San Antonio’s Missions symbolize an era when the world was expanding, cultures were intertwining, and the global landscape was forever changed. Today they remain a thriving religious center for many San Antonians and a historic destination for the entire world to enjoy.

HISTORY OF THE MISSIONS

San Antonio’s five Spanish colonial missions (Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan, Mission Espada and Mission San Antonio de Valero also known as The Alamo) are the largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture in the U.S. They were built in the early 1700s to convert Native Americans to Christianity and help settle this region under the flag of Spain. Straddling either side of the spring-fed San Antonio River, the five missions are uniquely close to one another, each approximately three miles from the next. They proved critical to Texas’ history and heritage, shaping the San Antonio landscape with their acequias, farm fields, ranchlands, and compounds. Indigenous people and people from around the empire of New Spain were brought together to share technology, art and cultures. The missions continued to play an important role in early Mexican history and in the struggle for Texas independence.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPERIENCE

RIVER WALK’S MISSION REACH: The River Walk’s Mission Reach connects four of the missions, providing a great opportunity to hike or bike from mission to mission. The river is also open for kayaking. Learn more at sara-tx.org.

TOURS - 300 YEARS IN THE MAKING: All missions are open to the public and free of charge. Self-guided, guided and audio tours allow visitors to walk the historic grounds and explore 18th century architecture.

MUSEUM & AWARD-WINNING FILM: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park’s Visitor Center offers a gift shop and a museum with artifacts that explain life within the Spanish missions. An on-site theater shows the award-winning film Gente de Razón, which tells the story of the native people of 18th century South Texas, their role in colonizing New Spain and the impact of the Spanish Missions.

EXPERIENCE A STORY BIGGER THAN TEXAS AT THE ALAMO: In its 300 years, the Alamo has shaped the city of San Antonio, ignited the battle for Texas independence, and influenced American history. Experience the heroes and events that have made the story of the Alamo captivating for generations of Texans and visitors. Entrance to the Church, Long Barrack Museum, Living History Encampment, and special exhibits is free; multiple language audio tours and guided tours are available for purchase. Visit the Gift Shop to support Alamo preservation and education programs.

VisitSanAntonio.com
B-cycle is San Antonio’s municipal bike sharing system that provides alternative transportation downtown and along the Mission Reach.

Information on affordable rates and more at: sanantonio.bcycle.com