

# Five weekend getaways you won't regret

Staff Column



Ben Conway, Sophomore

While the government is still subsidizing gasoline so it's less than five dollars a gallon, get out of San Antonio and hit the open roads of the Lone Star State. Austin, Dallas and Houston didn't make this list of attractions, but, instead, here are a few towns and attractions that make up in personality and entertainment what they lack in size.

**Hamilton Pool**  
Located west of Austin, this natural swimming pool fed by the Pedernales River is another great place to escape the Texas heat. Coolers, food and drinks are allowed, but be sure to arrive early when the park opens because only 75 cars are allowed in. If you do beat the crowd, you'll also have to hike about a half mile to the watering hole, but its natural serenity is well worth the hike. You'll find no restaurants or shops here, so just relax.

**Johnson City**  
Located just 70 miles north of San Antonio on 281 is the birthplace of U.S. president Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson City offers the quintessential small-town experience as well as terrific food, culture and shopping. You can't miss the childhood home of the town's most famous resident; it also has a museum chronicling LBJ's life and term at the White House. Check out the "Old Lumber Yard" where you'll find a number of vendors hawking everything you could probably buy at Walgreens from cowboy boots to lotion. Also visit "Pieces of the Past" to dig through old door knobs, pieces of molding and other architectural salvages. Have a cup of joe and check out the metal sculptures and other object d'art at the "Black Spur Emporium." For dinner, enjoy fried chicken at the Silver K Café located on Main Street.

**Marfa**  
For the ambitious weekend traveler with a keen interest in art and wide open spaces, head 400 miles towards El Paso for the chicest little town in Texas: Marfa. Made famous in the 1970s by minimalist artist Donald Judd, who traveled to Marfa to escape the chaos of New York city, the Chinanti Foundation still strives to support the arts in this small town. Visit its collection on a guided tour. To fully appreciate Marfa, do your research pre-departure; it has a fascinating history full of fame and glamour recounted in the pages of publications like Vanity Fair. If you do make it, check out Elmgreen and Dragset's "Prada Marfa" installation (actually located about 40 miles outside the town) and, at night, observe the "Marfa Lights." Go to the Marfa Book Company and eat at the Pizza Foundation. Camp at the Tumble In RV Park for only \$15 a night if you can't afford posh accommodations in town at the Thunderbird Hotel (rates from \$130 a night).

**Fredericksburg**  
Another German town, Fredericksburg is an hour and a half northwest of San Antonio and features charming German colonial architecture. Go see the Vereins Kirche, the town's first public building, constructed in 1847, and stroll around downtown in and out of antique stores and cafes. The peach capitol of Texas, Fredericksburg also has some great produce depending on the season. For a casual downhome meal, eat at Catfish Haven or enjoy a great burger at Alamo Springs Café and then watch hundreds of bats emerge from a railroad tunnel near the restaurant.

**Gruene/New Braunfels**  
Located just a few miles north of San Antonio, right off of Interstate 10, this is tubing central. Wear your shades, sandals and swimming suit and head down FM Rd. 307 to a section of the Guadalupe southeast of Canyon Lake. Float down the turquoise-blue river with a tumbler full of sangria and enjoy some serious leisure. On sunny Saturdays, the river is one big party, so prepare yourself accordingly...the police will be there making sure you don't leave trash behind; Fridays and weekdays are much more mellow. For dinner, head into Gruene and dine at the Gristmill overlooking the Guad or have a drink and cut a rug at the famous Gruene Dance Hall. Check out the Gruene Antique Company for vintage treasures. New Braunfels is of course home to the famous Schlitterbahn waterpark, but also be sure not to miss the "Wurstfest" that pays tribute to the town's German heritage every November.

graphic by Caroline Jakubowski

# Running out: Dean Tuttle's favorite runs

Guest Column



David Tuttle, Dean of Students

Trinity is ideally situated near a number of running routes offering variety in both scenery and mileage. Be safety-conscious: run in daylight, run with others and avoid remote locations. Here are some favorite routes:

**Brackenridge Park**

The park, just east of campus, offers a number of running paths through the woods and along lightly traveled roads. Because of its proximity, the park is great for quick to mid-length runs.

Getting there: From the North, run east from campus past Alamo Stadium toward the zoo. From the South, head under the highway toward Bombay's.

Why this is a good route: In just moments, students can feel they have escaped the stresses of campus life. In addition to the zoo, the train and the Tea Garden, there are several water fountains and restrooms. The hill right across from the zoo entrance offers a challenging place for speed work too.

**Contour Drive**

This is a staple for campus runners. Located in Olmos Park, Contour Drive meanders through an upscale, tree-lined neighborhood. The run is a four-mile loop.

Getting there: Crossing Hildebrand north at either Shook

or Thelma, runners can find their way to Contour, just north of Olmos Drive. Other roads on this route include Hillside and El Prado/Shook.

Why this is a good route: In spots, under a canopy of trees, this shady run is relaxing and pleasant. There isn't a lot of traffic, and there are frequent patrols by the Olmos Park Police. As a bonus, there is an outdoor water fountain on the route at a residence at about the three mile mark. Try to find it!

**Central Market/Incarinate Word**

This route offers a nice challenge with several hills. In addition to seeing the Olmos Basin Dam, runners can check out the University of the Incarnate Word. In all, this is about a 4.5 mile route.

Getting there: From the light at Devine and Olmos, head east past Olmos Dam. After passing the dam, turn right twice onto Torcido and then Patterson. The route goes right on Broadway, past Central Market. The second right into Incarnate Word brings runners to the western campus edge, returning on Hildebrand.

Why this is a good route: It gives runners a chance to go for a dam run, for one. The hill on the east side of the dam and the one coming out of Incarnate Word are good for building strength and a little bit of character. Bonus: If done right, runners return east toward campus over the Sky Bridge.

**Pearl Brewery/River Walk**

This route can take runners to the recently expanded world-famous River Walk. It is an out-

and-back route and can be several miles or up to 20 miles round trip.

Getting there: Head east on Mulberry and right at the path along Lion's Field on Broadway. Heading toward downtown the route picks up the river at Pearl Brewery. Runners can go downtown and beyond. The run extends to the Guenther House and along the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River.

Why this is a good route: This is a beautiful, comfortable run, and there are several water fountains and restrooms along the way. Unique public art, cobblestone sidewalks and natural lush vegetation carry you along. Want to show someone San Antonio - or see it yourself? Run this route.

Questions or looking for more specific information, contact Dean of Students David Tuttle at dtuttle@trinity.edu.