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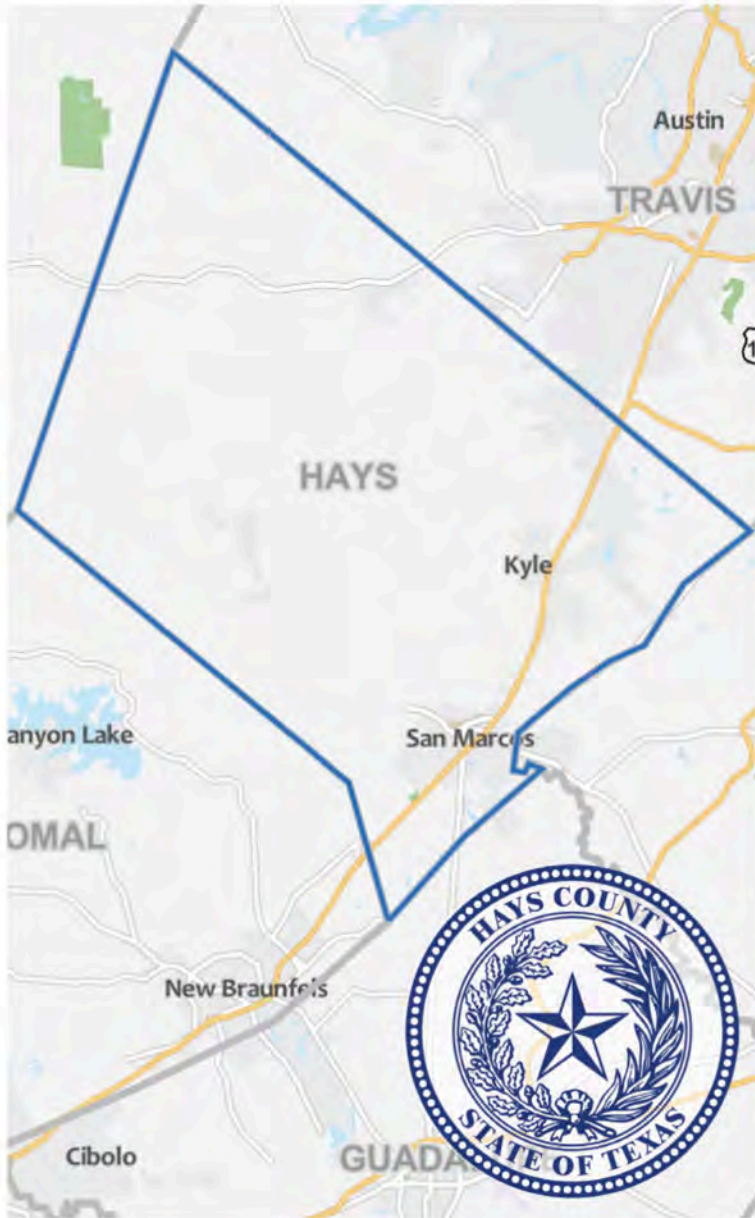
# Things to Do

In Hays County



# business hub

## Hays County Profile



Hays County is the fastest growing county in the United States, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, and that comes as no surprise to local residents.

The census showed that Hays County grew 53.4% from 2010 to 2020. The growth has continued with the population now estimated at 241,067.

The central location of Hays County on the I-35 corridor positions it as an ideal hub for companies in search of strategic transportation access. The area's geographical advantage has spurred economic growth, attracting a diverse range of industries drawn to the efficient connectivity between two major cities in Austin and San Antonio.

Contributing significantly to the region's vitality is the presence of Texas State University in San Marcos, the state's fourth-largest public university. This educational institution not only enriches the cultural fabric of the area but also provides a steady influx of young, well-educated individuals to bolster the local workforce.

Adding to Hays County's appeal is the distinction of hosting the nation's largest outlet mall complex, strategically situated in South San Marcos along I-35. This retail powerhouse transforms the region into a strong retail center, attracting shoppers and businesses alike.

Beyond San Marcos, the county's next largest cities, Kyle and Buda, have emerged as thriving communities along the I-35 corridor, further contributing to Hays County's economic vibrancy. Dripping Springs, located 24 miles west of Austin, stands out as an inviting prospect for businesses seeking growth in a picturesque Hill Country town.

As Hays County continues to experience rapid growth, its strategic location, educational resources, and robust economic infrastructure position it as a prime destination for businesses and residents alike, solidifying its status as one of the nation's fastest-growing and economically dynamic regions.



### Populations and People

Total Population  
**241,067**



### Income

Median Household Income  
**\$88,617**



### Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher  
**46.8%**



### Employment

Employment Rate  
**67.0%**



### Housing

Total Housing Units  
**93,534**



### Health

Without Health Care Coverage  
**9.9%**



### Business and Economy

Total Employer Establishments  
**5,124**



### Families and Living Arrangements

Total Households  
**101,449**



### Race and Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)  
**92,871**

# Buda

FOUNDED IN 1881, BUDA IS KNOWN FOR QUALITY SCHOOLS, A QUAIN

DOWNTOWN, AND CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FESTIVALS, WALKING TRAILS,

AND FAMILY FUN!



## OVERVIEW

Originally known as Du Pre, Buda got its name in the late 1800s, but the origin remains a mystery. One legend says it comes from Budapest, Hungary, while another claims it evolved from the Spanish word for widow, viuda, honoring the women who cooked in a local hotel. Today the close-knit community retains small-town charm, particularly in the historic downtown district on Main Street. Because of Buda's laid-back feel, city leaders have adopted the motto "Breathe Easy Here."

In the past two decades, Buda has seen tremendous residential, commercial, and industrial growth as it becomes one of the premier locations to live, work and play in Central Texas. Close proximity to Downtown Austin, Austin Bergstrom International Airport, Interstate 35 and SH-45 have allowed Buda to undergo a rapid transformation from a small rural community to a thriving community. Buda has been fortunate and had the foresight to plan for growth while maintaining its history charm and small town feeling.

## THE WIENER DOG CAPITAL OF TEXAS

This annual event and country fair has become so popular in recent years the Buda Wiener Dog Races now attract around 400 racers each year. Although Buda claims the trademarked status of "Wiener Dog Capital of Texas" a significant number of the K-9 racers are from out of town and out of state. The races are held in Buda's City Park where you can also enjoy food, arts and crafts vendors, live entertainment or compete in a Barbeque Cook-Off.

## DOWNTOWN BUDA

Downtown Buda is a short six blocks of preserved history packed with shopping, dining and evening entertainment. Downtown Buda has anything from home décor to local food to sweet treats and more. It has a unique retail mix that visitors will love and want to visit again and again.

Downtown Buda also hosts First Thursday, a monthly event where downtown businesses are Alive After Five and offers deals to those shopping. Whether it is getting donuts or having drinks a night, there is always something to do.

## HAYS CISD - DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Located in North Central Hays County, the Hays Consolidated Independent School District reaches more than 221 square miles. The district's 26 campuses are located throughout northern Hays County, serving over 20,000 students. Hays CISD is a proud partner with all of the communities it serves, providing extraordinary educational services and opportunities for students.

3 comprehensive high schools, 6 middle schools (6-8 grade), 15 elementary schools, an alternative high school of choice and a disciplinary center comprise the district's campuses, which have tripled in number since 2000. The district also features a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center.

Hays CISD schools are important to the quality of life in northern Hays County. The district works hard to ensure that children have the very best opportunities because they are the community's future.

## **BUDA WINS GOLD**

The City of Buda received a gold certification from the Scenic City Certification Program of Scenic Texas. 1,200 Texas cities and towns applied for certification and 16 were chosen.

Buda received a gold certification for its parking lot landscaping; five special districts, including the historic district; strict dark sky regulations; and for meeting national standards of 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

Buda's motto is "breathe easy here," and the city provides the places to do just that. If antiquing is your thing, there are a handful of shops downtown with all kinds of rare collectibles at bargain prices.

Taste locally made wine on an outdoor patio, listen to talented musicians from Texas and beyond at one-of-a-kind venues, and play classic arcade games until your thumbs fall off. These kinds of awesome experiences are just a taste of what awaits in Buda, a quaint charmer that punches above its weight in terms of unique things to see and do. Entertainment, live music, karaoke, arcade games, and world-class racing can all be found in and around town. If you just want to enjoy some good food and drink, Buda has you covered. The following are some of the top attractions in Buda.

## **SHOP, DINE AND RELAX IN DOWNTOWN BUDA**

This shopping and dining district is the heart and soul of Buda. Ranging from unique shops or restaurants that will satisfy your inner foodie, all the way to a spa to get you rejuvenated after a long week.

## **EXPLORE BUDA MILL & GRAIN CO.**

A former cotton gin dating back to 1914, Buda Mill & Grain Co. is now a beautifully restored shopping and dining area where you can hang out all day. Stroll in the shade of historic silos, browse for the latest in women's fashion at Ellipsis Boutique, and work up a refreshing sweat at Willow Gardens Hot Yoga. Want to treat yourself? Get a slice of German chocolate cake or a red velvet cupcake at Sweet Cakes 4 U and a cup of coffee at Nate's Coffee & Cocktails. Once the sun sets, get a glass of wine or a cocktail and admire the view of downtown Buda from the patio.

## **THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF TEXAS**

Situated at the junction of the Edwards Plateau and the southern Backland Prairie, Buda has long offered citizens and visitors alike a strong sense of connection to the natural world. Native Americans once hunted buffalo, bear, deer, and wild turkey in the environs of Buda. The presence of wild game continues to draw modern professionals and weekend hunters; moreover, fishing, camping, canoeing, and hiking can be enjoyed in the area year-round.

## **GET ARTSY**

There are souvenirs, and then there's what you'll find at the art galleries in Buda. Assemblage Contemporary Craftsman Gallery, located in the Buda Mill & Grain Co., and Inspired Minds Art Center in the heart of downtown is a showcase of the works of living American artists, many of which live here in town or are born and raised in Buda. Check out the whimsical pottery of Buda's own Fraser Harris alongside an array of vibrant paintings, photographs, distinctive jewelry, and furniture. See something you like? Much of the collection at each gallery is available for sale, and the prices are as affordable as the art is eye-catching. Want to get your hands dirty? Inspired Minds Art Center offers an array of art class nights perfect for your visit to Buda.

## **PARKS & OUTDOOR SPACES**

Buda was named the "Outdoor Capital of Texas" by the State of Texas Legislature due to its high percentage of parkland. Enjoy nature as you go "off the beaten path" and explore Buda's hike and bike trails in one of our 13 scenic parks and natural areas, including the 54-acre Historic Stagecoach Park. Choose from ADA accessible trails with benches or trails that have beautiful wildflower meadows. Enjoy the benefits of our parks with a range of amenities. Picnic areas, ball fields, basketball courts, playground equipment and many other recreational venues are offered at the park sites. See you on the trail!

## **RACING**

Start your engines in Buda. Race fans attending events at Circuit of the Americas in Austin need to consider Buda for their lodging destination. Buda hotels are 15 minutes from the track and are a more affordable option. For FORMULA ONE, Buda offers transportation from your hotel to the track and back and to other Buda destinations.

## **BUSINESS**

Businesses from across the State of Texas and nation are discovering that business is better in Buda. Buda is proud of the wide variety and diversity of our major employers. From cost advantages, proximity to talented employees, incentives, and the ease of doing business are just a few reasons to businesses have located in Buda. Buda is positioned for success and growth and by locating in Buda, your business will be in very good company.

Buda's Primary Trade Area population is estimated at 80,129 and is projected to grow to 90,270 by 2022. The PTA's average household income is \$85,379 and the median household income is \$73,073.

# Buda Things To Do

## **Buda Mill & Grain Company**

Just on the edge of Downtown Buda, this beautifully re-developed site dates back to 1914 and offers over 27,000 SF of space to explore. With so many unique shops, delicious sweets and drinks, and live music weekly you won't want to leave!

## **Cabela's - The World's Foremost Outfitter**

This 185,000 square-foot store sells merchandise for every breed of outdoorsman. Visit the showroom filled with historical firearms, view museum-quality displays of animals in their natural habitats, admire the gigantic aquariums filled with hundreds of live fish, and practice your aim in the indoor archery range. This store also has a restaurant that offers foods such as elk and bison burgers, as well as, their famous fudge. Visit [Cabelas.com](http://Cabelas.com) for more information on the Buda location.

## **Hike & Bike Trails, Natural Spaces and Recreation**

Buda was named the "Outdoor Capital of Texas" by the State of Texas Legislature due to its high percentage of parkland. Enjoy nature as you go "off the beaten path" and explore Buda's hike and bike trails in one of our 17 scenic parks and natural areas, including the 54-acre Historic Stagecoach Park. Choose from ADA accessible trails with benches or trails that have beautiful wildflower meadows.

## **Historic Downtown District**

Located in the heart of Buda, downtown is six blocks of well-preserved history packed with an exciting collection of antique shops, boutiques, bakeries, coffee shops, old fashioned soda fountain, restaurants, taverns, salons, health and skin care studios, photography studios, an event venue and a wide range of other services anchored in original historic buildings. Check out antiques, boutiques, and specialty shops located in historic downtown.

## **Historic McElroy-Severn Stagecoach House and Visitor Center**

The Buda Visitor Center is home to the McElroy-Severn Stagecoach House and Onion Creek Post Office, both are a national and state historic landmarks. These landmarks were built in 1887 and served as a stagecoach stop and post office for the United States Postal Service until the early 1920's. Stop by and see our friendly visitor center staff to learn more about Buda's history and let them be your guide to Buda and Central Texas.

## **Historic Places**

Buda is home to several historic homes, buildings and structures that have been here for more than a century. Most notable is the 1898 Building, a truly unique mission-style building with a hundred-year-old elevator inside.

Other noteworthy historic sites in Buda include the Carrington House (formerly known as the Carrington Hotel), Clint's Cabin, and the Porter-Gordon House. See our full list of historic sites and landmarks in Buda.

## **Jackson Tyler Norris Memorial Skate Park**

The skate park, located at 480 S. Loop 4, features a bowl, two ramps, two half pipes, six grinding rails, one stairs, one stair rail, and lights. The skate park was named after Jackson, a local teen and avid skateboarder who tragically died in June 2011.

## **Driftwood Wineries**

Located in the rolling hills of the Texas Hill Country, Driftwood, Texas is just a short 14-mile drive from Buda. There you will find some of the best wineries in Central, Texas. For views that will take your breath away and wine that will satisfy any palette, check out the Driftwood Wine Trail website.

## **Nearby Cities and Attractions**

Buda is the sweet spot for your Central Texas getaway. Located just 15 minutes south of Downtown Austin and 20 minutes north of San Marcos, you can be sure that you will be centrally located between all the best area attractions including, Circuit of the Americas.



# Dripping Springs



DRIPPING SPRINGS, IS WELL-KNOWN AS THE  
“GATEWAY TO THE HILL COUNTRY.”

## VISIT DRIPPING SPRINGS

Dripping Springs is located in Central Texas approximately twenty-three miles west of Austin. Dripping Springs, is well-known as the “Gateway to the Hill Country.”

Located just 20 minutes west of Austin, Dripping Springs is home to spectacular natural wonders, historic treasures, unique shopping, eclectic live music venues, exciting rodeos, a plethora of wineries, craft breweries and local distilleries and legendary hospitality. Also, recognized as the official, “Wedding Capital of Texas®,” Dripping Springs is a premiere destination location, as well as being a great base for exploring the rest of the Texas Hill Country. Dripping Springs, Texas offers the perfect blend of hill country beauty, heritage, and good old-fashioned hospitality.

## COME AND PLAY WITH US

The Hill Country beckons to you – and the gateway to that beautiful scenery begins in the small, slow-paced and welcoming city of Dripping Springs.

Stop, take a deep breath and stay around to enjoy the nice people, wonderful shops and good eats. The “dripping springs” which served as the catalyst for the name of the city, is located in the heart of Dripping Springs. Visitors from all over the globe come to enjoy the history of our city, shop in well-known establishments and enjoy world famous barbecue. Spend the day in Dripping Springs touring the olive orchard and area vineyards, sampling locally produced

salsas and jellies or traveling just down the road to hike, swim or enjoy the scenery at Hamilton Pool, Pedernales Falls State Park and West Cave Preserve.

The City currently has 271.29 acres of parkland that serves approximately 23,350 residents in Dripping Springs. The Parks and Community Services Department facilitates quality of life programming and other community services. The park system inventory includes Dripping Springs’ 110 acre Premier Ranch Park and Event Center venue and the popular Dripping Springs Farmers Market located at Veterans Memorial Park. Founders Memorial Park and Sports and Recreation Park feature park amenities such as athletic fields, walking and jogging trails, volleyball and basketball, play structures and the Founders Memorial Park Pool. Charro Ranch Park is a popular location to enjoy nature in an iconic Texas Hill Country setting while reflecting on its trails.

## LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The Dripping Springs area is rich in wonderful attractions. Set at the threshold of the Texas Hill Country, Dripping Springs has an altitude of 550 feet (MSL), and is only minutes from Austin and Johnson City. The landscape is characterized by steppe prairies with sweeping views of rolling hills, and towering Live Oak woodlands.

- Hamilton Pool • Pound House Museum • Texas Parks and Wildlife • Lake Travis • Highland Lakes • Westcave Preserve • LBJ Historical Park • Texas Hill Country Guide

# Dripping Springs Things To Do

## Charro Ranch Park

64 beautiful acres with trails for walking, running, birding, picnicking, or reflecting.

## Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Westcave Preserve is a natural treasure of the Texas Hill Country, possessing unique and majestic beauty and ecological diversity. Located adjacent to the Pedernales River in southwestern Travis County about 14 miles and 20 minutes from downtown Dripping Springs, this 76-acre gem is a non-profit organization devoted to inspiring people to develop a lifelong practice of enjoying and protecting nature through education, collaboration, and conservation.

## Hamilton Pool

Hamilton Pool Preserve is a historic swimming hole that was designated a preserve by the Travis County Commissioner's Court in 1990. Located 3/4 mile upstream from its confluence with the Pedernales River, Hamilton Creek spills out over limestone outcroppings to create a 50-foot waterfall as it plunges into the head of

## Pedernales Falls State Park

The county roads that lead to each of these destinations are remarkable in their beauty and ecological variety, but the road to Pedernales Falls State Park offers views of the Pedernales River valley, and the perfect backdrop for a Hill Country sunset if you're lucky enough to catch one.

Once you've entered the park, a must-see attraction is the overlook of the falls. Flowing over and around huge slabs of limestone, the Pedernales River can be turbulent. But most often it is tranquil, and a great place to relax and recharge. Located just 18 miles and a little over 20 minutes from downtown Dripping Springs, the park offers swimming, hiking, birding, equestrian trails, camping, and endless outdoor adventure. On the river, you can swim, wade, tube or fish. Look for local wildlife and plants at the bird blind and butterfly garden, or head to the overlook for miles and miles of scenic Hill Country vistas.

## Downtown Mercer Street

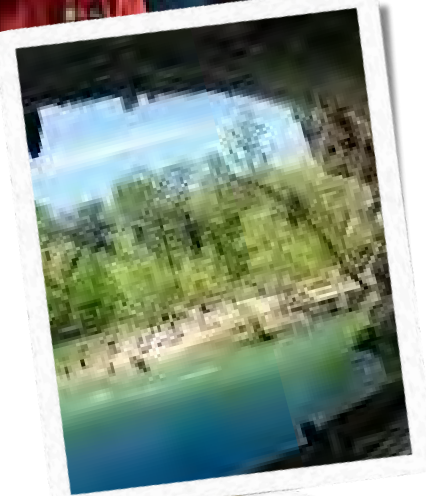
Located in the heart of Dripping Springs is historic downtown Mercer Street. A must-visit for architecture, shopping, history, and more! The best way to take in the several blocks of the city street is on foot. A Mercer Street favorite is Rippy Ranch Supply, a locally owned and family operated feed and supply business with an authentic, purely Texas vibe. Originally Crow Wool and Mohair, the Rippy Ranch Supply building has been a hub and anchor on the street since the late 1940s.

## The Dripping Springs

Tucked within bustling downtown is THE dripping springs. The original "dripping springs" are located on the west side of Mercer Street, noticeable by a granite marker. The springs are located on private property, but the owners graciously allow folks to visit the springs located just above the limestone cliff on the grounds of the Homestead Bed and Breakfast. The creek in which the springs flow can also be accessed by a stone staircase by the mailboxes at 509 Mercer Street. Follow the winding stairs to a quiet, natural cathedral where cold spring water bubbles from the limestone and trickles into the creek.

## Mercer Dancehall

For those interested in experiencing a little bit of the nightlife in the Dripping Springs area, a must-visit is the Mercer Dancehall. Originally located on historic Mercer Street, the dance hall is now located just a few miles south on RR12. The hall is the best place in Hays County to two-step the night away and they even offer dance lessons on Saturday nights. Famed musician Jimmie Vaughan called it the "best Honky Tonk in Central Texas" and Kevin Fowler said it is an "authentic Texas dance hall" that is exactly what Dripping Springs needs. The facility may be newly built, but it has a feel of an old-time dance hall that is perfect for live music.





KYLE MAINTAINS A SMALL TOWN VALUE SYSTEM WITH  
DEDICATION, INTEGRITY AND CREATIVITY

## LOCATION

Kyle is a full-service city approaching 50,000 residents and extending over 9 miles along the I-35 corridor. Its incredible rate of growth makes it one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. Kyle is located 8 miles north of the outlet malls in San Marcos and 20 miles south of downtown Austin and the Austin-Bergstrom Int'l Airport. Kyle is proud to be the official Pie Capital of Texas.

Kyle is striving to maintain the small Town Texas charm while positioning itself to be a vital part of the corridor economic development. You will find the City of Kyle to have a pro-business climate with a committed, progressive, and collaborative community. Kyle has an affordable, available, and growing workforce, quality education base and the benefit of a strategic location in the heart of one of the fastest growing corridors in the nation. In addition, the city has ample acreage of available property, an affordable cost of doing business, a favorable tax structure, and is growing its utility and roadway infrastructure to support growth and future development.

Why is Kyle Texas' pie capital? For starters, it's home to The Texas Pie Company, a bakery so famous it has been featured on NPR's The Splendid Table and in Southern Living, The Austin Chronicle, The Knot, and other newspapers throughout the region. Located within a more than 100-year-old building in downtown Kyle, the bakery serves up everything from Dutch apple and strawberry peach to coconut cream and key lime pies. Yet its top seller is its southern pecan pie, so don't leave without getting a slice. If you're a pie fanatic, make sure you're in Kyle on

Labor Day weekend for the Kyle Pie in the Sky Hot Air Balloon Festival. Not only does the event have a pie eating contest, a pie bake-off, pie cafe, live music, and vendors, it also features colorful hot air balloon floats and a fireworks show over Lake Kyle.

The pies are delicious, but Kyle's history is just as enticing. Visit yesteryear at the Kyle Railroad Depot & Heritage Center, a fully restored depot that exhibits artifacts from 1917 through 1965. The railroad played an important part in the town's origins. In 1880, Kyle was founded along the International and Great Northern Railroad by Captain Fergus Kyle (the town's namesake) and D. R. Moore. They donated 200 acres of land to the railroad and much of the area's lots were auctioned off under the grand Kyle Auction Oak. See more of Kyle's past at the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center, the former home of the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, and the Kyle Log House, a well-preserved example of a double pen, dogtrot log home that's full of stories. Take the Texas Historical Commission's tour of the historical markers in Kyle for a deeper dive into the past.

## Hays Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD)

Located in North Central Hays County, the HCISD serves more than 221 square miles. The district's 23 campuses are located throughout the Kyle and Buda communities, drawing just over 20,000 students. HCISD features a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center and many newly built campuses. In all, there are 23 campuses including: 13 Elementary Schools (K-5), 6 Middle Schools (6-8), 2 High Schools (9-12), 1 Alternative School of Choice, 1 Discipline Alternative Campus.

## **BUSINESS**

Kyle enjoys strategic positioning along the bustling I-35 corridor, nestled between two of Texas' top-performing cities. Situated just 7 miles south of Austin's city limits and a mere 39 miles north of San Antonio's boundaries, Kyle occupies a prime location along this thriving corridor, perfectly positioned to harness the benefits of rapid growth.

Just a decade ago, if you would have stood on the corner of I-35 & FM 1626, you would have seen only cow pastures as far as the eye could see. Kyle did not even have a grocery store. Within an extremely short period of time, Kyle has seen massive growth, investment and commitment from commercial businesses and developers.

There is approximately 2.5 million square feet of retail/mixed use space currently under development at the intersection of I-35 and FM 1626 alone. There is an additional 900,000 square feet at FM 1626 and Kohlers Crossing and an additional 800,000 square feet of retail/mixed use space adjacent to Home Depot at Exit 215 among several other smaller planned developments. This kind of development is unprecedented during these economic times.

The City of Kyle is poised to be the largest city in Hays County. Our population multiplied 6 times over since the 2000 census from 5,000 citizens to just over 40,000.

Several factors prove that the area is very progressive including transportation, utility and water plans, access, and construction. The City of Kyle is currently undergoing major highway and infrastructure improvements. We strongly encourage you to begin or continue your Central Texas search here in Kyle.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Kyle is ideally located in the heart of the I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio where residents and commuters enjoy ease of access to the newly completed I-45 toll road as well as I-10, FM 150, FM 1626, SH 21, and SH 123.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is located 25 miles north of Kyle, the San Marcos Municipal Airport is located 12 miles to the City's south, and San Antonio International Airport is 52 miles to the south.

The MoPAC rail line runs through the heart of downtown Kyle and the Amtrak Passenger Train has a nearby stop 10 miles south of Kyle in San Marcos.

### Local Recreation

- Steeplechase Disc Golf Course
- Plum Creek Golf Course
- Kyle Pool
- Kyle Public Library
- Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center
- Claiborne Kyle Log House

### -Community Parks

- Gregg-Clarke Community Park
- Steeplechase Community Park
- Waterleaf Community Park
- Numerous neighborhood & pocket parks

### Area Recreation

- San Marcos Premium Outlets
- Tanger Outlets San Marcos
- Wonder World Park
- Five Mile Dam Parks Complex
- Randall Wade Vetter Park
- TDS Exotic Game Ranch

### Kyle Today

The City of Kyle is the nation's third fastest growing city with a population of over 50,000 and is poised to be the largest city in Hays County. Our population multiplied many times over since the 2000 Census from 5,000 citizens to over 62,500 in 2023. We maintain a small town value system including dedication, integrity and creativity to our residents and business communities.

Hays County is a populous suburban county in the Austin metropolitan area with a population of 269,225 people with a growth rate of approximately 5.1%. Hays County, the nation's fastest-growing county and center of the Texas Innovation Corridor, is the southern-most portion of the Austin MSA. Hays County is a diverse area made up of unique natural assets, multiple workforce development institutions including Texas State University and Austin Community College, world-class shopping and wineries, and a myriad of major employers.

# Kyle Things To Do

## Treat Yourself in the Pie Capital of Texas

Anywhere that deigns to call itself the Pie Capital of Texas better deliver the goods, and that's exactly what Kyle does. Indulge your sweet tooth as you pay a visit to the Texas Pie Company, which is so well known it has been featured on NPR's The Splendid Table and in such publications as Southern Living and The Austin American Statesman. No matter what kind of pie you're craving, the Texas Pie Company has it. Classics like fudge, coconut macaroon, and peanut butter mousse make up a menu that also includes fruit and cream pies and cheesecakes.



## Dance the Night Away at Live at Tejas Hall

Texas Old Town, the largest premier wedding and corporate event venue has expanded into the entertainment industry to bring you, Texas Old Town Presents: Live at Tejas Hall, hosted the first and third Fridays of each month. Dance the night away as doors open at seven o'clock for dance lessons, followed by live country music and boot-scootin' fun. Beer, wine, dinner and snacks are available for purchase and tickets can be bought online or at the door. Stop by and take a tour of Texas Old Town, the largest premier venue for Texas Hill County wedding destinations and corporate events and the go-to venue for thousands of Texas brides, grooms and event planners since 2004. After your tour of this beautiful 55-acre ranch, stay and kick up your heels as you dance and create an unforgettable memory.



## Take the Kyle GeoTour Challenge

Kyle is a geocacher's dream. Whether you're a geocache veteran or you've never even heard the term, you're in for a treat. Geocaching is simple. First you must download the app on your smartphone, tablet, or GPS (Geocaching.com) then use the search function to locate the "Kyle Texas GeoTour" caches nearby. Once you locate the cache, sign and date the book and trade knickknacks if you like. Before you head out, download and print the official KACC Passport or pick one up at the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau (401 Center Street). Then you're off on an adventure to explore the town. You'll receive points for every geocache that you find, as well as points for dining, shopping, and overnighting in Kyle.



## Learn How to Play Polo

You've probably seen polo on the TV or in a movie. Players on horseback knocking a ball around on a grassy field. In Kyle, this ancient sport is not just for the well connected, as you can experience it for yourself. Choose from intermediate, advanced, or intercollegiate-level polo lessons with the veteran trainers at County Line Polo Club. This inviting polo club is just the place to watch a fast-paced game before saddling up and giving it a try for yourself. There's always something going on here, whether it's monthly league matches or seasonal events, County Line Polo Club is one of the most popular things to do in Kyle for a good reason.

## Shop Kyle Market Days

If you're in Kyle between April and October, taste local foods, shop the town's vendors, and enjoy performances by some of the area's top talents during Kyle Market Days. Held the second Saturday of the month, this annual event is a fabulous shop for fresh-cut flowers, live plants, ripe produce, baked goods, local honey, and handmade bath and body items. Each of these events features impressive live musical performances of various genres.



## Take a Day Trip to Texas Wineries

The Hill Country is known for its wineries, and Kyle is just a short drive away from some of the region's best. Head to Driftwood Estate Winery & Vineyard and appreciate beautiful bluff views over a glass of cuvee blanc or tempranillo made with Texas grapes. The new Driftwood Bistro serves up delicious dishes perfect for pairing. Meanwhile, the Duchman Family Winery in Driftwood offers wines made with grapes from the Lone Star State. Savor your red or white of choice, including a dry rosé, Montepulciano, and Roussanne, at what HGTV named as one of the 20 most beautiful wineries in the country.

# San Marcos



NESTLED IN THE HEART OF TEXAS, SAN MARCOS

STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE CONVERGENCE OF

HISTORY, DIVERSITY, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC

Nestled in the heart of Texas, San Marcos stands as a testament to the convergence of history, diversity, education and economic vitality. Founded in 1851, this vibrant city has flourished for over 161 years into the city and community it is today.

However, the roots of San Marcos extend far beyond its modern inception. More than 12,000 years ago, ancient Native Americans, including the Clovis Indians, thrived along the pristine riverbanks of the San Marcos River that offered a wealth of resources. The river, magically emerging from underground with crystal-clear water that creates Spring Lake, meanders southeastward. This idyllic setting at the edge of the rolling hills and Blackland Prairie became a home for Native Americans through the ages and is now considered to potentially be the oldest continually inhabited location in all of North America.

Fast forward to the present, and San Marcos stands as a city of over 70,300 residents, a mosaic of racial and ethnic backgrounds, and a commitment to education. Nearly 40% of the population is Hispanic or Latino and 40% of the population is White and around 7% is Black.

The history of the city cannot be told without being intertwined with the history of Texas State University, which opened in 1899.

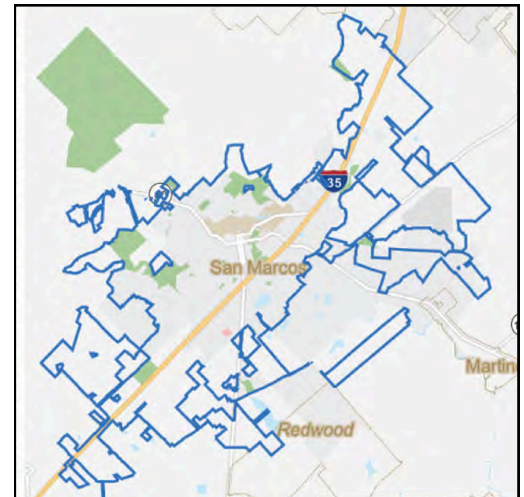
In the age group of 18 to 24 years, 25,981 individuals pursue higher education, reflecting the city's

dedication to providing opportunities for its young population. The commitment to education transcends demographics, with various racial and ethnic groups showcasing a pursuit of advanced education. Texas State is considered a Hispanic Servicing Institution by the state of Texas and its demographics closely align with that of the state itself.

In addition to its diverse population, San Marcos exhibits economic variation among its 29,541 households, with a median income of \$52,040.

Texas State University is among the largest employer in San Marcos along with the local school district. Those, as well as the city of San Marcos and CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital, lead to educational services, health care and social services making up more than 25% of all jobs in the city. That is followed by retail trade, making up around 17% of jobs, showing the impact of the city's vast shopping options including the famous San Marcos Outlet Malls, which make up the largest luxury outlet destination in the state. Also, the city's vibrant downtown is known for both its artistic flare and nightlife. That industry makes up around 15% of all jobs within the city.

The city's history, coupled with its demographic diversity, educational commitment, and economic vitality, reinforces San Marcos as a city that has gracefully evolved over time while retaining its unique character and charm.



#### Populations and People

Total Population  
**70,301**



#### Income

Median Household Income  
**\$52,040**



#### Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher  
**41.2%**



#### Employment

Employment Rate  
**65.6%**



#### Housing

Total Housing Units  
**29,680**



#### Families and Living Arrangements

Total Households  
**29,541**



# San Marcos

## VISIT SAN MARCOS

Art markets, festivals, gallery installations and more, there's always something fun going on in Downtown San Marcos. Visit one of our downtown museums, or explore a local historic site. Treat yourself to a relaxing spa experience or get those endorphins flowing from an invigorating gym session. And of course, San Marcos really comes alive when the sun goes down. Breweries, nightlife and live music are calling your name. Because in San Marcos, the good times never end.

## SAN MARCOS ISD

Current enrollment at all the campuses is 8,100 students, and the district covers approximately 210 miles. San Marcos High School offers advanced placement courses, career technology courses and dual enrollment at Texas State, Coastal Bend College and Austin Community College.

The Texas Education Agency has graded the schools within the district for the 2021-2022 school year as follows: (out of 100 points) Bonham PreKindergarten received an 87, Crockett Elementary received a 87, Hernandez Elementary received an 83, Mendez Elementary received an 85, Rodriguez Elementary received an 87 and Travis Elementary received an 81.

## OUT & ABOUT

The San Marcos River, always a refreshing 72 degrees, can be enjoyed year 'round. Grab a tube for a relaxing float or rent a kayak, stand up paddle, or snorkel for an unforgettable SMTXperience. Rather stay on dry land? Home to more than 2,100 acres of scenic natural area, there are plenty of trails to choose from for adventurers of all skill levels.

## SHOPPING

Trendy boutiques, eclectic markets and unusual resale stores can be found around our charming Downtown Square and in shopping plazas throughout the area. If you want to shop big, San Marcos is one of the largest outlet shopping centers in the United States, with 240 luxury designer and name brands spread over 1.2 million square feet of shopping heaven.

## EAT & DRINK

The local culinary scene is as diverse as your choice of adventure. The infusion of cultures and lifestyles in San Marcos bring a surprising range of flavors to the table. From home-cooked treats and comfort food, to international cuisine and lunch on the go, you'll find just what your belly is looking for.

## DOWNTOWN

One of the most vibrant parts of San Marcos is the Downtown Square, where you can explore many dining options and enjoy a leisurely brunch, dine at charming bistros, or get some outrageous burgers. Shop local at stylish boutiques or quirky shops, either way, you'll find something you can't find anywhere else. Experience arts and culture hidden in cracks and alleys. Giant murals begging to be included in your photos. And, of course, seven-foot-tall mermaids. Because in San Marcos, the good times never end.

## MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

There is nothing better after a day exploring than a craft beer and live music. Thankfully, there is no shortage of local breweries or live music in the area. The San Marcos music scene is as quirky as the little city itself. From big two-story concert hall to career launching honkytonks, find live music every night of the week.



# San Marcos Things To Do

## Play Big At The River

Playing in the San Marcos River doesn't have a season—it happens year 'round. The water is always 72 degrees, so it feels just as good in November as it does in June. The San Marcos River bubbles up from hundreds of springs right in the center of town. Come view this for yourself on a Glass-Bottom Boat Tour on Spring Lake at The Meadows Center. Visitors and locals alike enjoy water sports and recreation such as stand-up paddling, kayaking, tubing, and surfing the falls. Athletes prepare for the kayak Olympic trials at Rio Vista Park rapids during the fall and winter months.

## Shop Big At The Outlets

More than 220 stores and 1.2 million square feet of shopping heaven make the adjacent San Marcos Premium Outlets and Tanger Outlets the largest outlet center in the country. San Marcos is the only outlet location in Texas or even the central US for these designers and name brands: Bally, Brahmin, CH Carolina Herrera, Citizen, Clarins, Dooney & Bourke, Etro, Gucci, Lafayette 148 New York, MCM, Saint Laurent, Salvatore Ferragamo, Stuart Weitzman, Vince, West Elm, and Williams-Sonoma. And of course, amazing discounts of up to 65% off retail are hard to resist.

## Expect the Unexpected

The arts in San Marcos can be found where you least expect it. There are surprise murals in parks and hidden alleyways plus local art is incorporated into wine bars, bistros, and coffee houses. Downtown galleries, Art Park, and Texas State University exhibits and performing arts provide plenty to see and do. The Mermaid March uses the rich history, culture, and wildlife of San Marcos in the different mermaid forms. At Wimberley Glassworks on the edge of town, visitors can watch as artisans demonstrate centuries-old glassblowing techniques and shop the gallery.

## More Than Just A Pretty Face

San Marcos is a natural beauty with an extensive urban trail system. Native wildlife and migratory birds abound in the more than 2,100 acres of greenspace within the city limits. Miles-long natural trails are available for hiking, biking, and trail running. And the first half to full mile of most natural area trails are ADA accessible so people of all activity levels can enjoy the outdoors.

## Cool Shops, Hot Spots

The San Marcos Downtown Square is filled with eclectic shops, boutiques, and local eats. Choose from home-cooked treats or fresh chef-inspired cuisine to fuel your evening excursion. Just want a cold beer and a game of horseshoes? Maybe a quiet courtyard with the perfect margarita? How about a cool rooftop deck? No problema. And if craft beer is your passion, San Marcos has four breweries to keep you busy.

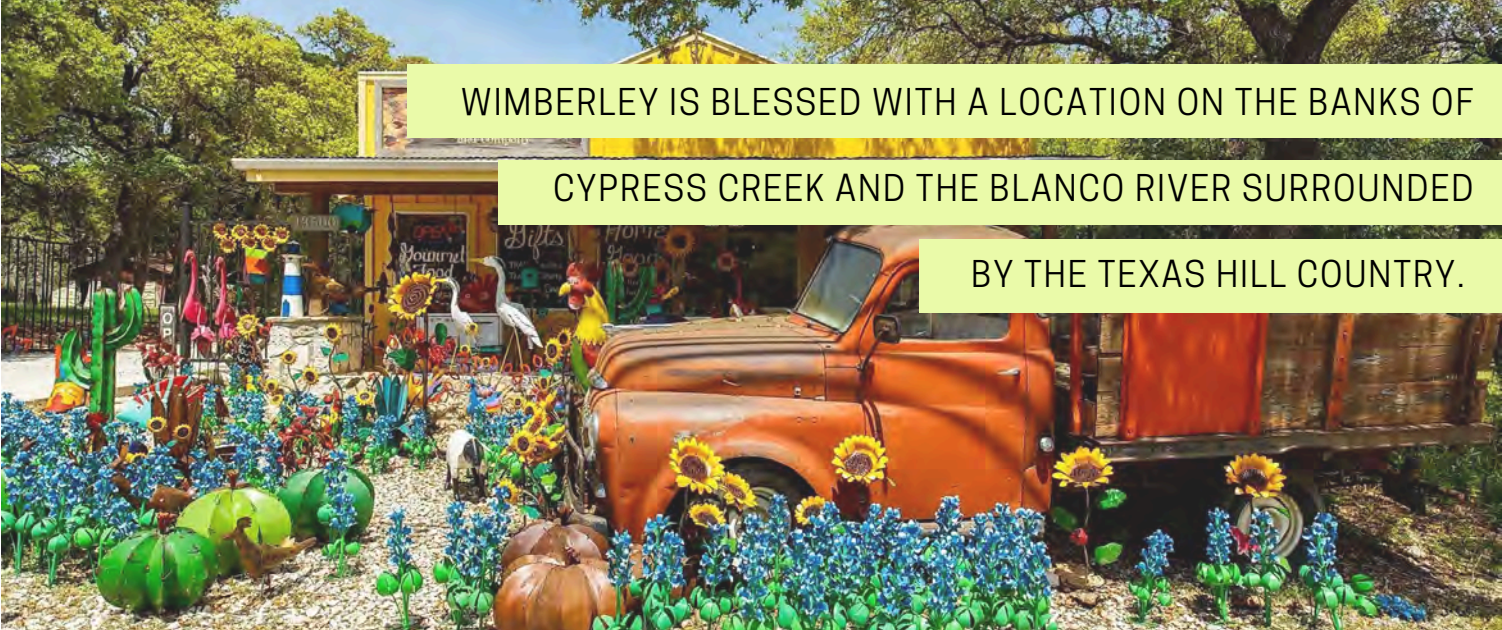
Diverse history abounds in San Marcos. A stroll through Residential Historic Districts and the heritage sites at Veramendi Plaza will transport you back to a simpler time. At the Commemorative Air Force Exhibit located in a 1943 vintage wooden hangar, you can get up close to rare working WWII planes including ones used in the film *Tora, Tora, Tora*. The LBJ Museum of San Marcos provides a personal glimpse into the life of U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson's formative years as a student at what is now Texas State University.

## List of San Marcos Parks and Natural Areas:

- Blanco Shoals Natural Area
- Prospect Park Natural Area
- Purgatory Creek Natural Area
- Ringtail Ridge Natural Area
- Schulle Canyon Natural Area
- Sessom Creek Natural Area
- Spring Lake Natural Area



# Wimberley



WIMBERLEY IS BLESSED WITH A LOCATION ON THE BANKS OF  
CYPRESS CREEK AND THE BLANCO RIVER SURROUNDED  
BY THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY.

There are no major highways running through town and being far away from the hustle and bustle of the big city is one of the reasons people love living in Wimberley. Although Wimberley is very accessible to Austin and San Antonio and only 3 hours from Houston, it's tucked away in the rolling hills of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. Wimberley's natural beauty, small-town charm, unique shopping, vibrant arts community, and award-winning schools make this place truly special.

Wimberley is located on Ranch Road 12, 15 miles northwest of San Marcos, 45 miles southwest of Austin and 60 miles northeast of San Antonio. Approx. 160 miles from Houston and 200 miles from Dallas. Located in the Texas Hill Country at the confluence of the Blanco River and Cypress Creek.

## CLIMATE

Hot Summers. Mild Winters. Averaging 300 days of sunshine a year. Average Annual rainfall 37 inches. Frost dates: November 30 through March 2.

## POPULATION

"Wimberley" refers to the incorporated village and surrounding area. Wimberley's population is about 3037. The Post Office estimates that the Wimberley Valley has a population of approximately 14,700.

## UTILITIES

Water is supplied by Wimberley Water Supply, Aqua Source (Woodcreek), private wells or rainwater collection. Electricity is furnished by Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC). Telephone service is supplied by Verizon and Spectrum. Sanitary Sewage is handled by septic tanks and sewer system (parts of Woodcreek).

## SCHOOLS

The Wimberley Independent School District serves the surrounding rural area. Scudder Elementary consists of grades Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd. The Jacob's Well Campus houses grades 3 through 5. The Danforth Junior High School includes grades 6 through 8. The High School contains Freshman through Senior levels and is a class 4-A level in sports. St. Stephen's, a private Episcopal Church School, provides schooling from 2 years through 8th grade. Katherine Ann Porter school is a public charter school. Wimberley Montessori School is a private school.

## WIMBERLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- *Administrative Office - 14401 Ranch Road 12, (512) 847-2414*
- *Texan Academy - 400 Green Acres Dr., (512) 847-3407*
- *Jacob's Well Elementary - 3470 FM 2325, (512) 847-5558*
- *Danforth Junior High - 200 Texan Blvd., (512) 847-2181*
- *Wimberley High School—grades 9th-12th, 100 Carney Lane*
- *Katherine Anne Porter - Public Charter School, Grades 9th-12th - 515 FM 2325 (512) 847-6867*

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- *St. Stephens Episcopal School - 6000 FM 3237, (512)847-9857*
- *Wimberley Montessori School - 45 La Buena Vista Dr. (512) 847-6055.*

## FIRE AND EMS

Wimberley is served by an award-winning Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service. Both respond to the County's 911 service.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical Doctors, Dentists and Chiropractors operate full time offices in Wimberley. Hospitals are available in San Marcos and Austin.



## **SHOPPING**

Wimberley is full of unique shops that offer traditional and not-so-traditional art and wares. Primary shopping areas are clustered around the “Square”, but there are also shops sprinkled throughout other areas. The first Saturday of each month, March through Dec., Market Day draws visitors from around the state.

## **THEATRE**

Wimberley has several live theatres in town. Try the EmilyAnn Theatre, Central Texas Theatre Academy or the Wimberley Players for year-round theatrical events.

## **ARTS, CULTURE, AND ADULT BEVERAGES**

Wimberley offers many unique art galleries, including Wimberley Glass Works, with entertaining glass-blowing demonstrations six days a week. Every second Saturday, join the Second Saturday Gallery Trail – galleries in and around Wimberley Square stay open late and offer wine and appetizers to go with the art. If golf is your game, enjoy an afternoon of golf at the 18-Hole Quicksand at Woodcreek Golf Course.

Wimberley is also home to the Wimberley Valley Winery, Fall Creek Vineyards, Limestone Terrace Vineyard, Middleton Brewing, Driftwood Estate Winery, The Shady Llama and the Cypress Creek Reserve which is a rum distillery. Each of these places offers tastings and tours. If you're ready for some high-flying excitement, don't miss Wimberley Zipline Adventures for a breathtaking view of the Wimberley Valley.

## **SITE-SEEING**

For those who just like to walk and see the sites, Wimberley is full of beautiful views and rich history. A pause at the bridge over Cypress Creek and — for the more vigorous — a hike up the 218 steps to the top of Old Baldy, are ways to appreciate nature and beautiful scenic vistas while in Wimberley.

## **WIMBERLEY VALLEY MUSEUM**

Open on Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm the museum is located in the Winters-Wimberley House, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. This museum helps you get to know the individuals who shaped and grew the town that sprang from the limestone terrain of the Texas Hills because a mill was built along Cypress Creek. The grinding stones on display at the museum are from that mill and are on loan from Ozona Bank which is close to where the original mill was located. 14016 Ranch Road 12.

## **LAVENDER FARMS**

Rough Creek Lavender Fields is located in the heart of the beautiful Texas Hill Country, just 7 miles NW of Wimberley on FM 2325. You may pick your own lavender from 5,000 lavender plants or shop in the on-site store. Herb classes, special events and tour buses are welcome when scheduled.

## **CAMPING – SWIMMING – HIKING**

The City of Wimberley offers swimming at the historic Blue Hole on Cypress Creek beginning weekends in May. Open daily Memorial Day - Labor Day and on weekends in September.

Jacob's Well Natural Area offers free tours on Saturdays at 9:00am. Swimming in the artesian well is available with a reservation May 1 through Labor Day Weekend. Cypress Falls Swimming Hole beckons with beautiful views of the iconic Eagle Rock grotto and is a family-friendly, picnic and dog friendly, bring-your-own-chair-friendly place. Hiking trails can be found in and around Wimberley and the area is also known for scenic biking routes.

## **BIRD WATCHING “BIRDING”**

Patsy Glenn Birding Refuge, 14068 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley  
The Patsy Glenn Refuge was established as a 1.8-acre haven for local and migrating birds, other wildlife, insects, and native plants of the Wimberley area. It was also established as a refuge for the people of Wimberley—both visitors and residents—to enjoy the tranquil beauty of the Hill Country in the heart of the village, immediately adjacent to the new Wimberley Community Center.

## **BLUE HOLE REGIONAL PARK**

100 Blue Hole Ln, Wimberley TX 78676

The 126-acre park is owned and operated by The City of Wimberley for the enjoyment of residents, visitors, and future generations. It includes much-needed recreational facilities for our growing community and showcases a true gem in the Texas Hill Country. The park includes approximately 4.5 miles of trails, picnic areas, a community pavilion, a playscape, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, an amphitheater, and the Blue Hole Swimming Area.

## **CYPRESS CREEK NATURE PRESERVE AND TRAIL-**

A 7.2-acre tract of property along Cypress Creek is located less than 100 yards from the Square in Downtown Wimberley. This park follows along Cypress Creek and is kept natural year-round, so all types of birds call the preserve home year-round.

# Wimberley Things To Do

## Blue Hole Regional Park

This pristine park spans over 100 acres and features a breathtaking natural swimming area, complete with crystal-clear waters and towering cypress trees. Take a refreshing dip, go for a scenic hike along the trails, or enjoy a picnic amidst the tranquil surroundings. Blue Hole Regional Park is a true oasis and a favorite spot for locals and visitors alike.

## Patsy Glenn Refuge

For birdwatching enthusiasts and nature photographers, Patsy Glenn Refuge is a must-visit destination. This 65-acre wildlife sanctuary is home to a variety of bird species, including migratory birds and local inhabitants. Embark on a serene stroll along the refuge's well-maintained trails, keeping an eye out for colorful feathered friends and other wildlife that call this sanctuary home.

## Wimberley Ziplining

For thrill-seekers, Wimberley Ziplining is an adventure you won't want to miss. Soar through the treetops and take in the panoramic views of the Hill Country as you zip along the exhilarating zipline course. It's an adrenaline-pumping experience that will leave you with unforgettable memories.

## Jacob's Well Natural Area

This is a captivating destination for nature lovers. This natural spring feeds the scenic Jacob's Well. Explore the hiking trails that wind through the surrounding woodlands and marvel at the beauty of this unique geological wonder.

## Pioneer Town

The vintage locomotive chugs along the scenic route, passengers are transported to an era where the spirit of the Old West comes alive. The picturesque landscapes of the Texas Hill Country provide a breathtaking backdrop as the train winds its way through rolling hills and lush greenery.

## Art

The town is renowned for its vibrant artistic community, and you'll find numerous art galleries showcasing the work of talented local artists. Unleash your artistic side at Wimberley Glassworks, a renowned glassblowing studio and gallery. Marvel at the skillful craftsmanship as the talented artisans shape molten glass into stunning works of art. Explore the gallery's exquisite collection of glass sculptures, vases, and jewelry, or even participate in a glassblowing workshop to create your own unique masterpiece.

## Downtown

The Wimberley Square is a picturesque area that serves as the community's gathering place. It is home to a variety of locally-owned businesses, including boutiques, art galleries, antique shops, and eateries. The buildings surrounding the square are adorned with limestone facades and exude a rustic yet welcoming atmosphere. Visitors can explore an array of unique shops that showcase the town's artistic and creative spirit. From local crafts and handmade jewelry to fine art and pottery, there is something for everyone.

## Cypress Creek

This sparkling creek runs through the heart of the Square, creating a picturesque setting for locals and tourists alike. One of the most captivating features of the Wimberley Square is the presence of the towering cypress trees that dot the landscape. These ancient trees create a serene and picturesque ambiance, providing shade and a sense of tranquility to those who visit the square. The cypress trees are especially breathtaking during the autumn season when their leaves turn a vibrant shade of orange and red, adding to the charm and beauty of the area.

## Live Music

Another integral part of the downtown Wimberley experience. The town is home to several music venues and bars that host a variety of talented local musicians and bands. Whether it's country, rock, blues, or folk music, there is always something playing to suit everyone's taste. The vibrant live music scene creates a lively and energetic atmosphere that adds to the overall charm of the town.

