The IMAX Price of Freedom Trail

General Instructions

The "Price of Freedom" Package includes admission to the IMAX Theatre to see "ALAMO...the Price of Freedom" and a patch® for $6.50. Others in your group will receive discount admissions to see "ALAMO...the Price of Freedom," Adults excuse $7.95, Children 3-11 $4.75 and Youth 12-17 $5.95. For group reservations, call 247-6400, press 4 and ask for the "Price of Freedom" Scout Package. This package is also available for individuals. Packages must be purchased at the IMAX Theatre box office. Three hours of free parking at Rivercenter Mall is available when you purchase tickets to the IMAX Theatre and have your Rivercenter parking garage ticket validated at the IMAX Theatre. Parking is also available at nearby lots.

Two-deep leadership is required to participate in this program. Scouts are encouraged to wear their full Class A uniform and to conduct themselves in a manner which is a credit to the Boy Scouts of America and the Scout Oath & Law. Awards are strictly optional and not a requirement for hiking the trail. Scouts and their leaders are on their honor when presenting and/or awarding the patches.

Cross all streets at intersections and/or at traffic lights. Do not jaywalk. Scouts are encouraged to obey all traffic and safety regulations. Do not play in the streets, and be respectful of private property. All units not in the Alamo Area Council should obtain a tour permit from their local council. Overnight camping is available at McGinnis Scout Park, 210-341-8611.

Troop 410, the Alamo Area Council of the B.S.A. and Bowie Partners absolves themselves of any obligations, responsibilities and/or liabilities due to accidents, injuries and/or anything else that may occur on the trail. Each hiker assumes any and all obligations associated with the trail. Each hiker knows and realizes that there are certain physical limitations associated with hiking this trail. Troop 410, the Alamo Area Council of the B.S.A. and Bowie Partners specifically disclaims any responsibility due to injuries or accidents suffered by the hikers.

Additional patches may be purchased for $2.00. All prices and information subject to change.

The trail is approximately six miles long and takes from 2-5 hours, depending on how many stops you make.

Directions

Starting at the IMAX Theatre (1) head west on Crockett and come out on Alamo Plaza. (2) (3) Once on the Plaza, head north to the downtown Post Office. (4) From the Post Office, proceed west on Houston Street. (5) (6) At the Houston Street Bridge, take the stairs next to or behind the Texas Theatre/SBC Building (7) down to the San Antonio River (8). Once on the Riverwalk, turn left and head south along the sidewalk to the river's first floodgate/bridge. (9) Lee Homestead, now site of the new Hotel Valencia, Lt Col. Robert E. Lee (10) (11) Staying on the sidewalk, turn left again and head east along the Riverwalk until past the Nix Hospital. (12) (13) Follow the river to the 68 Extension (14) and turn left, proceed until you find the statue of St. Anthony (15). At the statue, cross the river, turn right and head back to the main channel and the Hilton Hotel. (16) Once back on the main channel, turn left. As you pass La Villita and Brown's Island (17) (18), head for the southern floodgate/bridge, turn left and continue south along the Riverwalk past the Nuestra Dam (19). Across from the Arsenal (20) the Riverwalk comes up off the river to street level. Once up on street level you should be in Upper Mill Park (21). Get back on the Riverwalk and continue south to the Johnson St. Bridge (22), come up off the Riverwalk and head over to King William St. (23), and turn left. Walk north along King William until you reach St. Mary's. Take a left on St Mary's, and go one block, to Durango. Once on Durango, head for the Tower of the Americas, eastward, until you reach S. Alamo. Cross S. Alamo, then turn left and head north along the western edge of Hemisfair Park, past Beethoven Hall (24). Once at the main gate of Hemisfair Park (25), turn right, head into the park and follow the sidewalk to the Tower. (26) Come back the way you came to the park's main gate, and turn right and continue north up S. Alamo, back to Alamo Plaza and the Bicentennial Bandstand. (27)

Acknowledgements

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Price of Freedom Trail

Troop 410 and the Alamo Area Council, along with the IMAX Theatre, welcome you to the IMAX, Price of Freedom Trail. As you hike this historic trail, you will visit the Cradle of Texas Liberty, pass through San Antonio’s business district and stroll along the beautiful San Antonio River. You will also travel back in time and visit some of the most historic homes in all of Texas. Last, but not least, you will visit the tallest building in South Texas. As part of your hike, you are invited to come come see “ALAMO...The Price of Freedom” at the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter. The film relives the 13 days of the Alamo. So come see what makes San Antonio so special!

1. IMAX - Let the IMAX Experience take you to the 1836 Battle of the Alamo in “ALAMO...the Price of Freedom”. (S)

2. The Alamo - The Alamo was built in 1718 as a Spanish Mission to help settle the area. In 1836, 189 Texans died here fighting for independence from Mexico. This day, the Alamo stands as a symbol of Texas Freedom and Independence. (P)

3. Alamo Cenotaph - Erected in 1939 by the Texas Centennial Commission as a memorial to the heroes of the Alamo. (P)

4. Post Office - Located in the lobby is America’s largest “public art” fresco mural, painted by Howard Cook. It portrays the history of Texas. (P)

5. The Buckhorn Saloon & Museum - A vast display of mounted wildlife and pioneer artifacts, including unusual and world record wildlife trophies. (S)

6. San Antonio Children’s Museum - Hands-on interactive experiences for the whole family. (S)

7. Texas Theatre/SBC - Built in 1926, this 300-seat theatre was the place to be in downtown San Antonio. In 1982, it was demolished except for the front to make way for a new office complex which now serves as the home of SBC. (P)

8. San Antonio River - The river is one Texas’ most popular tourist attraction. There is abundant wildlife on the river, such as Blue Heron, Blue Gill Sunfish and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. The plant life is lush, with many trees which are over 200 years old.

9. Lee Homestead - Now site of Hotel Valencia, Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee lived on this site from 1856 to 1861. Lee served with honors at Ft. Sam Houston and was a founding member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. (P)

10. Riverwalk Flood Gates - After devastating floods in 1921, this gate was built as a WPA project and helps protect the horseshoe bend area of the river from flooding. It is a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. (P)

11. Twin Cypress - Also known as the Millam Cypress, this 200-year-old twin trunk giant is said to be the tree from which Texas hero Ben Millam was shot during the Battle of Benavides in December of 1835. Though their leader was killed, the Texas army won the battle and drove out the Mexican Army. (P)

12. Nix Hospital - Opened in 1930, the Nix was America’s first modern medical center with a hospital, doctor’s offices and garage in the same building. Can you see the optical illusion when you stand at the base of the wall on the river?

13. Bridges - As you hike the river, note the different types of bridges built over the years: Simple Arch, Pier & Beam and Cantilever. Try and find the bridge with its own traffic light.

14. ’68 World’s Fair Extension - Built in 1968 for the World’s Fair, this extension connects the river to the old fairgrounds’ river lagoon. In 1988, a second lagoon was added for the Rivercenter Mall.

15. St Anthony - Both the river and the city are named after Saint Anthony of Padua. The river was discovered by Spanish explorers on the day of his feast, June 13, 1691.

16. The Hilton Hotel - Built in 1968 as part of the World’s Fair, this luxury hotel was the first building ever erected using modulite construction. Each of the 481 rooms was built and furnished on the ground and then stacked into place.

17. The Amazon River Theatre/ La Villita - Built in 1939, this outdoor amphitheater connects the river to La Villita. La Villita was founded in 1731 by settlers from the Canary Islands. This area is the original settlement that grew into San Antonio. (P)

18. Bowser’s Island - Originally a 6-acre island named after it’s first owner, it became part of Riverwalk when the river was diverted to develop the area. (P)

19. Nueva Street Dam - This complex, built in 1897, helps create the normal water level along the whole river. Note the gas station pumps, underground marina and airport style control tower. (P)

20. U.S. Arsenal/H.E.B. - The arsenal was built by the Army in 1858. Abandoned after W.W.I in 1949, it is now the home office of the H.E.B. grocery store chain. (P)

21. Upper Mill Park - In 1686 Carl Guenther built a dam and mill at this location. Both were torn down in 1926. You can still see the mill’s foundation coming up out of the river. (P)

22. Johnson Street Foot Bridge - Originally built as the Commerce St. Bridge, it was moved to this location in 1914. The writer O. Henry often wrote about this bridge in many of his short stories.

23. King William District - Some the most beautiful and historic homes in all of Texas can be found in this wonderful neighborhood. Founded by German merchants and businessmen that helped settle San Antonio, many of the homes date back to the 1870’s. (P)

24. Beethoven Hall - An association dedicated to German classical music built Beethoven Hall in 1895. In its day, the Hall was the finest performance house in the Southwest. Today, it’s home to the Majik Children’s Theatre.

25. HemisFair Park Gate - Built in the early 1980’s, this beautiful arch marks the location of one of the main gates to the 1968 World’s Fair. This arch now serves as the entrance to HemisFair Park.

26. Tower of the Americas - Built for the 1968 World’s Fair, the Tower stands 750 feet tall and still dominates the city skyline. (S) (P)

27. Bicentennial Bandstand/Alamo Plaza - Erected in 1976 to commemorate the 200th birthday of the United States, the Bandstand is one of many things that make Alamo Plaza the heart and soul of San Antonio. (P)

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