San Antonio’s five Spanish colonial missions (Concepción, San José, San Juan, Espada and Valero, also known as The Alamo) are the largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture in the world. In partnership with the Catholic Church the missions were established in the early 1700s by the Spanish crown as it expanded its empire in the Americas. Through mission life the local indigenous people were taught the ideals of Spanish citizenship which included conversion to Catholicism.

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 mission communities. Indigenous people and people from around the empire of New Spain were brought together to claim this land. Their blended technology, art and lifeways form the South Texas culture that we have today.

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.
SAFETY TIPS
- Obey traffic signs, stoplights, and rules of the road such as stopping at night
- Remember to look properly when you want to turn.
- Ride with the flow of traffic in the right lane or more positive.
- Be visible by wearing bright colors during the day & a light at night.
- Wear a helmet but don’t wear headphones.
- Drink plenty of water and apply sunblock.
- Be visible by wearing bright colors.
- Pass on the left by calling out “Bike” or “yourself” as you approach others.

BIKE & WALK

WORLD HERITAGE TRAIL MARKER
The World Heritage Trail can be identified by these hanging street banners along the route.

Points of Interest
- World Heritage Trail today.
- VIVA missions (Route 40) connects San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site, offering daily service to historic destinations. Visit the Alamo and the World Heritage Trail today.

Downtown Area
- Park Security
- The Alamo
- River Walk Hike & Bike Path
- Bicycle racks are available on all VIA Metropolitan Transit buses.
- VIA Metropolitan Transit’s VIVA missions (Route 40) connects San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site, offering daily service to historic destinations. Visit the Alamo and the World Heritage Trail today.

Get unlimited rides with a VIA DAY PASS $2.75
Visit VIAinfo.net/VIVA for more information.

VIVA missions
8:30a - 5:30p | DAILY

FIND OUT MORE
SWell 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: swellcycle.bicycle.com