

King Ranch

Texas Ranches & San Antonio Trails

Experience the Thrill of Frontier Life in the Lone Star State

Howdy! Pack your cowboy boots for an exciting vacation bursting with Texas flavor, frontier adventure, and Southwest culture.

Visit four Texas ranches, including the gigantic King Ranch (pictured left), the LBJ Ranch where our 36th President was born and is buried, and the Y.O. Ranch. Walk in the footsteps of Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and other immortal frontiersmen.

Settle in for 3 nights at our well-appointed hotel with rooftop pool on the banks of the San Antonio River, perfectly situated for exploring the city's famed River Walk. Stroll among the tropical walkways, gourmet restaurants and rare boutique shops, and hop aboard a water taxi for easy transport and unique views throughout the city.

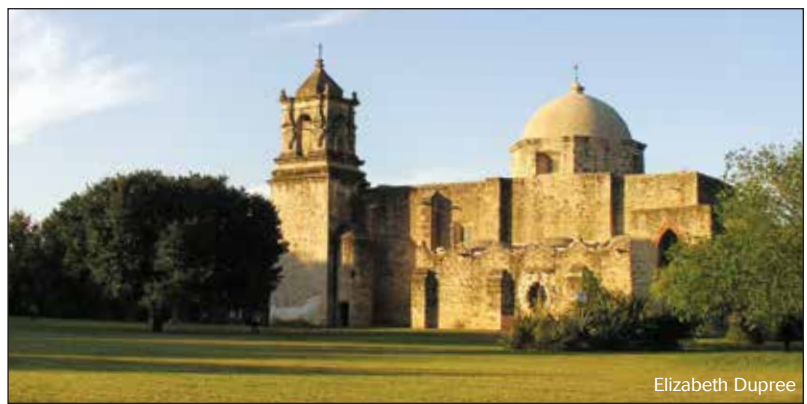
Head up into hill country to stay at an authentic Mayan Dude Ranch in Bandera, the Cowboy Capital of the World! Enjoy Texas-style entertainment, a world-class dinner and the down-home hospitality of the ranch's owners, the Hicks Family. Come morning, a cowboy-style breakfast cookout is the thing to fortify you for an easygoing horseback ride in the hills or a stroll by the Medina River.

Together, it's a wonderful experience of the West, Old and New, that you'll remember for years to come.

7 Days • 6 Nights • 11 Meals
 Depart/Return: San Antonio, TX
CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/TST

The River Walk

For three evenings, we'll stay along the famed San Antonio River Walk (top photo)—the number one tourist attraction in Texas. This is a charming and vibrant network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River. Lined by shops, restaurants, hotels and historical sites, the River Walk winds and loops under bridges as two parallel, park-like sidewalks. For a festive experience, we'll hop on one of the many boats that ply the waters of Rio San Antonio.



Elizabeth Dupree



Day 1—San Antonio Welcome to Texas! This evening we'll have a private reception at the hotel. You'll meet your friendly traveling companions and your tour director. *Accommodations:* Doubletree Hotel, San Antonio Airport. *Welcome Reception.*

Day 2—King Ranch/Corpus Christi Visit Brush Country Cowboys Church and learn about its significance in Texas. Our next stop is big, even for Texas. King Ranch, with over 850,000 acres, is one of the largest working ranches in the U.S. We'll settle in for a Texas-style barbecue lunch at a rustic camp house. Afterward, we'll learn about the history of the ranch, home to livestock including Santa Gertrudis and Longhorn cattle, thoroughbred and quarter horses, and more. Later we'll head down the trail to the Gulf of Mexico where our hotel overlooks the sparkling waters of Corpus Christi Bay. *Accommodations:* Best Western Marina Grand Hotel, Corpus Christi. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 3—Corpus Christi/San Antonio After a hearty breakfast, you'll tour the legendary aircraft carrier USS Lexington. Would-be "top guns" in our group can feel the excitement of a jet fighter in the flight simulator, if they wish. We'll have a change of scenery as we travel north to Fayette

County where we'll find one of the famous Painted Churches of Texas. The term "Painted" comes from the elaborate faux-finished interior. Afterward, we'll take a break and sample some fruitcake unlike any you've tasted before! Our last stop of the day is exciting San Antonio, the "cradle of Texas liberty." We'll check into our hotel on the banks of the famous San Antonio River Walk—your home for the next three nights. *Accommodations:* Drury Inn & Suites Riverwalk, San Antonio. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 4—San Antonio Start this morning with a guided tour of San Antonio and tour Mission San Jose—known as the "Queen of the Missions." After dining at a festive spot in downtown San Antonio, we'll experience a spectacular view of the city with a water taxi ride on the river itself. We'll complete our day at the Alamo—as we walk in the footsteps of Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and other valiant men who will live in Texans' memories forever. Tonight enjoy the tropical walkways,

gourmet restaurants and rare boutique shops lining the river. *Accommodations:* Drury Inn & Suites Riverwalk, San Antonio. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 5—Johnson City/San Antonio This morning we're off to the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch and a ranger-guided tour of the Texas White House (above right). You'll love the rolling hills and pastureland that LBJ roamed before becoming President of the United States. We'll continue on to Fredericksburg, a German community complete with gingerbread-trimmed houses. You're free to stroll Main Street to explore the specialty shops and enjoy lunch on your own. If you're a WWII history buff, the National Museum of the Pacific War is a must-see! Tonight, enjoy all the wonderful amenities your hotel has to offer. *Accommodations:* Drury Inn & Suites Riverwalk, San Antonio. *Meals:* B.

Day 6—Mountain Home/Bandera This morning we'll drive the back roads to Mountain Home and the century-old, 40,000 acre Y. O. Ranch. Meet the "hands" who care for the ranch's exotic game animals. This afternoon we tour Love Creek Orchards, pioneers of the Texas apple industry. Only six feet tall, the trees are small yet the fruit is delicious. Our finale

is the Mayan Dude Ranch in Bandera—the Cowboy Capital of the World! The Hicks Family has owned and operated the Mayan Ranch for 50 years and will be delighted to welcome you to their authentic dude ranch with all the comforts of home. Enjoy Texas-style entertainment after a world-class dinner. *Accommodations:* Mayan Dude Ranch, Bandera. *Meals:* B, L, D.

Day 7—Bandera/San Antonio Today we enjoy a trail ride to a cowboy-style breakfast cookout (top left). There'll be eggs by the dozen, hash browns, thick-sliced bacon, cowboy sausage, biscuits and grits, plus plenty of fresh-squeezed juice and strong cowboy coffee. After breakfast, you can hit the trail for the hills or mosey down to the cool Medina River. Dude ranch horseback riding is single file at a walk—the best way to see Texas hill country. Then it's time to pack up. Our newfound cowboy and cowgirl friends will wave goodbye as we "giddy up" to the San Antonio airport. *Meals:* B.

