



Mission de Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, San Antonio, Texas.

\***SAN ANTONIO.** One of the most colorful and interesting cities in America. Settled in 1718 by the Spanish (some year as New Orleans by the French) San Antonio became a Spanish capital and a mission center. Five missions were located along the San Antonio river in 1718, 1720 and 1731, later to develop into extensive properties with fine church and other buildings. Some of the buildings and some of the ruins remain as relics of an heroic and romantic past. Before 1700 all these missions had well built aqueducts and irrigating systems; two of these aqueducts still function. Much of the old Spanish atmosphere remains to charm the visitor.

San Antonio is among the hills, scenic drives are in all directions; its river starts from springs within the city; the climate is dry, the sunshine constant, it is an all-year outdoor country with all outdoor sports pleasantly provided for in the parks, public places and reservations. San Antonio became the crossroads and market place of the Southwest during the turbulent Spanish, Mexican and later pioneer period of Texas, Mexico and California; it was the capital of the cattle kings of Texas and here too the United States has its greatest military reservations with all arms of the service maintaining big properties—the stable climate and the varied types of country permit all kinds of training and maneuvers all the year round. Southward are farming and citrus fruit areas; northward and westward big cattle and goat ranches and rugged hills. Good drinking water in this country.

**Hotels**—**QUARTER**, remodeled, largest and a fine hotel, **OST HEADQUARTERS**; **PLAZA**, new, thoroughly modern, Spanish motif, fine hotel; **ST. ANTHONY**, fine hotel, spacious lobbies, large outside porch facing park; **ROBERT E. LEE**, new, moderate, well-liked, well-equipped; **CROCKETT**, near Alamo, moderate, large sunparlor lounge, free parking; **TRAVELERS**, moderate priced, commercial; **MENGER**, a noted hotel for many years, spacious lobbies.

**Camps**—Nice free municipal camp in riverside grove at Josephine St. Four private cabin camps, nearly 300 cabins and apmts. The best, **Grande Court** near Brackenridge Park, with every convenience; one of the best auto camps in the U.S.

For pleasant auto service—**Jamison's** at 3rd and Broadway and **Lovry's** at 1227 Navarro. **Jamison** has filling sta., washes, greases, carries accessories and Hood tires. **Lovry** has filling sta., quick tire service, accessories and Kelly tires. The men are efficient and attentive.

Inf.—Old Spanish Trail headquarters, Gunter Hotel. S. A. Automobile league, (AAA) Crockett Hotel; Chamber of Commerce, Aztec Bldg.

## THRU THE HILLS San Antonio to El Paso—580 miles

This section is usually driven without hardship in two and three days. Well graded, well maintained gravel prevails; 80 mi. are paved, out from San Antonio and out from El Paso. The roadbed is broad, grades and curves are comfortable. Several sections get slippery in wet weather but dry weather prevails and these roads are then better than any gravel. At Roosevelt for 12 mi. the Llano River is forded a dozen times on under-water concrete bridges; between the fords the old trail is maintained. A new road is to be built. This river trail is well maintained. A new road is to be built. This river trail is well maintained and shady groves is enjoyed by most people.

In the West big storms are rare but they do occur, then dry draws and peacocks rivers become mountain torrents for a short time. On these occasions travel will be stopped but no danger need be incurred.

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The Old Spanish Trail westward from San Antonio cuts directly thru the Texas Hill country to El Paso. The mileage is shortened and the traveler enjoys the rugged hills and sparkling waters that have made the Hill Country noted for its cattle and goat ranches and popular for recreation. The elevation and the dry sunshine make the climate enjoyable and allow all-year outdoor sports and pleasures. Fourteen clear-water rivers are in West Texas. Bexar, Kendall, Kerr and Kimble counties have a thousand miles of spring-fed rivers and creeks. Very good drinking water prevails. Hotels serve generous country meals. Three new, fine hotels have just been built and others enlarged. Camps of all kinds are settling in the Hill Country—club, convalescent, and a rare and recreation camps, boys' and girls' character camps, boy and girl scouts and numerous other institutional camps. In the Davis Mts. the Madera Springs mountain club is developing with every convenience for all-year travel, and all kinds of pleasures and for Old Spanish Trail travel.

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In 1685 La Salle with a colonizing expedition from France sought the Mississippi River to take possession of the vast Mississippi Valley in the name of his King. He failed in this and landed in 1686 on the Texas coast. Spain learned of this colony on territory they claimed and in 1689 sent an expedition from Mexico; they reached the La Salle site in 1690. La Salle had been murdered by his men and the French were dead or gone away. The Spaniards continued northward and founded two missions near the present Eagle Pass and Laredo. In 1716-17 four new missions were established near Nacogdoches and San Antonio. In 1690-1700 a group of missions was established south of the Rio Grande between the present Eagle Pass and Laredo. In 1716-17 four new missions were established near Nacogdoches and San Antonio. In 1718 the mission, now the historic Alamo, was transferred from the Rio Grande and a fort (presidio) was established near it—and San Antonio dates from this. In 1720 the Mission San Jose was established. In 1731 the Villa of San Fernando de Bexar (town-site) was started and the missions Concepcion, San Junn and San Francisco were transferred from the Nacogdoches district to the San Antonio River.

From San Antonio other missions were established over a wide sweep of territory. Gradually the outlying missions were abandoned or Indians destroyed them. In the course of years the San Antonio missions grew into great establishments. Fine stone churches and other buildings and extensive irrigating systems were built. Today the ruins bear mute testimony to great achievements. San Antonio was the third great mission and colonizing center; St. Augustine, first; El Paso—Santa Fe, second; Tucson and St. Augustin, fourth; San Diego and the California coast, fifth and last. All these enterprises, so deep in a wild and savage land, were remarkable achievements even in that brilliant age.

**LEON SPRINGS**, Jet, to Camp Stanley, one of the large U. S. military reservations.

\***BOERNE**, Beginning of West Texas Hill Country; sheep, goat and cattle ranches. **KENDALL INN**, **PHILLIPS** and **HILLTOP** hotels. Free and cabin camps.

**GUADALUPE RIVER** at Comfort; this river now followed for 25 mi.