



*SAN ANTONIO. One of the most colorful and interesting cities in America. Settled in 1718 by the Spanish (same 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 structures. Buildings and ruins remain as relics of an heroic and romantic past.

Five mission establishments were built at San Antonio and reports made in 1745 and in 1762 give data respecting them.

Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo). See page 23.

Mission San José y de San Miguel Aguayo. See page 23.

Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña. In 1745 the church was half completed; in 1762, completed. A record says the corner stone was laid May 5, 1731.

Mission San Juan de Capistrano. In 1745 the buildings were of thatch; in 1762 a temporary apartment 25 varas (69.4 ft.) long was used.

Mission San Francisco de la Espada. In 1745 the stone church was in progress; in 1762 the church was still in progress.

The missions were officially abandoned in 1761. The irrigating aqueducts of San Juan and of Espada still irrigate the old mission lands. The other mission aqueducts have given way to the growing city. By 1730-1740 these aqueducts and canals were extensively developed. The engineering skill carrying the waters around the hills and over valleys, testifies again to the intelligence that guided all these works; this may be observed today at the San Juan and the Espada aqueducts.

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—BLUE BONNET, 220 rms. all with bath, new, finely equipped, well located, unchanging rates \$2.50 and \$3.00. Singleton hotel system—CROCKETT, 150 rms., near Alamo, moderate, large sun parlor lounge, AAA headq., free parking—GUNTER, 550 rms. all with bath, enlarged and completely modernized, center of activities. OST headq.

Baker hotel system—HAMILTON, 65 rms., moderate priced, quiet street, nice hotel—JEFFERSON, 70 rms., moderate priced commercial in business center—MIENGER, 300 rms., 200 with bath, a noted tourist hotel many years, spacious lobbies, patio, old southern dinners. Baker hotel system—PLAZA, 500 rms. all with bath, new, splendidly equipped modern hotel home—ROBERT E. LEE, 200 rms. all with bath, new, well liked, well equipped, \$2.50 down. Percy Tyrrell hotel system—ST. ANTHONY, 450 rms., fine hotel, spacious lobbies, large veranda facing park—TRAVELERS, 150 rms., comfortable, popular commercial hotel centrally located. All well regulated, well located hotels.

Camps—Nice free municipal camp in riverside grove at Josephine. Four private cabin camps, neatly 300 cabins and apmts. The ~~best~~ Grand Court near Brackenridge Park, with every convenience, one of the best auto camps in the U. S., well-equipped, home-like apmts. and cabins.

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

Inf.—Old Spanish Trail headquarters at Gunter Hotel. S. A. Automobile League. (AAA) Crockett and St. Anthony hotels; Chamber of Commerce. Aztec Bldg.

THRU THE HILLS

San Antonio to El Paso—582 miles

Road Conditions

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. 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 with its spring water and shady groves is enjoyed by most people. Dry weather prevails in West Texas.

Description of Country

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