Texas Hill Country

The Hills Are Alive

March of 2022

San Antonio
The Alamo
Bluebonnet Day Trip
Lady Bird’s Wildflowers
Fredericksburg
Zilker Gardens
& much, much more
Thursday & Friday

Welcome to the lovely rolling landscapes of central Texas. We begin our journey in San Antonio at a time when the spring wildflowers are sure to be in bloom.

The Spanish first settled on the banks of the San Antonio River in 1719. A mission that followed was joined by a presidio (the Alamo) and is the site of some of the most interesting history of the United States.

Briscoe Western Art Museum

San Antonio River Cruise  Running through downtown, the river is bustling with shops, eateries and hotels.

Japanese Tea Garden  The renovated gardens have a wonderful history and include a waterfall, an island and bridges.
San Antonio Botanical Garden
An unusual garden with structures representing the differing styles of the various regions of Texas and the plants of each region. Major features include the Mays Family Display Garden with native and adaptive plants; the Zachry Foundation Culinary Garden which has vegetable gardens and an outdoor kitchen; and the Lucile Halsell Conservatory, a 90,000-square foot complex consisting of five glass structures, one each for tropical plants, rainforest ferns, desert cacti, a palm and cycad collection, and an orchid and bromeliad display.

Of special significance is the Texas Native Trail, which includes three distinct Texas microclimates: the sandy East Texas Pineywoods, the Hill Country, and the South Texas Plain with its semi-arid mesquite and cacti lands.

The San Antonio Missions Missions were built in the late 17th century along the San Antonio River by the Spanish who had begun to feel the encroachment of the French from Louisiana.
McNay Art Museum
The first modern art museum in Texas is a 24-room Spanish colonial revival house filled with thousands of objects surrounded by 23 delightful acres of sculpture gardens.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Even for a state filled with wildflowers, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center might be the best site to experience wildflowers in all of Texas. Lady Bird loved her flowers. She even led the cause to pass The Highway Beautification Act, informally known as “Lady Bird’s Bill,” which had a dramatic impact on the American landscape. It helped beautify the nation’s highway system by limiting billboards and promoting the planting of wildflowers along the roadsides. Her efforts inspired similar programs throughout the country.

In 1982, Lady Bird founded the Wildflower Center with Helen Hayes, one of the best-known actresses in the world. It includes a 16-acre Arboretum focused on the fifty types of oak found in Texas, examples of native Texan bio-regions and miles of walks through native biomes.
Texas in springtime rivals some of the most beautiful natural environments in the world thanks to a collection of species more than 130 million years old: wildflowers. The diversity of soil types and climate variations across the state provide the native flowers an opportunity to thrive both in numbers and species, making for a splendid display along highways and open lands throughout Texas.

The Hill Country between Kerrville and Marble Falls is particularly lucky, representing a convergence of different environmental and geographic characteristics, giving wildflowers a chance to show their best. Fields of bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, and black-eyed Susan are among the many species to see blanketing the landscape every spring.

There are places to pull over and grab a quick photograph, but it would not be wise to trespass on private property or trample the flowers, as both are illegal.
**Tuesday**

**LBJ Ranch**  Everything’s bigger in Texas including Lyndon Baynes Johnson, a Texan through and through. The man who served as Congressman, Senator, Vice-President and President was born one town over from Johnson City, a town his relatives helped settle.

His 1,570 acre ranch contains his birthplace, his first school, the Ranch House, the Johnson Cemetery and much more.

**Fredericksburg, Texas**  This quaint town in the heart of the Texas is often called the capital of the Hill Country. Founded in 1846, its existence is thanks in part to a peace treaty with the local Comanche tribe allowing the two cultures to live in peace. It's one of the few Native American treaties never broken. Highlights in town include the Fredericksburg Herb Farm and a great shopping district.
**Tanglewild Gardens**  A wonderful private garden with a Moroccan theme filled with tropical and other exotic plants. There is also a Moon Garden with only white flowers, live oaks throughout the site and a paper plant garden. The daylily breeding area has raised beds for the new seedlings and is accompanied by a home greenhouse.

**Zilker Botanical Gardens**  A delightful 26-acre site hidden away in the center of Austin which features a prehistoric garden (with dinosaurs!), the Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society and the Taniguchi Japanese Garden by Isamu Taniguchi whose ponds spell out A-U-S-T-I-N, his gift to the city.

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**Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum**

Hundreds of touchable bronze sculptures amidst a landscape of waterfalls and streams.

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**Peter J. Olin, DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Peter J. Olin served as director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA) between 1985-2008. He focused on expanding research and educational programs, including the MLA’s internationally recognized Therapeutic Horticulture Program, the Nelson Shrub Rose Garden, the Irvine Sensory Garden and the Bailey Shrub Walk. THE PETER J. OLIN DIRECTORSHIP ENDOWMENT was established in his honor to endow the director’s position.
Tour Inclusions
- Custom-designed tour for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum with host Peter Olin
- Accommodation for six nights in the Drury Plaza Hotel and the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites
- Breakfast every morning, a Wine Tasting, a Festive Lunch and a Farewell Dinner
- Docent-led tours
- Full-service tour director from Destinations And Tours
- Private transportation and driver gratuities
- Taxes and service charges while on tour
- $200 tax-deductible donation to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

**TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TOUR**

**March 24 through March 30, 2022**

**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

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**$2,695** Tour Cost per person  **$795** Single Supplement

**Two Easy Ways to Reserve a Seat**

- Call or text Lynde Vespoli (440) 840-6334
- Email Lynde DestinationsAndTours@gmail.com

Seats on this trip may go fast, post-pandemic. Reserve yours today!

Liability Release: I understand and agree to the Cancellation and Refund Policy below. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Destinations And Tours LLC, its agents and affiliates for any and all injuries to any participant, damage to any property, or other inconvenience, expense or delay that may occur during or in connection with the program set forth in this brochure. The right is reserved to vary the itinerary or to substitute components of such program due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Destinations And Tours LLC. One form per traveler. To secure a tour reservation, a deposit of $500 must accompany each form. Airfare is not included. Cancellation and Refund Policy (per person): Cancellation prior to February 10, 2022: $250 penalty. Cancellation after February 10, 2022: No refund available. No substitutions or assignments. Non-MLA members add $100.

Authorization Signature (required)