



Texas Insider's Guide:
River Walk
to
Wine Country



The 5-Day Itinerary Outline

Day 1: The Icons (Downtown Immersion)

- **Theme:** Checking off the bucket list without the tourist traps.
- **Morning: The Alamo.** (Tip: Go at 9:00 AM sharp to beat the school groups. Do the "Line in the Sand" tour).
- **Lunch: Schilo's German-Texan Deli.** (Order the homemade root beer and split pea soup).
- **Afternoon: River Walk Boat Tour.** (Go North). Then walk to **La Villita Historic Arts Village** for local crafts.
- **Evening:** Dinner at **Boudro's on the River Walk** (Must order: Tableside Guacamole).
- **Advisor Tip:** *"Don't eat at the loud Mexican restaurants with the neon umbrellas right under the bridges. Walk 5 minutes north or south for better food and lower prices."*

Day 2: Culture & The Pearl

- **Theme:** UNESCO sites and modern luxury.
- **Morning: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.** Start at Mission San José (the "Queen of the Missions"). Rent a bike to ride the Mission Reach trail if active.
- **Lunch: The Pearl District.** Grab food at the Food Hall (Bottling Dept) or **La Panadería** (best pastries in Texas).
- **Afternoon:** Explore the **Japanese Tea Garden** (Free entry) and the **Witte Museum** (great for families).
- **Evening:** Drinks at **Hotel Emma** (Sternewirth bar) inside the old brewery tanks. Dinner at **Cured** or **Southerleigh**.
- **Advisor Tip:** *"Hotel Emma is the most Instagrammable spot in the city. Even if you don't stay there, go into the library and order a 'Three Emmas' cocktail."*

Day 3: Hill Country Road Trip (Fredericksburg)

- **Theme:** German heritage and Wine Road 290.
- **Morning:** Drive North (1 hour). Stop at **Johnson City** (LBJ National Park) briefly.
- **Mid-Day: Fredericksburg Main Street.** Shop the boutiques.
- **Lunch: Ausländer** or **Friedhelm's** for schnitzel.
- **Afternoon: Wine Tasting on Hwy 290.** (Pick 2: Signor Vineyards for aesthetics, Becker Vineyards for lavender fields, or Grape Creek for the "Tuscany" vibe).
- **Evening:** Sunset at **Enchanted Rock** (Reservations required!) or live music at **Luckenbach, Texas**. (check their website for schedule)
- **Advisor Tip:** *"Book your Enchanted Rock pass 30 days in advance; they sell out instantly on weekends."*

Day 4: Adventure & Gruene

- **Theme:** Caverns and Cowboys.
- **Morning: Natural Bridge Caverns.** Take the Discovery Tour.
- **Lunch: Gristmill River Restaurant & Bar** in Gruene (overlooking the river).
- **Afternoon:** Walk **Gruene Historic District**. Buy a cowboy hat. Have a beer at **Gruene Hall** (Texas' oldest dance hall).
- **Evening:** Return to San Antonio. Relaxed dinner at **The Esquire Tavern** (Oldest bar on the River Walk).

Day 5: The Farewell (Brunch & Shopping)

- **Theme:** Relaxing before the flight.
 - **Morning:** Brunch at **Guenther House** (in the King William District). Walk off the waffles by touring the Victorian mansions in the neighborhood.
 - **Mid-Day: El Mercado (Market Square)** for souvenirs (dried peppers, pottery, Mexican dresses).
 - **Departure.**
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- **Hotels:** "My Top 3 Places to Stay".
 - *Luxury:* Hotel Emma or The St. Anthony
 - *River Walk:* The Westin or Hyatt Regency
 - *Family:* JW Marriott Hill Country Resort\
- **Tours:** River Walk Boat Ticket or Hill Country Wine Shuttle
- **Car Rental:** "You will need a car for Days 3 & 4."

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