



December 2014 - Newsletter

MISSION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will preserve, protect and promote the cultural, historic and natural resources of its 19 counties.

VISION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will develop partnerships to protect our heritage and sustain our natural and cultural resources through promotion, preservation, education and tourism.

Hill Country makes international 'best' list for 2015 travel

BY REBECCA SALINAS : NOVEMBER 5, 2014 : Updated:
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<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/Hill-Country>



SAN ANTONIO – A new list has ranked the Texas Hill Country among the best travel destinations in the world for 2015 when it comes to getting the "biggest bang for your buck."

TravelZoo **named** five locations in its "Wow Deal Destinations for 2015" list that the travel site anticipates "a strong collection of "wow" deals based on recent trends, industry projections and buzz."

The Texas Hill Country, which spans much of Central Texas west of San Antonio and Austin, was the only spot in the United States to make the list, which included Puerto Rico, Brazil, Asia and Dubai.

"Everything's bigger in Texas, including the deals," a TravelZoo **blog** on the Huffington Post states.

The travel website listed the Hill Country because of the area's low hotel and flight rates, the blog states, adding that nice resorts can go for about \$129 per night. Also, with more luxury resorts opening next year, deals are expected to maintain ideal.

The countryside's top spot comes after it was named the **fifth** best travel destination in the state by Texas Highways Magazine's "Texas Top 40 Travel Destinations." Located within the Hill Country are San Antonio, Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, which all topped the magazine's **list**.

Featured December Events in the Texas Hill Country

Marble Falls - 11/21/2014 - 01/01/2015 **Walkway of Lights** 6:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Over 2 million lights transform Lakeside Park into a holiday wonderland with Santa on the weekends.

830- 693-4449 - <http://www.marblefalls.org>

Natural Bridge Caverns - 11/28/2014 - 12/23/2014 **Christmas at the Caverns** 5:30 PM- 10:00 PM

Park will be illuminated by thousands of lights with more holiday attractions than you can shake a candy cane at.

210-651-6101 - <http://www.NaturalBridgeCaverns.com>

Wimberley - December 1, 2014 **Trail of Lights at the EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens** 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM

Stroll a walking path lighted exhibits created by local businesses, churches, organizations and families.

512-847-6969 - <http://www.emilyann.org>

Burnet - December 1-31, 2014 **Christmas Trail of Lights** 6:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Follow the Trail of Lights from Wallace Riddell Park, through the square and to Hamilton Creek Park.

512-756-4297 - <http://www.BURNETCHAMBER.org>

San Marcos - December 3-6, 2014 **Sights and Sounds of Christmas** 5:00 PM- 11:00 PM

For 25 years the Sights & Sounds of Christmas has spread the Christmas joy along the San Marcos River.

512-393-8400 - <http://www.sights-n-sounds.org>

Uvalde - December 3-19, 2014 **Uvalde Adult Activity Center Christmas Boutique** 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Handcrafted decorations and gift items. Shop, eat and shop some more at the Herby Ham Activity Center!

830-591-2711 - <http://www.visituvalde.com>

Kerrville - December 4, 2014 **The Christmas Foundling** at The Hill Country Arts Foundation 7:30 PM

A heartwarming holiday tale, with the love of a child at its center and an unlikely romance as its driving force.

800-221-7958 - <http://kerrvilletexascvb.com>

Castroville - December 5-6, 2014 **Old Fashion Christmas** 6:00 PM- 10:00 PM (FRI) 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM (SAT)

Historic Castroville's 30th Annual Old Fashion Christmas

830-538-3142 - <http://www.castroville.com>

San Antonio - December 5-27, 2014 **Ghosts Of Christmas Past: Dinner & Ghost Tours** 7:00 p.m.

\$60 Per Adult \$40 Per Child (12 And Under) The Menger Hotel 204 Alamo Plaza , San Antonio , Texas 78205

210-638-1338 - <http://www.visitsanantonio.com>

Bandera - December 6, 2014 **Cowboy Capital Christmas Parade Time:** 11:00 AM

Bring your lawn chair and watch for Santa while you enjoy the holiday parade down Main Street in Bandera.

830-796-3280 - <http://www.banderacowboycapital.com>

Featured December Events in the Texas Hill Country continued....

Johnson City - December 6, 2014 **Timeless Christmas in Johnson City** 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM
LBJ Boyhood Home and Johnson Settlement in LBJ National Park in Johnson City Admission is free.
830-868-7128, ext. 231 - www.nps.gov/lyjo

Fredericksburg - December 11-14, 2014 **The Sentimental Journey Orchestra Holiday Show** 7:30 PM
Fredericksburg Theater Company - Celebrate the holidays with the music of the fabulous Bands of the 1940's.
830-997-3588 - <http://fredericksburgtheater.org>

Buda - December 12-13 & 18-21, 2014 **Trail of Lights** 6:00 PM- 10:00 PM
Live entertainment, toasty campfire, hot beverages and concessions for purchase at historic Stagecoach Park.
512-295-7170 - <http://www.budatxtourism.com>

New Braunfels - December 12-19, 2014 **The Best Christmas Pagaent Ever** 7:30 PM
New Braunfels Theatre Company Christmas production at the Seekatz Opera House.
800-572-2626 - <http://innewbraunfels.com>

Llano - December 13, 2014 **Snow Day in Llano** 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Badu Park is transformed into a winter wonderland of white and fluffy fun for the family!
325-248-1899 - <http://llanochamber.org>

Blanco - December 13, 2014 **Holiday Market Days** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Blanco Market Days is a great opportunity to shop in the beautiful shadow of the historic Blanco Courthouse.
830-833-5101 - <http://www.blancochamber.com>

Dripping Springs - December 15, 2014 **Holiday Cookie Festival** 9:00 AM- 6:00 PM
Holiday Festival including cookies, pictures with Santa, moonbounce, games, face painting, crafts and more fun.
512-894-3309 - <http://www.austinyca.org/branches/springs-family-branch>

Boerne - December 20, 2014 **Cowboy Christmas at Enchanted Springs Ranch** 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
The Authentic Old West Town and Movie Set will become a Christmas "Western Wonderland"!
830 249-8222 - <http://www.enchantedspringsranch.com/>

Cave Without A Name - December 20, 2014 **Rudi Harst - Winter Solstice** 7:00 PM
An eclectic mixture of upbeat, seasonal songs acoustic music played on both ancient and modern instruments.
830-537-4212 - <http://www.cavewithoutaname.com>

New Braunfels - December 20-21, 2014 **HOLIDAYS IN GRUENE** 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM
Gruene's own brand of Santa will be featured for photos with kids. Packages available.
830-629-5077 - <http://innewbraunfels.com>

Georgetown - December 21, 2014 **Christmas With Elvis** 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM at Roots Bistro
Bring in Christmas with ELVIS and 2 great sets: Classic Elvis Christmas Songs & 70's Vegas.
800-436-8696 - <https://visit.georgetown.org>

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region partners met in November at the Buggy Barn Museum in Blanco for a wonderful time of networking, tours of the Buggy Barn and the World War II Museums and our regular bi-monthly meeting!



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....

Texas Hill Country Trail

January Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Natural Bridge Caverns

26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Road

San Antonio, TX 78266

210-651-6101

A site tour will be given prior to the meeting with a lunch provided. For those who can stay after the meeting you will be treated to a cavern tour and a ride on the canopy challenge and zip lines!

DETAILS TO COME....



Texas Historical Commission

Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

HT Product Development Projects:

Cross-Promotional Opportunities with THC Historic Sites

Contracting for exhibit development services is underway. Project will create interactive displays at THC operated historic sites that will entice visitors to travel to other specific, related heritage sites, primarily those not operated by the THC. The intention is to connect the story of the site being visited to others regionally and statewide while highlighting each site's unique part of the story.

Economic Impact Study

The University of Texas with Rutgers University are under contract to research and write a substantial update to the THC's 1999 study, *Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation in Texas*. In addition to an overall update and study of the current data for major impacts covered by the earlier research, this new document will serve as a technical report evaluating the statewide, regional, and local impacts of the Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP) and heritage tourism.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Dripping Springs Recipe

CILANTRO AND GOAT CHEESE MASHED POTATOES

- 1 pound small unpeeled new potatoes, quartered
- 2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 small onion finely diced (about 1/2 cup)
- 4 ounces Pure Luck Texas Plain Chevre
- 1 heaping Tablespoon minced cilantro
- 1/4 Teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 3/4 Teaspoon sea salt

Place potatoes in a heavy 3-quart saucepan and add cold water to cover. Bring to a full, rolling boil over medium-high heat and cook for 20 minutes, or until potatoes are very soft. While potatoes are cooking, melt butter in a heavy 8-inch skillet over medium heat. Add onions and sauté, stirring often, until wilted and transparent, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside. Drain potatoes in a colander and transfer to a medium bowl. Add the sautéed onions and any residual butter in the skillet, chevre, cilantro, salt, and pepper. Mash the potatoes with a potato masher, incorporating the other ingredients. Leave them slightly lumpy. Serve hot.



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