especially that which hasn’t been seen before. The Overtime Theater may just be creating the freshest, hottest live theater in San Antonio!

PASTICHE

Get a sip of Paris at one of San Antonio’s newest cocktail bars, located on the burgeoning east side close to downtown proper, Pastiche is setting the bar high for nightlife revelry that’s both classy and cozy. The owner, a brilliant mixologist, has transformed this intimate cottage into a bar that makes you feel at home with comfy couches, elegant and eclectic decor, French music and even a resident kitty who happily greets and interacts with guests. He has also created a clever menu of cocktails that will shock and delight your palate, including one-of-a-kind libations and familiar drinks with handcrafted twists such as a Dirty Martini, Pompadour and Ethereal. They like to say the glassware is as unique as the drinks, and makes the experience all the more enjoyable. For non-drinkers, you can partake of a nice cup of tea while perusing the books in their library. It’s the perfect place to go to lounge and dive into deep conversations with your friends.
# SAN ANTONIO GUIDE

## DOWNTOWN DINING & NIGHTLIFE

### DINING

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### NIGHTLIFE

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<td>Texas de Brazil</td>
<td>313 E. Houston</td>
<td>299.1600</td>
<td>Brazilian Steakhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony G's Soul Food*</td>
<td>915 S. Hackberry</td>
<td>451.3243</td>
<td>American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toro Kitchen + Bar</td>
<td>1142 E. Commerce</td>
<td>592.3705</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waxy O'Connor's</td>
<td>234 River Walk</td>
<td>229.9299</td>
<td>Irish Restaurant/Pub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yard House</td>
<td>849 E. Commerce #409</td>
<td>354.3844</td>
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<td>Zócalo*</td>
<td>175 E. Houston #115</td>
<td>314.8486</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zocca*</td>
<td>420 W. Market</td>
<td>444.6070</td>
<td>Italian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Serves Breakfast and/or Brunch

Go to VisitSanAntonio.com for a comprehensive listing.
SAM'S BURGER JOINT
Many people in San Antonio claim that Sam's Burger Joint is the best place to see live music. In fact, for the second straight year, they have been awarded BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE by San Antonio Magazine. In terms of a good ol' relaxed place to kick back and grab a great burger while enjoying some live music with your buddies, Sam's Burger Joint is the joint! They have a fairly large venue – or concerts that sit behind the diner-style restaurant. Throughout the years, they've seen some great acts blow through, including local legend, Girl In A Coma, who are on their way to international acclaim.

CARMENS DE LA CALLE CAFE
Carmens de la Calle Cafe is a colorful European-inspired cafe with live entertainment every weekend. Some might call this place cramped but with their sexy ambiance and warm decor, you don't really care. Carmens is also known for their authentic and delicious tapas bar of globally-inspired dishes. Favorites might include paella or their exceptional empanadas, such as beef p'cadiollo and poblano roasted chicken. Carmens provides the perfect intimate atmosphere for a chill evening with friends or that special someone. Friday nights they offer live Flamenco music and dancing, which is a rare find in the city. Saturday nights vary. You might hear some live world music or a showcase of singer/songwriters, for example. The point is for a one-of-a-kind low key venue for live music, Carmens should be at the top of your list, but just make sure to get there early so you get a good table.

COWBOYS DANCEHALL
Go to Cowboys Dancehall for some boot-stomping fun and authentic live Texas music! They are located on the northeast side of San Antonio and are probably the largest and most impressive music venue in the city. Besides great music and country dancing, Cowboys sports an indoor rodeo arena where you can see live events, such as professional bull riding. You'll want to pan ahead so you can buy your tickets early because many of their concerts feature well-known artists of all genres so they sell out fast. If your shy or out of practice, be sure to take advantage of Cowboys’ dance lessons.

ALAMO BEER BREWERY
The east side of San Antonio just got cooler with this giant indoor/outdoor space filled with picnic tables that features craft draft beer and live music. Located next to the iconic Hays Street walking bridge, this bar is really one of the most interesting places to enjoy drinks with friends in the city. Alamo Beer also has a rich history. Years ago there was a beer called Alamo that was brewed by the Lone Star Brewing Company. The Alamo was a local's favorite made from the best barley malt, saazer hops and Texas rice. However, prohibition put an end to Alamo until the arrival of local entrepreneur, Eugene Simor. It took Simor a while but by 2003, he acquired a licensing agreement and Alamo Golden Ale was flowing on tap in the city. San Antonio supporters have followed his story and come out to support the brewery whenever they can. It helps that its good beer, good people and a fantastic location.

BURLESON YARD BEER GARDEN
Located on the east side of downtown, Burleson Yard Beer Garden is simply one of the most enjoyable venues in all of downtown San Antonio. Although they have an indoor bar, this is the preeminent place to go when you just want to kick back outside with your friends and a few brews. Bring your dog, kids, parents or co-workers - the vibe is always super chill. They have a ginormous patio, a stage for live music or a DJ, ping pong tables and a wide variety of libations, from beer (of course) to creative cocktails. As a bonus, they offer food, whether its in-house or from one of the many popular local food trucks. The staff is always friendly and it seems so are the guests. Everyone's here just to have a good time! A local's favorite, it's also a great place to get in on a fun event, featuring San Antonio chefs or holiday celebrations.

JAZZ, TX
There's something quite magical about Jazz, TX with its stellar live music, cool speakeasy vibe, out-of-this-world cocktails and incredible food. It simply hits on every note! Located in the basement of the iconic bottling plant, now a food hall, at the Pearl Brewery, stepping into this jazz joint is like stepping back and forward in time all at once. There's nothing else like it in San Antonio, perhaps, in the entire state of Texas. Doc Watkins is the star of this show - a jazz artist, pianist, and singer. When he takes the stage, he lights up the room and sings an array of classic tunes across genres. You can also find some travelling acts here, but there's a primary focus on local, very talented, musicians. Jazz, TX is the purest definition of "dinner and a show!"
SAN ANTONIO

Live Music

THE COVE
For a relaxed atmosphere with great gluten-free food, including burgers, and great entertainment, The Cove has become one of the most popular places in town to grab a drink and a meal. This one-of-a-kind restaurant, beer garden, live music venue is also, strangely, a Laundromat and carwash. The picnic-style seating, both inside and out, makes for a very casual yet intimate atmosphere that is both family-friendly and dive-bar-esque at the same time. Expect to hear some great local bands every night of the week (except for when they’re closed on Mondays), including big jazz bands, folk music, country and more. The menu is exceptional with care for using local, organic ingredients, grass-fed beef and the like.

GRUENE HALL
Although Gruene Hall is located outside the city limits of San Antonio, it's worth the extra gas to get to what has now become an iconic venue. Built in 1878, Gruene Hall is considered the oldest running dance hall in Texas, and the Central Texas birthplace to many famous songwriters and musicians, including George Strait, Ace in the Hole, Jerry Jeff Walker, Lyle Lovett, Joe Ely, Robert Earl Keen, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Hal Ketchum, Bruce and Charlie Robison, and many more. This is the place to put your boots on (or an excuse to buy some if you don’t already have a pair), grab your guy or gal and head on down for an evening to remember!

DORCOL DISTILLING COMPANY
Thanks to a new law, Dorcol Distilling Company, which makes an incredible Serbian apricot brandy, transforms into a cocktail lounge on the weekends and, using only their signature spirit creates the most amazing craft cocktails! Dorcol was the first urban distillery to open after the law, enabling them to sell liquor on the premises. Located in the burgeoning arts district on Flores Street south of downtown in San Antonio. In what used to be a restaurant equipment dump site, Dorcol is now a social hub with as much promise as character and originality. Owners Boyan Kalusevic and Chris Mobley opened their doors at the end of 2013 and have been gaining momentum ever since. Currently, Dorcol only makes one spirit called Kinsman, which is a premium handcrafted Rakia made on site in small batches. The cocktail bar, or tasting room, is only open Thursday through Saturday, but is certainly worth a jaunt to the Southside, particularly if it's the 2nd Saturday of every month, which is when the arts walk in the neighborhood takes place. Dorcol usually hosts an art opening as well - featuring one of San Antonio's local talents.

LUNA
If country music's not your thing, get a taste of soulful, alternative rhythms at LUNA. Jazz is the club's raison d'être, and its red-velvet: decor, exposed brickwork, and slinky upholstered bar provide a perfect backdrop to the main event. While you're savoring top-notch music, try a Liquid Reverb martini with raspberry vodka, orange juice and Red Bull to accompany the snacks. Other musical styles you may encounter include swing, soul, blues, funk, and Spanish guitar. Folks love the live salsa music and dancing. This is an ideal spot for a first or favorite date. Lounge and listen or get out there and make some memories!
What is Pearl?

The architects and planners behind San Antonio’s Pearl District have organized a neighborhood in a brewery. The former home of Pearl Brewery, which operated here from 1883 to 2001, was for years a no-go area, an eerily empty stretch of land north of downtown. Over the past decade, the plant has been painstakingly and sensitively repurposed into a vibrant micro district. Many original structures remain; the bottling plant is now a food hall, for example, and vintage equipment is strewn around public spaces. Brewery and ammonia tanks are now rainwater collectors and herb-garden containers. Read more.

What to do in Austin

With chef-owned restaurants, independent shops and cool cocktail bars all situated in a compact, 22-acre site by the San Antonio River, Pearl has quickly become the city’s most desirable place to stay and play.

Pearl, located north of downtown San Antonio, provides a unique experience as a top culinary and cultural destination. The mixed-use space features retail, dining, picturesque green spaces, a riverside amphitheater, and the third campus of The Culinary Institute of America. As a former brewery operating from 1883 to 2001, Pearl reflects a vivid past while embracing the future with environmentally sustainable buildings mixed with historic architecture.

The 22-acre Pearl site is home to the year-round Pearl Farmers Market, Hotel Emma and its restaurant Supper. Pearl restaurants include La Gloria by CIA graduate chef Johnny Hernandez; Savor, from The Culinary Institute of America, San Antonio; Blue Box Bar; Botika; The Boiler House; Texas Grill & Wine Garden; Cured; Southerleigh Fine Food & Brewery; Bakery Lorraine; Local Coffee; Lick Honest Ice Creams; Green Vegetarian Cuisine; and High Street Wine Co. The Bottling Department, San Antonio’s first food hall, includes restaurants Bud’s Southern Rotisserie, Fletcher’s Hamburgers, Maybelle’s Donuts, Tenko Ramen, and The Good Kind.


The Can Plant offers urban contemporary apartments with a place in history. The Cellars are luxury apartments offering hospitality and culinary excellence, extraordinary living spaces, concierge-curated services, and more. Event space includes the historic Pearl Stable.
SAN ANTONIO GUIDE

PEARL & BROADWAY DINING & NIGHTLIFE

Just north of the River Walk is the thoroughfare called Broadway. Along this great San Antonio street, you'll find bustling restaurants with charm and unique cuisine amongst the former Pearl Brewery, boutiques, museums and the Culinary Institute of America. Estimated cab fares are $8-$12 one way from the Henry B. González Convention Center. All passengers can ride for the price of one.

### PEARL & BROADWAY DINING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESTAURANT</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>210 AREA</th>
<th>THEME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alamo BBQ Co.</td>
<td>311 E. Grayson</td>
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<td>Augie's Alamo City BBQ</td>
<td>909 Broadway</td>
<td>314.3596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bakery Lorraine</td>
<td>306 Pearl Pkwy #110</td>
<td>862.5562</td>
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<td>Boiler House</td>
<td>312 Pearl Pkwy, Building 3</td>
<td>354.4644</td>
<td>Texas Grill Wine Garden</td>
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<td>Botika</td>
<td>303 Pearl Pkwy</td>
<td>951.9395</td>
<td>Asian/Latin Fusion</td>
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<td>The Brown Coffee Co.</td>
<td>1800 Broadway #131</td>
<td>274.0702</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
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<td>Cheesy John's</td>
<td>4200 Broadway</td>
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<td>Burgers</td>
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<td>Cured</td>
<td>306 Pearl Pkwy</td>
<td>314.3029</td>
<td>Modern American</td>
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<td>Down on Grayson</td>
<td>505 E. Grayson</td>
<td>281.9244</td>
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<td>Fratello's Italian Market &amp; Deli</td>
<td>2503 Broadway</td>
<td>444.0277</td>
<td>Italian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Time Charlie's</td>
<td>2922 Broadway</td>
<td>826.5392</td>
<td>American</td>
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<td>The Granary</td>
<td>602 Avenue A.</td>
<td>228.0124</td>
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<td>Grayze</td>
<td>521 E. Grayson</td>
<td>488.8776</td>
<td>American</td>
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<td>Green</td>
<td>200 E. Grayson #120</td>
<td>320.5086</td>
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<td>Koi Kawa Japanese Restaurant</td>
<td>405 Broadway</td>
<td>805.8811</td>
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### PEARL & BROADWAY NIGHTLIFE

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<td>Blue Box Bar</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Brooklynite</td>
<td>516 Brooklyn Ave.</td>
<td>444.0707</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS 1221</td>
<td>1221 Broadway</td>
<td>251.3184</td>
<td>Craft Beers</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Street Wine Co.</td>
<td>302 Pearl Pkwy #104</td>
<td>908.9144</td>
<td>Wine Bar</td>
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<td>Jazz, TX</td>
<td>312 Pearl Pkwy, Building 6</td>
<td>332.9386</td>
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<td>Paramour</td>
<td>102 9th, Ste. 400</td>
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<td>156 E. Grayson</td>
<td>223.7375</td>
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<td>Still Golden Social House</td>
<td>1200 Broadway</td>
<td>365.3246</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Modernist</td>
<td>516 E. Grayson</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFW Post #76</td>
<td>10 Tenth</td>
<td>223.4581</td>
<td>Cheap Beer</td>
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SLEEP IN A BREW HOUSE

When it finally opened in November 2015, Hotel Emma signifies Pearl’s transformation from sketchy industrial area to slick neighbourhood was complete. Thoughtful touches like a welcome margarita – served from a vintage cocktail tray in the Library room – and bedtime macaroons from Bakery Lorraine, a local favourite, mean guests feel thoroughly taken care of. Set aside an afternoon to doze by the tranquil outdoor pool, with food and drink served straight to your lounger.

BROWSE NICH SouVENIRS

Pearl has more than a dozen independent shops to explore. Lose an afternoon at the Twig Book Shop, and peep at Vintage Bouquet Bar’s floral works of art. For a souvenir fix, visit fair trade craft store Ten Thousand Villages and browse turquoise glassware and seersucker bathrobes at Curio, inside Hotel Emma’s lobby.

GET ON YOUR BIKE

Rent a bike from one of Pearl’s B-Cycle hubs to explore the Museum Reach, a rejuvenated stretch of the pedestrian-friendly River Walk. Passår: murals and green spaces en route to downtown, visit the location of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, and continue to Southtown – another up-and-coming area, dominated by the Blue Star Arts Complex. Shop to live music. Live bands play while shoppers browse stalls with local honey, wine, cheeses and baked goods at Pearl’s monthly night market, which runs throughout the summer. Local restaurants, bars and shops join the fun, staying open late and offering discounts. The weekend farmers’ market runs all year.

TAKE AN AERIAL YOGA CLASS

To counter all that food and drink, book a class at The Synergy Studio. Niche workouts include Nia – a combination of jazz dance, yoga, and mindfulness – and aerial yoga, where poses are struck in an aerial hammock. Cruise down the River Walk. Take a narrated boat tour with Go Rio Cruises, passing the city’s first neighbourhood – La Vallita – or buy a day pass and hop between the museums, bars and restaurants dotted between Pearl and downtown.

DRINK IN A BREW TANK

The most coveted seats in Hotel Emma’s bar, Sternewirth, are inside cast-iron tanks once used to ferment beer. There’s even a button to summon the bar staff, so you don’t have to shift from your velvet banquette to order potent cocktails like the Three Emas, made with Pearl beer, rose cordial and gin.

SOAK UP SOME ART

Take a short stroll along the River Walk to reach the San Antonio Museum of Art. Its beguiling collections of pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial and Latin American art are arranged across two wings, connected by a skybridge with city views. The 19th-century building was formerly occupied by the Lone Star Brewery. Notice a theme here?

DINE AT CHEF-LED RESTAURANTS

Many of Pearl’s restaurants are owned by chefs trained by the CIA – the Culinary Institute of America, that is – there’s a huge campus here. Many graduates have stuck around, and the talent is evident in every bite. Hotel Emma’s supper uses local produce for dishes like crispy smoked quail with pickled corn relish. At Cured, housed in the brewery’s administrative offices, diners are greeted by a charcuterie case. The menu is (unsurprisingly) meaty, from the plates of house-cured meat to the bison tartare. But they take their vegetables seriously too, as evidenced by the vibrant beet salad and the deliciously rich and earthy mushroom gnocchi.

SIP FROSÉ IN A FOOD HALL

Head to the Bottling Department for happy hour. The food hall’s drinks cost half price every day from 3pm to 6pm, and all day on Mondays. The frosé (frozen rosé) is especially refreshing, like a grown-up slushy. Stalls selling ramen, burgers and rotisserie chicken and are on hand to soak up the booze, or try a raspberry Hibiscus doughnut, served plain or a la mode (with a scoop of ice cream), from Maybelle’s.
PUBLIC SPACES?

Pearl currently has four public spaces: the Amphitheater, Parkito, Plaza, and the Park. The spaces are open to the public and dog friendly. Every week we host programming at Pearl and we invite you to come and enjoy these spaces with your family and friends.

DIRECTORY

Food
- Hotel Emma
- Retail & Services
- Adele's Boutique
- Bank of San Antonio
- Elia World
- Usa
- Dina
- Doc Cardio
- Felix's Modern POP
- Llano
- Lehmbera
- Nueve of Pearl
- The Opening District
- San Antonio Village
- The Toy Finch
- The Twin Duck Shop

Food & Drink
- Delivery Lorraine
- El Buho Bar
- Butler House
- Barks
- Barking Trout
- Food Hall
- Outdoor Environment
- The Art Experience
- Market Square
- Mercado
- Tengo

Venue
- Pearl Stable
- Residential
- Care
- Collins

Public Spaces
- Amphitheater
- Parkito
- Park
- Plaza

Health & Fitness
- Health Spa & Relax
Very Cool Things to Do in San Antonio

By GEORGINA BUCKLEY

The Alamo City is primarily known for... well, the Alamo. It's also home to SeaWorld, Six Flags, and the famous River Walk, but that's only the facade of the city. Instead, think of San Antonio as a cascarón: smooth and plain on the outside, but filled with a ton of colorful confetti on the inside. You just need to know how to get through that outer shell, and you're set -- which is why we've done the legwork and put together a rundown of all the best stuff the city has to offer, from off-the-beaten-path attractions and local events to iconic bucket list spots even locals need to try. Here's everything you need to do in San Antonio, no matter your budget.

**DRINK MARGARITAS IN THE SUN AT THE YANaguana GARDEN**

Free - $

Part public art show, part playground for kids and adults, and all beautiful, this garden is a great place to relax and showcases the best that urban design has to offer. The garden offers a few places to eat and drink, including a CommonWealth Coffeehouse & Bakery, and the Con Safos Cocina & Cantina. Typically, you can also find plenty of nearby food trucks, and yes, you can get a variety of craft beers and margaritas at Con Safos.

**GET YOURSELF SOME CULTURE AT ARTPACE**

Free

If contemporary art (and its creation) fascinates you, then Art Pace is the place to go. The museum is fairly unusual, in that nine artists per year are invited to live and work here throughout the year in three four-month cycles; three of the artists are from Texas, three are from elsewhere in the United States, and three are from around the world. Art Pace is free and open to the public, and offers artist lectures and other events for the ambitiously art-y among us -- for example, they recently paired with Austin Eastciders to create "Cider Sessions" where free cider was offered, and visitors got the inside scoop on the artists' creative processes.

**SPEND THE DAY KAYAKING AT CONFLUENCE PARK**

Free

The newly opened confluence park used to be an industrial lot; now it exists to help teach about solar and energy neutrality, and is also an excellent entry point for kayaking or biking along the river. Although the park is still in its infancy, it still serves as a great place to practice early morning yoga or picnic along the banks of the river.

**HAVE LUNCH ON THE RIVER WALK**

$-

There are plenty of non-touristy options for eating along the River Walk, but if you're paralyzed by choice, just head to the historic Schilo's: it's a reliable landmark restaurant that's served lunch to San Antonians since 1917. If you're going there for breakfast, make sure to get their relatively early; the traditional German goodness is decidedly worth the wait.

**PEOPLE WATCH (AND DOG WATCH) AT THE FARMERS MARKET AT PEARL**

Free

The farmers market itself features almost 20 vendors, some selling standard grocery fare while others offer brunch and lunch options, all set amidst the picturesque community gathering space that is the Pearl District. Dog-friendly, kid-friendly, and filled with locals and visitors alike, it's easy to while away your morning sipping on coffee from local coffee (or something a bit stronger from Smitherleigh brewery) while chomping down on a variety of food courtesy of the Culinary Institute of America, which has its third campus right there in the Pearl. The beginning of the River Walk is just steps away, making it relatively easy to walk your way into central downtown with a cold one in hand -- preferably a Sol -- from La Gloria.

**EXPLORE SAN ANTONIO'S MISSIONS ON A BIKE**

Free - $-

Varied locations south of Downtown San Antonio. The San Antonio Missions are part of a UNESCO world heritage site and span the San Antonio River for several miles south of Downtown. The most famous mission is, of course, the Alamo, but Missions Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan, and Espada are just as beautiful (and slightly less mobbed with visitors), so don't overlook them. The best way to see them all is to take an Uber, Lyft, or your own car to the farthest one (Mission Espada) and rent a bike at one of the kiosks. From there, you can cycle the Mission Reach Trail and visit each Mission along the 15-mile riverside trail. There are 3-bike kiosks at every mission, and you only need to plug in your credit card to get your bike (there's also a B-bike app you can download). The trail also runs straight into the Blue Star brewery complex, so after visiting the first few missions you can stop for a cold beer (or margarita), and take a look at the King William historic district.

**DANCE TO THE BEAT AT LUNA**

$-$

Luna has been around since 2003, and offers live salsa, jazz, funk, soul, and every other music genre you can think of -- depending on the night, of course. The club offers a decent cover charge, and phenomenal drinks and atmosphere with high energy dancing and music playing until 2am.

**GET TIPSY AT A MUSEUM FOR KIDS**

$$

Technically a children's museum, The DoSeum is a highly interactive and playful museum featuring a host of games, activities, and hands on learning. One of the best features of the DoSeum, though, is that they offer "ReDo" nights, which are 21+; all you have to do is buy a ticket and you'll get complimentary drinks, appetizers, and full access to all the activities at the museum.
DO SOME YOGA AT THE SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

$5
Thirty-three acres of exotic and local plants and trees make up this winding park, which also features old log cabins, bird watching areas, formal gardens, veggie gardens, and a variety of ecosystems displayed in a large, architecturally wondrous greenhouse. If you’re over the River Walk, and you’re with someone who likes to stay fit, this is the place to go: the garden offers yoga and tai-chi classes, which you can sign up for online.

GAZE AT THE MURALS OF I-35

Free
You only notice it in flashes as you’re driving by, but once you get up close, the murals under I-35 (near St. Mary’s and Elmira Streets) are breathtaking. Brought to the city by the Street Art Initiative, the murals showcase a variety of different graffiti styles brought to you on a massive scale. Viewing is free, and will leave you wanting to pick up a spray paint can and make a mark of your own—but, don’t do that.

SPOT SOME STAND-UP TALENT AT LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB

$5-$15
Showcasing a mix of comedians you’ve never heard of and ones you’ve certainly seen somewhere before, Laugh Out Loud is a belly laugh of a night out with great drinks, tables, food, and plenty of parking. Open every night except Monday, the Comedy Club is an easy choice when you’ve done every other type of night out in San Antonio. If you’re taking family, be sure to check exactly what type of comedian you’re signing up for, as the type of comedy you’re hearing can range in styles and taste.

TAKE IN THE ART ON THE RIVER WALK’S MUSEUM REACH

Free
The River Walk is an obvious staple of San Antonio, but what a lot of visitors (and locals, even) don’t know is that there’s more River Walk than what’s featured downtown. Starting around the Pearl District, you can get on the less-bustling end of the River Walk to see some of the amazing art installations under the bridges, including F.I.S.H. by Philly artist Donald Lipski. The best (and coolest, temperature-wise) time to see them is toward twilight, as the gigantic fish light up and it’s sort of like you’re walking underwater. This part of the River Walk also offers access to several museums. As a bonus, you can stop at open-air bars like the Luxury and bring your beverages on your walk: If you don’t feel like walking, feel free to hail a river taxi, but watch out: they’re a bit pricey.

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DINOSAURS AT GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA

$5
If you’re feeling ambitious and need to work up a sweat (as a result of too many margaritas, perhaps), then head for the hills: Government Canyon is a 12,000-acre park and, incredibly, has hundreds of preserved dinosaur tracks. The trails are open to the public, and it’ll be about a three-hour hike to get to the tracks and back. In the summer months, be sure to go in the morning—this is South Texas, after all, and it gets absurdly hot.

GET YOUR SWING ON AT JAZZ NIGHT AT THE BLUE STAR BREWING COMPANY

Free
Every Tuesday from 8-10pm some of the best jazz artists in the city gather here to perform big band compositions. Your best bet will be to go around 7:30pm and have dinner at one of the Blue Star Complex restaurants (Suzeban or Stella are both great choices), then follow it up with some jazz.

PADDLE AMONG GORGEOUS HOUSES ON THE KING WILLIAM PADDLE TRAIL

$15
If you’re the type to drive through rich neighborhoods and gawk at the mansions, this is the activity for you. You can rent a paddleboard at places like SUP SATX, then meet near the Blue Star Brewery and go for a long paddle through the ancient Oaks and elaborate Victorian houses of the historic King William District. Afterward, you can have a beer at Blue Star or go visit essential King William watering hole: The Friendly Spot.

SIP AND TAKE IN SOME POETRY ON MONDAYS AT JANDROS

Free-$5
Monday nights at Jandros on St. Mary’s Strip is the place to be for anyone who’s into the spoken word scene. Showcasing both new and seasoned poets, the patio at Jandros is a great spot to relax with a cocktail and let the words flow over you—the poetry’s free, but the drinks aren’t.
TAILGATE A SAN ANTONIO FC GAME

When most people think about sports in San Antonio, they think about the Spurs. However, a new team is gaining traction: the San Antonio Futbol Club (SAFC) was founded in 2016, and plays at Toyota Field off of Wurzbach during the regular USL season. Unlike other sporting events, which often involve expensive parking, long lines, and bad seats, SAFC games feature free (or very cheap) parking and arguably the best tailgating in San Antonio. The stadium is relatively small, meaning you always have a good view of the players and the games are fast-paced and raw. The fans are diehard, the energy is undeniable, and the location is easy to get to. The best nights to go are one-dollar beer nights — yes, they exist, and yes, craft beer is included.

SEE THE CITY ON TWO WHEELS WITH SATX SOCIAL RIDE

Free-$
Every Tuesday, a few hundred bicyclists meet up at Burleson Yard Beer Garden to do a 10-12-mile bike ride through downtown San Antonio. Whether you have a bike or just rent one at a nearby shop, this is a perfect early-week activity to take visitors out on a tour of the city — or, to just head out on your own and meet a hundred new friends. Once you've finished your ride, Burleson Yard offers the perfect low-key spot to have a drink, play ping-pong, and eat a delicious assortment of foods from the nearby food trucks. Take in the city lights from the Hays.

TAKE IN A SHOW AT THE ROXIE THEATRE COMPANY

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Run entirely by community volunteers, the Roxie Theatre Company is housed near the medical center area, in what used to be a nightclub. The result is an intimate, 360-degree playhouse showcasing actors of all ages and styles in both offbeat and mainstream productions. Snacks and drinks (including booze) are sold inside the playhouse. The playhouse is not downtown, so it's easy to get to and parking is free. This is perfect for any musical lover, but especially those who want something off the beaten path.

PLAY A FEW ROUNDS AT THE QUARRY GOLF CLUB

$-
If you want to play golf but don't want to sacrifice your lunch money for the entire week, take note: tee times after 5pm at the Quarry start at $45 per player on Sundays, and rates are even better after 5pm on weekdays. The Quarry golf course is particularly unusual, in that nine of the holes are actually inside an old rock quarry — you know, hence the name. Afterward, you can kick back your feet and have a margarita at one of the many restaurants in the Quarry area.

ENJOY A DRAG BRUNCH AT PARAMOUR

$-$-$
Paramour has some of San Antonio's best rooftop bar views, and the décor alone is worth the visit. Conveniently located right off the River Walk if you're walking down from the Pearl, the bar itself is upscale and urban, but brunch at Paramour's especially exciting, featuring a stacked roster of drag queens.

GO TWO-STEPPING AT JOHN T. FLOORE'S COUNTRY STORE

$-
Take the whole family to see some good old-fashioned country music at Floore's. This place has been open for about 75 years, and in that time every single legend of country music has sung here. Make sure everyone knows how to two-step by the end of the night -- including yourself -- or you've failed.

DANCE YOUR BOOTS OFF COWBOYS DANCE HALL

$-$-
The beer is cold and dressed, the boots are shining, and the music is loud at this dance hall. If you've yet to experience actual dancing (the Kevin Bacon-in Footloose kind) is still alive and well, look no further than Cowboys. Couples young and old, twist, spin and twirl their way around this dance hall — that's not to say things don't take a raunchier turn every now and then. Cowboys also occasionally turns into a rodeo (the place is cavernous) and there's nothing more quintessentially Texan than watching the rodeo, listening to Pat Green, and dancing with your sweetheart all in one place.

DRINK OVER THE RIVER AT VIVA TACOLAND

$-
There is no better place to look out over the river and drink relatively cheap beers than Viva Tacoland. There's always a good breeze, with live music most of the time, as well as you'd expect the tacos are pretty good. The graffiti is on point, too, so if you or your friends are Insta-famous (or aspiring to be), this is a perfect place to take some good snaps.

COOL OFF AT SAN PEDRO SPRINGS PARK POOL

Free
Let San Pedro Pool be the antidote to your hellish summertime sadness. It's free, it's cool, it's laid-back — it's the best swimming pool in San Antonio, bar none. Take plenty of towels, books, and tubes of sunscreen, and avoid the (well-deserved) crowds by showing up around 3pm on a weekday.

BUMP AND GRIND ON ST. MARY'S STRIP

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If you're dying for some younger crowds, but you're not looking to pay exorbitant amounts of money, the St. Mary's Strip is where you need to be. Home to Hi-Tones, Paper Tiger, and The Mix, there's plenty to do and plenty to see: start with a couple of tallboys at Hi-Tones, progress to mixed drinks at The Mix, and end the night with live music at Paper Tiger.
VILLAGE DIRECTORY

1. Villa Stained Glass - Kakesaupe, textured, original designs in glass, lamps, sculptures, prints, woven pieces, candles, and unique gift ideas. 210.293.4800

2. Lone Star Mercantile - Featuring our own artisitic designs in oil, acrylic, canvas, jewelry, Texas cookbooks, gourmet foods, candy, fine wines, souvenirs and gifts. 210.222.4399

3. Angelica's - Exceptional range of fine clothing, Mexican style fashion, hand-homed designs, and clothing that has been used in 135 year old building. 210.224.1024


11. Starring Artist Art Gallery - Features the original works of over 50 artists and artisans. Unique gift items such as jewelry, pottery, wood, etc., decorative woodwork, and much more. 210.224.3393

12. River Art Gallery - 200 art artists and fine sculpture exhibit and display their work on hand-crafted, acrylic, watercolor, art photography, wood crafts, jewelry glass, fiber, pottery and sculptures. 210.224.8072 | riverartgalleries.com

13. Debra Benditz Art Studios - Original art and working studio of Debra Benditz. 353.358.2646 | debraartstudio.com

Historic Arts Village in Downtown San Antonio

14. La Villita Cafe - Fresh sandwiches, wraps and fresh fruit. Great drinks, ice cream and coffee. Open daily from 10 am to 8 pm. 210.222.0400


16. Fig Tree Restaurant - Simple elegance. Dining just steps from the River Walk. Our famous continental cuisine includes lobster, Beef Wellington and rack of lamb. 210.224.8176 | figrestaurant.com


Special Venues

18. Little Church of La Villita - A unique setting for weddings, baptisms and concerts. 210.224.3500


20. Amazon River Theatre - A stage and picturehouse amphitheatre for dance or musical performances, can seat 100 people. Located on the bank of the San Antonio River. 210.227.8614


Restaurants & Cantinas

22. La Villita Cafe - Fresh sandwiches, wraps and fresh fruit. Great drinks, ice cream and coffee. Open daily from 10 am to 8 pm. 210.222.0400


24. Fig Tree Restaurant - Simple elegance. Dining just steps from the River Walk. Our famous continental cuisine includes lobster, Beef Wellington and rack of lamb. 210.224.8176 | figrestaurant.com


29. Galleria II - Local artists featuring original watercolors, acrylics, oils, handcrafted and select blown glass. Jewelry and glass art. See artist at work. 210.227.4237

30. Scentships USA - Scentships, the original fragrance melt. Hand-crafted like perfume and invigorates your fragrance blend. 210.224.2200 | scouting.net


33. Found - 50/50 mix of art and antiques from 18th century to contemporary. Includes ceramics, paintings, monotypes, sculpture, and textiles. 210.224.2904

34. Artistic Endeavors - This art shop has a robust selection of original art, San Antonio pottery, fine art prints and often custom framing. 210.227.8617 | art.com

This site is accessible and specialized shops are available for people with disabilities.

Shops at La Villita

A Historic Arts Village

Shop Daily
Mon., Tues. 11 am to 6 pm  |  Sunday Hours vary
210.227.8614 | mexicantours.com
418 Villita St.  |  San Antonio, TX 78205
Located downtown at South Alamo and Nueva Streets

La Villita is owned and operated by the City of San Antonio Downtown Operations Department. LaVillita.org