

San Antonio Conference

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Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo

San Antonio's roots date back to the 17th century. It is home to over a million people with a pedestrian friendly downtown. The Conference hotel is located on the bustling Riverwalk area with a lot of restaurants. The celebrated Alamo and the historic Mission Trail give a strong sense of cultural history that pervades the entire area. There are many photo opportunities just outside our hotel.

There will be plenty to do in San Antonio during the Conference. Two new items will be the meet-up groups and self-guided photo walks. We plan to have meet ups during the great morning light and the nice warm evening light. The location for the meet ups will be determined at the Conference and led by some of the instructors. The second will be the self-guided photo walks. You are on your own and can take a leisurely stroll while you go out and shoot. Some of the opportunities for a self-guided walk are the Bexar County Courthouse, San Fernando Cathedral, Spanish Governor's Palace, and the San Antonio Central Library.

Information will be sent out to everyone in case you are interested in going on a short photo shoot.

Tours

During Sunday through Tuesday we will have some interesting tours. All of the tours will depart from the Conference hotel, and will return back to the hotel at the end of the tour.

We will be having two morning River Barge tours; one on Sunday and one on Monday. This will be a private barge tour on the San Antonio River. It will provide many photo opportunities since the areas around the river are European-styled with many historic buildings and bridges. This tour will last around 50 minutes.

During the evening on Sunday and Monday, there will be two Dinner River Barge tours. Enjoy San Antonio's famous Mexican food while cruising down the San Antonio River, and experience the night life along the river with its cafes and music. The 90-minute dining cruise will be one you won't forget.

On Sunday we also have two all-day tours. One will be on a double-decker bus that will highlight the downtown area of San Antonio. The other visits the Texas Hill Country with its quaint towns and State and National historic sites.

On Monday, there will be two half-day tours. One is the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Japanese Tea Garden tour. You will spend a half day at this 33-acre lush garden with ponds, a waterfall, and native Texas plants. The second tour is in the King William District and will be a half-day tour to photograph the architecture in the area.

Finally, we will have 4 Mission tours. On Monday and Tuesday, there will be an all-day tour of all the local missions. There will be a half-day tour to photograph the missions at sunrise, and a half-day tour to photograph the missions at sunset. These unique tours are well worth taking; especially the sunrise and sunset tours.



Interior of the Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo

For more information on the tours and their availability please check the website at: <http://psa-photo.org/index.php?2015-conference-tours>.

Food

San Antonio has a lot of local restaurants, cafes, and bistros for your eating pleasure. Some notable places include: Landry's Seafood, Saltgrass Steakhouse, Joe's Crab Shack, and Havana Ultra Lounge. Also included are good-old standbys like: Hard Rock Cafe, Dick's Last Resort, and the Rainforest Cafe. For breakfast and lunch there are many cafes in the immediate area to suit your needs. The Original Blanco Cafe is a short two-minute walk from the hotel; here you can experience tasty breakfast tacos to fuel your day. The area is loaded with a variety of food to suit your tastes.

You can also spend time meeting the other attendees at the conference over one of the many breakfast and lunch meals in the hotel. There are the divisional breakfasts and luncheons on Wednesday through Saturday; pick one of your favorite divisions and have lunch with your fellow photographers.

Or better yet, go to the Honors Banquet and watch some of your fellow photographers receive their awards. The banquet has some new changes to make it more exciting and interesting. (I hear they have also cut it down to two hours.) So enjoy some good food and camaraderie.

Other Activities

Another activity that may interest you will be our vendor area; the place to see new equipment and spend your money. We will have vendors from:

Canon, Sigma, Tamron, Panasonic/Lumix, Datacolor, Photodex, and Hunt's Photo and Video. Plus we are working on more vendors. At the end of some of the seminars, we will be giving away door prizes. We have prizes from Hoodman, Lens Baby, Lowe Pro, Moab, Wimberly, Tamron, Alien Skin, Topaz, On1, Hunt's Photo and Video, and hopefully many more. You will have to stay to the end of the presentations, since you must be present to win these great prizes.

One last thing to see while at the conference is the FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA (www.safotofestival.com). This is one of the largest photography festivals in the country with exhibits and presentations. Our own print room will be part of this festival, showing off our beautiful photographs. For the first time this year we will have an exhibition from our Permanent Collection. This exhibition of "East and West Pictorialism and More" will display examples from photographers known as pictorialists - using a style that characterized soft-focus imagery. So check out our print area, while you are enjoying the rest of the festival. ■



Mission Alamo

San Antonio is truly a unique city to visit. Its history, architecture, and historical roots make it something really special. Come enjoy the city with us.



Queen Anne House
King William Historic
Mission District