



OFF-SITE TOURS

The following off-site events will be available to registrants of the 2011 Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions in San Antonio. You may order tickets for these events when registering for the Convention by marking the appropriate box(es) on the registration form. Make the most of your visit to Texas by signing up for one or more tours. Ticket prices include motorcoach transportation to and from destination and a qualified staff person in attendance. If you have any questions concerning these excursions, please call the ACOI office at 1 800 327-5183.

Thursday, October 13 • Highlights of San Antonio 9:00 am - 2:00 pm • \$47 per person

Welcome to San Antonio! Experience all the charm and ambiance the beautiful Riverwalk has to offer. San Antonio is a great place for those who like to hear the sounds of music and laughter as it echoes through the breezeway of beautiful fresh flowers and vines that envelope the Riverwalk. Knowledgeable barge drivers pilot the barges through the main channels of the river, pointing out landmarks and answering questions about San Antonio's famous Paseo Del Rio.

The next stop on the tour is San Antonio's first and most famous mission, the Mission San Antonio de Valero, or as most people know it, The Alamo. The docent guides guests through the once-sacred mission as they listen to tales of the Alamo's heroes and their fight for freedom in the Texas Revolution.

Guests will also visit the San Fernando Cathedral, founded in 1731 by a group of families who came from the Canary Islands. The cornerstone of the Cathedral was laid in 1738. The dome of the original church was the geographic center of the city and the point from which all mileage was calculated to San Antonio.

The last stop is El Mercado, where guests enter a world of year round festivities and enjoy the unique and delectable taste of San Antonio's own Market Square. El Mercado is the heart of the Hispanic culture in San Antonio with rows of authentic crafts such as leather goods, paper-mache, blankets, apparel, pottery, jewelry and an assortment of colorful shops.

Thursday, October 13 • Natural Bridge 1:00 - 4:00 pm • \$58 per person

Hidden beneath the rolling hills of the scenic Texas Hill Country is Texas' largest network of caverns, Natural Bridge Caverns. In 1960, four St. Mary's University students discovered this wonderland of living stone. The four originally were drawn to the site by its namesake Rock Bridge, a 60-foot span of limestone rock spanning a cavernous sinkhole before the entry underground tells tale of what had once been an enormous underground cave formed by a subterranean river. Since its first exploration, millions of visitors from around the world have come to observe the beauty of Natural Bridge Caverns.

Guests begin their tour on foot through the North Cavern, exploring its depths design and geological beauty. Natural Bridge Cavern is a comfortable 70° all year round, the perfect temperature for exploring the natural grounds. Guests are recommended to wear comfortable walking shoes that provide good traction on steep, wet surfaces.

More tours on reverse side...

Friday, October 14 • Hike the Mission Trail

7:00 am - 12:00 Noon • \$47 per person

The chain of missions established along the San Antonio River throughout the 1700's are reminders of one of Spain's most successful attempts to extend its New World dominion northward from Mexico. San Antonio has the greatest concentration of Catholic missions in North America, designed as an arm to the church. The Missions were the primary sites of the spiritual and social colonization of Native American.

This tour allows guests to set out on foot to see the beautiful Missions. Guests are led through this scenic hike by a tour guide with extensive knowledge of all things San Antonio. The tour begins at Mission Concepcion, a stone-henge church built in 1755. As one of the longest-standing unrestored churches in America, guests can still view some of the original frescos in several rooms. Afterwards, guests will trek on to Mission San Jose. Known as "The Queen of the Missions," this is the largest of the missions, and was fully restored in 1930. Next, guests stride over to Mission San Juan de Capistrano. Once a former self-sustaining community, this mission was home to Native American artisans, clothiers, farmers and gardens that harvested enough food to provide to the all of the missions. Finally, guests will journey to Mission Espada, the final mission on the trail. Be sure to catch glimpses of the Espada's Acequia and Dam. At each stop, the tour guide gives a tour of the stops and shares the story of each great historic landmark.

Guests leave this place with memories of an invigorating hike and a unique historic experience. Comfortable clothing and closed-toe walking shoes are recommended.

Friday, October 14 • Highlights of San Antonio

9:00 am - 2:00 pm • \$47 per person

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Saturday, October 15 • Hill Country Wine Tour

9:00 am - 4:00 pm • \$63 per person

Fredericksburg is known for its beauty and charm. Today's guests are feeling Fine n' Fancy in Fredericksburg, where their tour begins in the heart of it all -- downtown. Free time will allow for exploration of the many shops: antiques, jewelry, arts and crafts, and much, much more await the curious shopper. Then onto Becker Vineyards. This vineyard consists of 36 acres of French Vinifera grapes surrounded by fields of lavender, peach orchards and native wildflowers. Guests tour the winery and learn about the wine making process. Guests also participate in a tasting session, which enables them to distinguish between tastes, aromas and textures of various wines. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

TOUR TICKET RESALE ON-SITE: It is our policy that no refunds or exchanges of tour tickets can be made on-site. If you wish to sell a ticket for an event you cannot attend, however, please see the ACOI Convention staff. You will be asked to fill out a ticket resale form and leave your ticket with the desk for **possible** resale. There is no guarantee unwanted tickets will be resold. You must check back with the staff to learn if your ticket has been sold and to receive a refund. Any funds from resold tickets not collected by 8:00 am Wednesday, October 16, 2011 become the property of the College.

NOTE: The ACOI uses a destination management company and does not make a profit on off-site tours. Guests may be able to arrange similar excursions on their own at lesser prices. Check with the Hotel Concierge if you wish to arrange your own off-site activities.