



Anticipating San Antonio

Early Morning at the Alamo

**By Jim Mahoney,
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Photos © Ralph Durham

This year PSA members and their guests will meet in fascinating San Antonio, Texas for our annual Conference of Photography. The dates for this year's Conference are Saturday, September 10th through Saturday, September 17th. San Antonio is the seventh most populous and one of the 10 largest cities in the United States. It is chock-full of photographic opportunities for the attendees. Our hotel is the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk. It is adjacent to the tranquil San Antonio Riverwalk and even has its own water-taxi dock. The San Antonio Riverwalk is a network of walkways tracing the San Antonio River as it winds through the city. The Wyndham is a large property with plenty of guest rooms to accommodate everyone who attends. The rooms are generous in size and were renovated about two years ago. The Wyndham offers valet parking, plus there is a self-park garage diagonally across the street that can be reached by an underground walkway. The hotel has a glistening rooftop swimming pool with hot tub, a fitness center, and free Wi-Fi internet access for PSA-member hotel guests. The hotel's restaurant, "111 Bar & Grill," serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Additionally, there are a number of dining options within a few blocks of the hotel. Meeting rooms are plentiful and large. The Wyndham

San Antonio Riverwalk will be the perfect Conference hotel.

The weather in San Antonio in September will be warm with the average high temperature of 90 degrees and the average low temperature of 69 degrees.

San Antonio International Airport is convenient to downtown and is a short 20-minute drive to the hotel. There is an airport shuttle that can take you to the hotel for about \$19 each way or taxi fare is approximately \$30. If you want to rent a car for a day or more when you are at the hotel, the hotel concierge can accommodate you.

The Area

There is much to see and photograph in San Antonio and the surrounding area. Of special interest is the famous San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. These missions are: Mission San Jose, Mission Concepcion, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission Espada. These missions are all a short drive from each other. On July 5, 2015, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and the Alamo Mission were designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Please note that the Alamo is not a National Park. Other photographic opportunities abound



Wyndham Hotel River Walk

along the Riverwalk and at other historical sites throughout the city. Nearby are the famous Texas Hill Country and the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.



Colorful sights

The Conference

The San Antonio Conference will see us returning to our usual Conference format, which is quite a bit different from what we did last year in West Yellowstone. We will be offering exciting tours on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Details can be found on the website. The Conference will get underway in earnest on Tuesday evening with the showing of the Projected Image Division's and Nature Division's International Exhibitions and the opening of the Print Gallery.

The opening ceremony will take place on Wednesday morning. Each PSA Division will



Daybreak at Mission Conception



Aztec on the River



Mission Gates

be presenting speakers who will educate and entertain throughout the week. We also have a lineup of outstanding non-Divisional speakers on the schedule. Those who have currently committed to present are: David Akoubian, sponsored by Tamron; Chris Nicholson; Giulio Scorio, sponsored by Panasonic; Jim Schmelzer, sponsored by Sigma; and Parish Kohanim, sponsored by Canon. We will also have models to photograph, the International Print Exhibits, the Chapters Showcase, Division meetings, breakfasts, luncheons, receptions, the Annual Awards Banquet, and much more.

Conference Registration and Other Information

There will be a change from the previous year's registration procedure. Registration for both Conference and hotel will begin on the same day, Saturday, April 2, 2016. The Conference registration form will not be in the *PSA Journal* this year. The form and additional hotel information will be on the PSA website (follow the tabs for "Conference Registration"). You can register online as in past years, or download the registration form and mail it as instructed. Anyone having difficulty registering can call PSA headquarters at (855) 772-4636 where the staff will be happy to assist or direct you.

Hotel registration can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- You can call in on the toll-free number (866) 764-8536, use discount code PSA2016, and specify your dates.
- Or you can register your rooms online by going to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/PSA2016>. This will take you to a Registration page for Conference members. Select ATTENDEES, and proceed with your dates and room selection. The reservation site is very easy to navigate. In either method make sure that the dates you specify are dates during our Conference block. Requesting dates outside this block will result in an error code. One last note to remember: the Hotel may ask for Conference or PSA identification prior to check out. Your Conference nametag should be sufficient.

Please consult the PSA website, www.psa-photo.org, for the most up-to-date Conference information. Updates will also be sent to members by email and press releases. ■

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