Mission Historic Trails

Sponsored By:

Aina Topa Hutsi Lodge

Boy Scouts of America Alamo Area Council
2226 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78213

Revised 2009
If You Want To Know More


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

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 bookstore. 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

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

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 SAN FRAN- CISCO 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 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

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
www.wittemuseum.org
MISSION HISTORICAL TRAIL

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 begins 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.
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 Señora de la Purisima Concepción, 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.

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 Bexar (Bay-har) and the presidio’s associated Villa (village) the Bexar 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.
* Price subject to change

Method of Award

Date Awards Made

Date Received by Council

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

City

Zip

State

Address

Signed (leader in charge)

The Mission Historical Trail awards are to be presented to hikers who have successfully completed all requirements on

Trail Patch: $6.00 each

Remittance

State

City

Unit

Council

**OFFICIAL AWARDS APPLICATION**

Both and send to council office

San Antonio, TX 78213-1894

Deliver or mail to: Mission Historical Trail, Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council, 2226 N.W. Military Hy'W,

received at the council office at least ONE week prior to planned hike dates.

Attached is a preplanned program schedule for the hours on the Trail and general information regarding our

Number of Hikers: Adult

Scouts

Others

Zip

City

Leader's address

Age

Title

(Out of Council Units Only)

Tour Permit No.

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

State

City

Unit

Council

**OFFICIAL TRAIL HIKE APPLICATION**

Sponsor: San Antonio Hike Lodge, Boy Scouts of America, Alamo Area Council

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MISSION HISTORICAL TRAIL

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL
This form must be returned in order to buy patches. All group members must sign on the back of this sheet.

1. Mission Espada was founded in 1720. It is located near the San Antonio River. Was it originally located on the San Antonio River in 1720?  

2. The Alamo was originally known as "El Camino Real de los Adaes." Which battle was fought at the Alamo?  

3. The Alamo was attacked by the Mexican General Santa Anna. Which Mexican General attacked the Alamo?  

4. Most of the Indians who settled at the San Antonio missions had led a nomadic lifestyle, cultivating their crops.  

5. The Mission Trail followed the old road system used by missionaries and settlers. Which road follows the old system used by missionaries and settlers?  

6. Original wall and ceiling paintings called frescos have been exquisitely restored at Mission San Antonio de Valero. What are the original wall and ceiling paintings called?  

7. Mission Espada was the first of the Spanish missions established in Texas. Which mission was the first of the Spanish missions established in Texas?  

8. Mission Espada was built by Fransciscan monks. Which mission was built by Franciscan monks?  

9. The San Antonio River, where it flows in its original channel near Mission Espada, appears to have much more water than when the Spaniards first arrived. Which river is the San Antonio River, where it flows in its original channel near Mission Espada?  

10. The Espada aquaduct was built by Franciscan monks. Where was the Espada aqueduct built?  

Quiz: On the Trail of the Alamo

Boy Scouts of America

Mission Historical Trail

Alamo Area Council