

# SCREAMING EAGLES TO 'REMEMBER THE ALAMO'

*San Antonio, home of the "Cradle of Texas Liberty," is the perfect setting for the 56th Annual Reunion of the 101st Airborne Division Association.*

Screaming Eagles will travel to a spot forever famous in America's history for their 56th Annual Reunion in San Antonio Aug. 9 through 11.

Greeting them will be a city steeped in heritage, culture, tradition and natural beauty, but also as modern and cosmopolitan as any in the nation. San Antonio refuses to forget its past but is known nationwide for its modernistic methods to draw a crowd.

San Antonio is simply a city to remember. Not because of the Alamo, but because of one simple thing: The city refuses to give up its unique culture and continually looks to the future. Modern skyscrapers blend seamlessly with 18th century restorations offering a mosaic of architectural diversity. San Antonio's people revel in the fact they can preserve their cultural past yet draw nationwide attention to their city, the eighth largest in the nation.

From its earliest Spanish missionaries in 1691 to today's corporate businessmen and visiting families, San Antonio has always been a crossroads and meeting place.

This south-central Texas city offers a cultural potpourri and mixing of sounds and flavors of Native Americans, Old Mexico, Germans, the Wild West, African-Americans and the Deep South. Screaming Eagles traveling by air will arrive at San Antonio International Airport located 13 miles from the Downtown River Walk. Major airline services to the airport include Delta, United, Southwest, American, Continental, TWA, America West, Northwest, Mexicana and US Airways.

Rental cars are available at the airport for those wishing to drive downtown. Transit service from the airport ranges from \$8 to \$14 roundtrip and taxi fares range from \$14 to \$15 plus tip and a 50-cent airport departure fee.

When not busy with Annual Reunion events, Screaming Eagles may want to explore a plethora of activities awaiting them at and near the River Walk. There's truly something for everyone in and around San Antonio. The sights sounds and aroma of the city are simply marvelous. Music aficionados will be pleased to find a variety of instrumental and vocal performance styles throughout the city. History and cultural buffs will find enough to keep them happily occupied. And the food is... simply put, delicious.

Dining options in San Antonio run the gamut from fine French cuisine to Chinese to Soul food and Cajun, but the one not to miss is Tex-Mex. Tex-Mex is a passion with local residents of all ethnic backgrounds, and numerous restaurants are open 24 hours.

**Special Events.** There are plenty of things to see and do any time of year in San Antonio, but there are a number of limited-time special activities and performances on tap during the Annual Reunion week.

If it's the smell of greasepaint and the heat of bright footlights for you, then get ready to enjoy an evening at the theater by catching a performance of "42nd Street" through August 25 at the Josephine Theatre (210-734-4646).

There are also plenty of opportunities during the Reunion to catch a glimpse of work by local artists and photographers. San Antonio-based artist Cruz Ortiz brings a Gen-X sensibility to expressionist painting in his exhibition through Aug. 31 at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Theatre Gallery (210-271-31515, [www.guadalupeculturalarts.org](http://www.guadalupeculturalarts.org)). San Antonio-based Puerto Rican artist Angel Rodriques also exhibits his super-realistic paintings through the end of August in the Visual Arts Annex at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

For photography buffs, the Blue Star Art Space features the works of photographers Louis Gonzalex Palma and Mario Cravo Neto. The two men treat photography as a medium of exploration in understanding the multiple issues of their respective multiethnic societies (210-227-9690, [www.bluestaratspace.org](http://www.bluestaratspace.org)).

Sports fans are not forgotten during the Reunion week in San Antonio. Live thoroughbred horse racing is scheduled each day at Retama Park (210-651-7000, [www.run@retamapark.com](http://www.run@retamapark.com)).

Amateur historians may want to view "The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic," a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibition runs through August at the San Antonio Central Library Gallery (210-207-2500, [www.sat.lib.tx.us](http://www.sat.lib.tx.us)).

**Other Fare.** Military veterans might enjoy a visit to the military installations in greater San Antonio. A visitors pass is normally required except for Fort Sam Houston. Some of these bases are restricted, so it's best to call in advance to inquire about tour times and access.

Fort Sam Houston, the site of the first military airplane flight, is an open post. Apache Indian Chief Geronimo was once held prisoner within its walls. Today Fort Sam is home of Headquarters 5th U.S. Army and Brooke Army Medical Center and General Robert Clark, former commander of the 101st Airborne Division Association. This historic landmark stands in the center of a park-like setting where animals and fowl roam the grounds among people at work and visitors from around the world (Museum: 210-221-1886).

Also near the city are Kelly Air Force Base (210-925-7951), Lackland Air Force Base (210-671-2907), Brooks Airforce Base (210-536-5140) and Randolph Air Force Base (210-652-4407).

Screaming Eagles may also be interested in visiting San Antonio's Vietnam Memorial located at Veterans Memorial Plaza. "Hill 811 S" depicts a Marine holding a wounded comrade while looking skyward for an evacuation helicopter. The memorial was created by artist Austin Deuel.

A trip to San Antonio would not be complete without a tour of its

missions. Established along the San Antonio River in the 18th century, these missions are reminders of one of Spain's most successful attempts to extend its New World dominion from Mexico.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (210-534-8833, [www.nps.gov/saan/](http://www.nps.gov/saan/)) contains the historically and architecturally significant structures of Mission Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan, San Francisco, Espada, Labores, and San Antonio de Valero - popularly known as the Alamo.

Today, the Alamo is recognized as "The Cradle of Texas Liberty," a symbol of freedom and independence throughout the world. Texas patriots, including Tennessee native Davy Crockett, met Mexican Gen. Antonio Lopez during their ill-fated defense of the Alamo. All 189 Texas patriots were killed there March 6, 1838.

**River Walk** Another "don't miss" activity is a walk along San Antonio's famed Paseo Del Rio (River Walk). The Paseo Del Rio, in the heart of downtown, is the pride of the city. Lush green foliage lines the banks of this peaceful jade-green, historic river. Cobblestone walkways lead visitors to river-level restaurants and shops. River cruisers travel the River Walk's three miles past unique retail shops, restaurants and nightclubs.

But if you prefer the big picture rather than getting up close and personal, the nearby Tower of the Americas might be just the place for you. The tower, 750 feet tall, offers a panoramic view of San Antonio and the surrounding area. Glass-walled elevators ascent 500 feet to the restaurant and observation level. It was the theme structure for the 1968 HemisFair and symbolizes the progress made by the confluence of civilizations in the Western Hemisphere. The restaurant (210-223-3101) serves lunch and dinner.

For nature or wildlife lovers there are the San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium (210-734-7183, [www.Sazoo-aq.org](http://www.Sazoo-aq.org)); the San Antonio Botanical Gardens (210-207-3255, [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)); or the Japanese Tea Gardens located in Brackenridge Park (210-207-3000). Winding pebble walkways, stone bridges, a waterfall and tranquil pools highlight this lush garden. Or maybe SeaWorld San Antonio (210-523-3611, [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com)), the world's largest marine-life adventure park, might strike your fancy. For the shopping enthusiast, San Antonio is a mecca. Market Square, the world's largest Mexican marketplace outside Mexico, is located downtown. Another downtown shopping experience of a lifetime is Rivercenter Mall. The three-story mall is filled with 130 unique specialty and nationally known retail department stores. The Antiques Downtown Mall specializes in - you guessed it - antiques, but there are plenty of other not-so-old items as well. Actually, there is a place to shop just about anywhere in San Antonio. So put on a comfortable pair of shoes and shop, shop, shop.

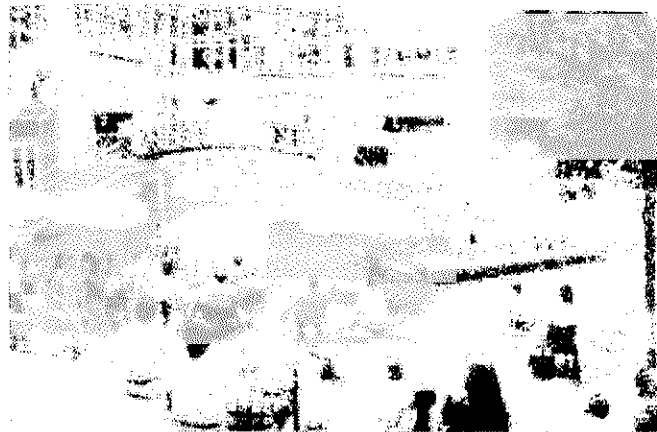
San Antonio prides itself as a giant playground for the young and young at heart. So, naturally, the children have plenty of activities, too.

There's the San Antonio Children's Museum (210-212-4453) and the Hertzberg Circus Museum (210-207-7810), which has a hands-on program especially for children. Don't forget IMAX Theatre with movies six stories tall, or Milam Park Playground - a perfect place to let the kids work off a little excess energy

Of course, using San Antonio as a base, visitors can take day trips and explore the scenic countryside and picturesque towns nearby. Windmills, oaks and hills, sunrises and sunsets, peace - these are the things that fill the south-central Texas countryside. Boating, fishing and swimming await you, or for those adventurous cowpokes gentle steeds are anxious to please.

For more information on the activities listed or to learn what else might be in store, call the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau at 210-207-6700 or surf the bureau's Web site at [www.sanantoniocvb.com](http://www.sanantoniocvb.com).

Enjoy the 56th Annual Reunion of the 101st Airborne Division Association and your stay in San Antonio - a place to remember.



Rivercenter Mall Lagoon is a popular gathering place for sightseers and shoppers alike.



The San Antonio Botanical Gardens and Lucille Halsell Conservatory are a "must see" while in the city. This 33-acre garden represents in miniature the diverse Texas flora landscape.