

Tour Itinerary

Altamont *Epic Texas* Tour ° Oct. 3-8, 2016



October 3 – Arrive Texas, Dude Ranch

Departing Birmingham airport, arrive in San Antonio and head west into the beautiful Hill Country of Texas. We check in to our rustic Dude Ranch and spend the day living the life of the cowboy. Enjoy trail rides through the countryside, outdoor barbecues, cowboy skill demonstrations, and music by the campfire. (D)

October 4 – Dude Ranch, Natural Bridge Caverns, Gruene Hall

After a morning and lunch at the Dude Ranch, we descend deep underneath the earth into the twenty-five million year old caves of the Natural Bridge Caverns, the largest cave complex in Texas. After the caves, we check in to our hotel in New Braunfels before visiting the charming, preserved town of Gruene with free time for exploring the old buildings and shops before dinner. In the evening, we listen to live music at Gruene Hall, Texas' best music venue and dance hall, founded in 1878 and retaining all of its original charm. (B,L,D)

October 5 – San Antonio: Spanish Missions, Institute of Texan Cultures, the Alamo

Arriving in San Antonio, we hop on bikes and travel along the San Antonio River to two early 18th century Spanish Missions, Mission Concepcion and Mission San José, as we learn about the Franciscan friars and the native people who interacted at these amazingly well preserved complexes. We then enjoy authentic chicken al carbon for lunch before visiting the Institute of Texan Cultures as we explore the myriad populations that have contributed to the Texan experience. We then visit the emblematic monument of the Texan Revolution: the Alamo. We enter into the iconic chapel and see the place where the famous combatants fought and died. After time to shop for traditional wares at El Mercado, we enjoy free time along the beautiful Riverwalk and an authentic Tex-Mex dinner. (B,L,D)

October 6 – Austin: LBJ Museum, University of Texas, State Capitol

Our day in Texas' most vibrant modern city begins with an examination of one of the most important people of the 20th century history: LBJ. Johnson's Presidential Library on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin provides an intimate look at his presidency and the turbulent times in which he served. We then continue to the UT Tower and eat Austin's best tacos before free time on campus and the adjoining Drag. We then visit the Harry Ransom Center and see its Guttenberg Bible before visiting the Texas State Capitol building. We enjoy the evening on hip South Congress Street and soak up the music, shopping, and scene of Main Street Texas before taking a Texas Two-Step lesson and listening to the music at Austin's most famous honky-tonk, The Broken Spoke. (B,L)

October 7 – Canoe Trip, Lockhart, Rodeo

In the morning we canoe down the beautiful San Marcos River, which archaeologists believe is the longest continually inhabited site in the Americas, as we learn about Texas wildlife and see the grazing cattle along the banks. For our final group lunch, we head to the most famous barbecue restaurant in Texas, the wonderfully authentic Smitty's Market in Lockhart. In the late afternoon, we head to Seguin, one of the oldest cities in Texas, for the Guadalupe County Fair & PRCA Rodeo, including bull riding, a midway of rides, and country dancing until late in the evening. (B,L)

October 8 – Depart

Depart Texas, arrive Birmingham, Alabama. (B)