

Mission Historic Trails



SPONSORED BY:

Aina Topa Hutsi Lodge



REVISED 2009

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ALAMO AREA COUNCIL

2226 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78213

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE

SAN ANTONIO: A HISTORICAL AND PICTORIAL GUIDE. Ramedell, Charles, 2nd rev. ed., 1985, UT Press, Austin, Currently the best book of its type. Combines fun-to-read San Antonio History with down-to-earth guide to today's city. Trip planner's dream come true! As with all guidebooks, you'd best double-check its information. Mays. #*+

SAN ANTONIO IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. San Antonio Bicentennial Heritage Committee: 1976. Clarke Printing Co. San Antonio. Excellent book for adults and older youth looking for introductory history of town, missions, soldiers, and Indians. Nicely illustrated and easy to read. Scholarly footnotes and bibliography. Well worth looking for. #

THE ALAMO CHAIN OF MISSIONS. Habig, Marion A., 1968. Rev. ed., 1976. Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago. Adult. Outdated in spots by current research, but remains the best single book covering all six San Antonio Missions. Comprehensively detailed for the layman mission enthusiast or the serious scholar. Presently out of print.

THE MISSIONS OF SAN ANTONIO, Guerra, Mary Ann Noman, 1982. The Alamo Press, San Antonio. All ages. Well written and copiously illustrated. A "best buy" good trip souvenir. Bibliography. #*+

THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS: A STORY OF THEIR HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT WITH ACCOMPANYING ACTIVITIES. Powell, Lydia O., 1982. Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., Dallas. Juvenile and adult. Covers early San Antonio and all missions. Just the thing for Cub and Scout leaders looking for creative pre-trip, in the car, on-the-trail, and at-the-mission activities. Inexpensive. Pages are easy to duplicate. Don't let the title scare you off! #*

THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (NHP): A GUIDE-BOOK. Junior League of San Antonio, Inc., compiler and publisher. 1986. San Antonio. All ages. Not much on Alamo or early San Antonio. Spiral bound, well illustrated, lots of activities for youngsters. Includes a commentary and route for a self-guided tour inside each NHP mission site, and, for teachers, a correlation to Texas Guide 4 Essential Elements. #

THE SPANISH WEST. TIME-LIFE BOOKS. "The Old West" series. 1976. New York. Middle school through adult. Excellent, easy-to-read. Shows San Antonio as but one part of the overall Spanish colonial scene. Many of its illustrations rarely seen elsewhere. Generally a "library" book, copies often turn up at yard sales and used book stores.

WITH DOMINGO LEAL IN SAN ANTONIO. 1734. Martinello, Marian L., 1979. University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures. San Antonio. Juvenile fiction. Enjoyable tale, complete with Indians, soldiers, and a sprinkling of Spanish words and phrases. Historically based on actual members of a family which come from the Canary Islands in 1731. Older readers will be interested in illustrations of clothing, weapons, etc. Good, inexpensive gift. #*

All the above books are readily available through these libraries:

# The Spanish Colonial Bookstore 6539 San Jose Drive San Antonio, TX 78214 210-921-7220 Located inside San Jose compound	* The Institute of Texan Cultures 801 S Bowie at Durango PO Box 1226 San Antonio, TX 78294 210-226-7651	+ Most any San Antonio bookstore
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LEADERSHIP PLANNING AID FOR THE TRAIL

1. **REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES:** Assign instructors to present general historical information during program planning to give hikers some knowledge of the history and significance of the sites that they will visit along the historical trail. (see recommended reading)

2. It would be well to tie good citizenship into the themes by reviewing those points of the Scout Law that deal with COURTESY, OBEDIENCE, and REVERENCE. Remember, these missions are still being used for religious services.

3. **LOCAL FACILITIES:** Local facilities that are available for camping, meals, etc. are included in this folder. Each leader is responsible for making his unit or group arrangements and should contact the places to be used (see local facilities). Tour permits may be required by some units.

4. One week prior to HIKE date, the Alamo Area Council should receive your SCHEDULE and PROGRAM to be used in San Antonio, along with your HIKE APPLICATION. Send or deliver to: Mission Historical Trail, 2226 NW Military Hwy., San Antonio, TX. 78213-1894. Non-Scouting groups must also submit these forms to qualify for patches.

5. Each hiker should look for the answers to the "On the Trail Quiz" while on the trail. At the end of the HIKE the leader will use the quiz sheet for discussion at a later meeting. The leader will turn in the fee for the patches along with the Awards Application and the Trail Quiz to the Alamo Area Council, the patches may be mailed to the leader. Patches will be sold only upon presentation of the proper forms signed by the designated authority and will be limited to one patch for each hiker.

6. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Alamo Tour will require about one hour to see the museum, etc. It is open from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Sunday. Mission San Jose is restored and a tour here requires about one hour. It has a museum, a gift-souvenir shop, and a book store. Guided tours are available with prior request at each mission. Picnics and rest periods may be held at any of the city parks along the trail. See map for location of Espada, Concepcion, and Roosevelt Parks. See point of interest for more ideas. Trail sponsors welcome your comments.

LOCAL FACILITIES

CAMPING:

1. McGimsey Scout Park located on N.W. Military Highway, just north of Loop 410, ten miles north of the center of town. Campsites with water and toilets are available. For information and reservation forms, contact Alamo Area Council, NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, Texas, 78213-1894. (210-341-8611)

2. Randolph and Lackland air Force Bases can provide limited facilities. No dining facilities are available. Camp Bullis (20 miles northwest of town) provides a Scout camping area. Write to the Commander General, Ft Sam Houston, Texas, 78206.

3. Canyon Lake camping areas are located about 40 miles north of San Antonio. Write to New Braunfels & Comal County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 180, New Braunfels, Texas, 78130.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

Churches of all denominations and faiths are located in San Antonio and near the trail. Roman Catholic services are held at all the missions each Sunday*. For information on local churches, write to the Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1628, San Antonio, Texas, 78206.

* Contact Park Headquarters or each mission for services times.

INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, houses exhibits detailing the contributions of the 26 cultural groups that settled Texas. Multi-media show employs 36 screens. Guided tours on the hr.
www.texancultures.utsa.edu

BUCKHORN HALL OF HORNS, FINS & FEATHERS, Lone Star Brewing Co. features world's largest collection of horned trophies and a recreation of the historic Buckhorn Saloon.
www.buckhornmuseum.com

MISSION CONCEPCION, best preserved of the Texas missions, is noted for twin towers, handsome cupola and intricate carving on entrance.
(210) 534-1540

WITTE MEMORIAL MUSEUM, houses a variety of interesting exhibits including Trans-Pecos Indian exhibit, natural history and fine art. Four reconstructed homes of early Texans are on the grounds.
(210) 357-1900
www.wittemuseum.org

SAN ANTONIO ZOO, one of the foremost animal collections in the world, noted for the natural settings in which the animals are displayed. Open Daily.
(210) 734-7184
www.sa-zoo.org

MISSION SAN FRANCISCO DE LA ESPADA, was first camp of the Texan Army of Independence.
(210) 627-2021

TOWER OF THE AMERICAS, rises 750 feet above the city to observation level and restaurant level with cocktail lounge and revolving restaurant.
(210) 223-3101
www.toweroftheamericas.com

MISSION SAN JUAN's chapel houses rare figures made by Indians with cornstalk pith, using a method now lost. Same hours as other missions.
(210) 534-0749

MISSION HISTORICAL TRAIL

CONVENTION CENTER
Permanent building erected during 1968 World's Fair, includes Exhibit Hall, Theater for the Performing Arts, and River Court. Façade of the Theater has a giant mosaic by famed Mexican artist Juan O'Gorman.

STEVES HOMESTEAD
Located in historic German section called "King William Area," is filled with period furnishings from the late 1800's. (210) 225-5924

ORIENTAL SUNKEN GARDENS, built in a quarry from which rock was mined to make cement for the State Capitol, is ideal for strolling with plants rotated to insure blooms all year in a unique setting of pools, rock walks and bridges.

ESPADA AQUEDUCT, part of the mission's irrigation system, is the only Spanish aqueduct in the nation.

ESAPADA DAM & PARK, holds unique dam built by Franciscans between 1733 and 1745.

TEXAS RANGER MUSEUM, headquarters the Texas Pioneer, Trail Drivers. Ex-Texas Rangers and the Pioneer Lancers. (210) 822-9011 or www.texasranger.org

BRACKENRIDGE PARK, a 43 acre showplace, offers picnic ground, and a miniature railway. Call for hrs & admission. (210) 735-8641

LA VILLITA, historic "little village" which once housed early settlers. Restored during the 30's, the area is now the center of arts and crafts activities. www.lavillita.com

PASEO DEL RIO, a unique mid-city river walk, features cafes, gift shops, restaurant, nightclubs, and hotels just one story below street level. River taxis and sight-seeing boats travel the 21 block area at 20 minute intervals. Boat Charge. www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com

THE ALAMO, "Cradle of Texas Liberty," is the site where 188 defenders fell before nearly 2,500 men of Mexican General Santa Ana on March 6, 1836. "Long Barracks Museum" has Texana exhibit plus diagrams of famous battle. Situated on Alamo Plaza is a cenotaph in memory of the defenders. www.thealamo.org

MISSION SAN JOSE, established in 1720 is noted for famed "Rosa's Window" which is thought to be one of the finest pieces of Spanish colonial ornamentation in America. (210) 932-1001

SPANISH GOVERNOR'S PALACE, restored residence of officials who ruled New Spain during the 18th & 19th centuries. Period furnishings and a spacious patio with luxuriant foliage. (210) 224-0601

SOUTHBOUND DIRECTIONS:

Starting at the Alamo, walk south through Alamo Plaza to the southbound sidewalk on the same side of Alamo Street as Dillard's (Rivercenter Mall). Cross Commerce Street, the river extension, Market Street, and continue south on S. Alamo Street past the entrances to the Convention Center and Hemisfair Plaza. Continue south to St. Mary's Street. Turn left (south) on St. Mary's Street, cross the street at any traffic light, and continue to Lone Star Blvd. (on the right just past the underpass). Turn right on Lone Star Blvd. And then left on Mission Road (it runs through the park on the left). Continue south along Mission Rd. to Mission Concepcion. Note the old mill with a waterwheel across from the Mission Road Power Plant. Be VERY careful at the intersection with Steves Ave.

Leaving Mission Concepcion, go carefully south on Mission Road (no sidewalk) to the Mission Najera site marker on the golf course side of the street. Go back north about 100 yards to Hansford Street. Turn right on Hansford to Roosevelt Ave. Go right on Roosevelt and continue south on Roosevelt to Mission San Jose. Use care in crossing streets.

Leaving Mission San Jose, follow Napier east (use sidewalk on north side); to Mission Parkway. Continue south on the bikeway alongside the parkway to Espada Park and Dam. (Along the Parkway to Espada Park and the Park itself are the only picnic table/grill spots along the trail. There aren't any at the missions). Just south of the dam parking lot, the bikeway behind at the footbridge on the right. Take it south to Ashley Rd. and go across the river to Mission San Juan. (Note the self-guided Nature Trail at San Juan. Scouts and Cubs helped clear the woods and build the trail).

Leaving San Juan on Ashley Rd., retrace your step across the river and then turn left where Ashley intersects Mission Road at Stinson Airport. Continue south on Ashley to the T-intersection at the end of the runway. Roads and streets in this area are not marked, so watch for the trail signs. Turn left, cross the bridge, turn left again at the next T-intersection (Espada Rd.), and go to the Espada Aqueduct. Leaving the Aqueduct, continue south carefully along Espada Road (it is narrow and winding with no sidewalk) to Mission Espada.

For a safe and successful trip, use these directions and map in this booklet. (Remove this sheet and as it will assist you while enroute)

MISSION HISTORICAL TRAIL

NORTHBOUND DIRECTIONS:

Starting at Mission Espada, go north carefully along Espada Rd. (it is narrow and winding with no sidewalk) to the Espada Aqueduct. Roads and streets in this area do not have signs, so watch for the trail markers. Leaving the aqueduct, go back south on Espada Rd. to the first intersection, turn right, cross the bridge, and turn right onto Ashley Rd. Continue north on Ashley Rd. to the intersection with Mission Rd. Turn right, still on Ashley Rd., and go across the San Antonio River to Mission San Juan. (Note the self-guided nature trail at San Juan. Scouts & Cubs helped clear the woods.)

Leaving San Juan on Ashley Rd., retrace your steps across the river and at the end of the bridge turn north onto the paved Hike-Bike path. Follow the path north to Espada Park and Dam. (At this park and from there to San Jose along the Parkway are the only picnic table/grill spots along the trail. There aren't any at the missions). Continue north on the bikeway alongside Mission Parkway to Napier Ave. Turn left and go west on Napier Ave. (Use sidewalk on north side) to Mission San Jose.

At this point you exit San Jose and turn north on Roosevelt Ave. Go north on Roosevelt. Continue north past the golf course to Hansford Street. Go left along Hansford (north side of the golf course) to Mission Road. Go left (south) on Mission Road for about 100 yards to the Mission Najera site marker (on the golf course side of the street). There are no sidewalks, so watch the traffic.

Continue north to Mission Concepcion. Leaving Concepcion, turn right (north), go around the mission property on Mission Rd. and continue north to Lone Star Blvd. Be very careful at the intersection with Steves Ave. (Note the old mill with waterwheel across from the Mission Rd. Water Treatment Plant). Bear to your right to S. St. Mary's Street. Turn left onto St. Mary's, go under the underpass and continue north. Cross St. Mary's at any traffic light before or at S. Alamo St. and bear right onto the east side of S. Alamo St. Continue north to Market St. past the Hemisfair Plaza, La Villita, and the Convention Center. Cross Market St., the river extension and Commerce St. to the Dillard's corner and continue north on Alamo St. through Alamo Plaza to the Alamo.

For a safe and successful trip, use these directions.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Any registered member of the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, civic youth groups, or any non-Scouting organization that submits an official application can qualify for the trail patch.
2. Hikers must be at least seven (7) years of age at the time the hike is taken, and meet all requirements while on the trail.
3. Scouts must wear the correct Scout uniform while on the trail. (Scout shirt and shorts are recommended for wear during the summer months). Other groups should have some article that will identify them as a member of that group while on the trail (uniform, armband, hat, etc.).
4. Each hiker must hike the entire length of the trail, visit all historical sites and participate in the programs and activities scheduled for the group while on the trail.
5. Scouting units from outside the Alamo Area Council must secure a tour permit from their local council and list the permit number on their application.
6. Any hiker disregarding the rules and requirements of the trail may result in the entire group being disqualified from receiving patches.

TRAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Reservation application should be received at least two weeks prior to planned hike date to allow proper processing and mail exchange.
2. Each group must have an adult leader present at all times while on the trail. It is recommended one adult hiker for each ten youth hikers.
3. All groups must stay together while on the hike. Large groups may divide into smaller segments; each segment must have an adult leader.
4. Each hiker is required to sign the "On the Trail" Quiz.
5. Group leaders should collect fees and forward the award application, accompanied by the correct amount for the patches (\$5.00 per patch). Only one patch is authorized per hiker.

THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS (cont.)

In 1729, three East Texas missions were shut down and the missionaries trekked their few belongings to a temporary location along the Colorado River near the site of present-day Austin. There they awaited permission for eventual movement to the San Antonio River downstream from the settlement which was slowly growing around the presidio and the first mission. Permission was finally granted and these three missions, sporting new names to distinguish them from the already established San Jose and their earlier East Texas names, were officially founded on March 5, 1731. The new missions were named Nuestra Senora de la Purisima Concepcion, San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco de la Espada. Like their predecessors along the San Antonio River, it took these missions thirty to forty or more years to achieve their stone buildings.

Also in 1731, barely four days after the new missions were founded, sixteen émigré families from the Canary Islands arrived and the little village on the San Antonio River was renamed Villa de San Fernando. Four months later it had the first civil municipal government in Texas. Associated with, and vital to the survival of garrison village, and missions, were irrigation ditches known as acequias. The Espada acequia even had an aqueduct, still functional today, to act as a bridge to carry water over a creek.

The missions along the San Antonio River operated the first ranches established in Texas. The Spaniards taught the Indians to rope, ride, and brand on open range land. Indeed, mission Indians could be said to have been America's first cowboys. The redoubtable Franciscans of New Spain's northern borderlands, and their hardy countrymen, the presidial soldiers, administered both cross and sword as they attempted in the San Antonio area to bring Spanish religion, civil society, and vocations to occasionally reluctant Indians of nearly seventy named groups. The missionary's successes were mixed with disappointments but, in any case, the pioneers helped provide a strong beginning for future generations of San Antonio. In their wake they also left the structural remains of the fine missions at the Alamo and throughout the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS

San Antonio and South Texas today form a charming land of many traditions. The historic traces left by the first Europeans to arrive here are on every side. It was here that two great cultures clashed and melded in the domain of Native Americans. Europeans surged in intersecting directions; the Anglo-American on his westward movement as he sought his "manifest destiny" in the direction of the setting sun; the Hispanic-American on his northward movement as he followed the North Star into what he thought was a land of great riches. The five San Antonio missions are among the remnants of seventeenth and eighteenth century Spanish expeditions and efforts at securing this land for their king.

The first of these was San Antonio de Valero, established in 1718. This mission later became the symbol of Texas liberty and is now known as the "Alamo". Along with the Spanish garrison called Presidio San Antonio de Bejar (Bay-har) and the presidio's associated Villa (village) the Bejar it signaled the beginning of settlement near what is now the twentieth century downtown area.

In 1720, mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, known familiarly as San Jose, was founded three miles south of mission San Antonio. Shortly thereafter, it was relocated to its present site. In the 1930's it underwent a major restoration and reconstruction effort and it now looks much as it did in the 1790's.

Two years passed after San Jose was started and then some Indians from near Trinity River in East Texas arrived at mission San Antonio and requested a mission of their own. In response, the short-lived mission San Francisco Xavier de Najera was temporarily established in 1722.

“ON THE TRAIL” QUIZ

1. The Alamo was originally known as Mission _____ de _____.
2. The Cenotaph on Alamo Plaza is a monument to _____.
3. Long after the Alamo ceased to be a mission, the famous Battle of the Alamo was won by Mexican General _____ on _____ 18_____.
4. Most of the Indians who settled at the San Antonio missions had led a nomadic life style, obtaining their food by _____ and _____.
5. The Missions Trail follows one route of the old road system used by missionaries, soldiers, and settlers and was known as “El Camino _____”.
6. Original wall and ceiling paintings called _____ made with mineral dyes on plaster, have been extensively restored at Mission _____.
7. Mission _____ was never officially established but a monument at the Riverside Gold Course commemorates its temporary existence.
8. Mission _____, called the “Queen of the Missions,” is known for its beautiful “_____” window; the choir loft stairway, which is made without _____; and the 1790’s mill, which used _____ power to grind wheat.
9. The San Antonio River, where it flows in its original channel near Mission _____ appears much as it did when the Spaniards first arrived.
10. The Espada acequia was built by Franciscan _____ and Coahuiltecan _____ to _____, it is noted for its stone _____ over Piedras Creek.
11. Originally founded in East Texas, Mission Espada was re-established on the San Antonio River in 17_____.

**All Group Members Must Sign on the Back of this Sheet
This Form Must be Returned in Order to Buy Patches**

Sponsored by: Aina Topa Hutsi Lodge, Boy Scouts of America Alamo Area Council

OFFICIAL TRAIL HIKE APPLICATION

Unit _____ Council _____ City _____ State _____

hereby requests reservations to hike the Mission Historical Trail on the following date(s)

_____ Tour Permit No. _____
(Out of Council Units Only)

Leader in charge _____ Title _____ Age _____

Leader's address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Number of Hikers: Adult _____ Scouts _____ Others _____

Attached is a preplanned Program Schedule for the hours on the Trail and general information regarding our itinerary, transportation, eating, and other accommodations to insure a successful activity. This form should be received at the Council office at least ONE week prior to planned hike dates.

Deliver or mail to: Mission Historical Trail, Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council, 2226 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX. 78213-1894

----- Detach and send to council office -----

OFFICIAL AWARDS APPLICATION

Unit _____ Council _____ City _____ State _____

_____ Trail Patches \$6.00* eachRemittance _____

Awards are to be presented to _____ hikers who have successfully completed all requirements on the Mission Historical Trail.

Signed _____ Address _____
(Leader in charge)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Deliver or mail to: Mission Historical Trail, Boys Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council, 2226 N.W. Military Hwy. San Antonio, TX 78213-1894. Include "Mission Historical Trail Quiz Form."

Date Received by Council _____ Date Awards Made _____ Method of Award _____

* Price subject to change

