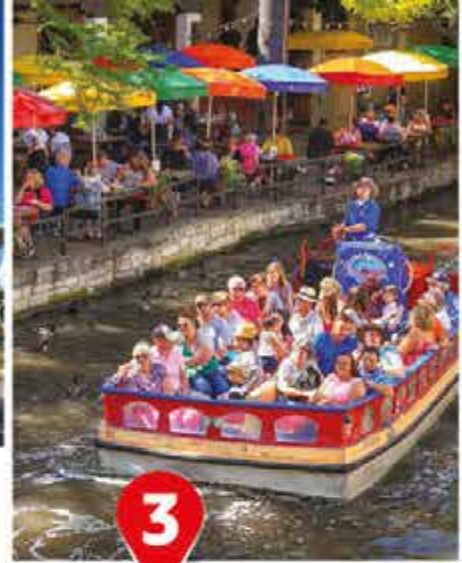




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# TOP 5

## Texas Travel Destinations

FOR 2024 — By Amber D. Browne

*With New Year's resolutions still fresh on the minds of many, travel might top the list for 2024. The great state of Texas has an abundance of travel destinations across its nearly 269,000 square miles. From the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park to the spring-fed Comal River in New Braunfels, The Lone Star State does not disappoint. Here are five great places to visit this year:*

### #1 Big Bend National Park

This national park has been fascinating visitors since 1944. The best time to visit Big Bend National Park is late fall through early spring, as the summer months are extremely hot. Guests can camp, hike the mountain trails, birdwatch, stargaze and simply enjoy time in nature.

### #2 Space Center Houston

Space Center Houston offers more than 400 artifacts to explore. With rockets and a collection of spacesuits, hands-on experiences, historical films and live demonstrations, visitors can spend all day soaking up the fun. You can check out Mission Control and the Astronaut Training Facility by taking a NASA Tram Tour to NASA Johnson Space Center.

Don't forget to stop by the gift shop for some freeze-dried ice cream and other space-related merchandise. Check the Space Center Houston website to view a calendar of upcoming special events and ticket pricing.

### #3 San Antonio River Walk

First envisioned by Robert H.H. Hugman in the early 1920s, the San Antonio River Walk provides visitors with ample opportunities to enjoy food and drink, shopping, nightlife and more. It was not until 1939 that construction crews broke ground on the river project with Hugman, otherwise known as the Father of the River Walk, serving as architect to develop the area for flood management and to increase tourism.

The 15-mile stretch of river now includes three main sections. The

Downtown area boasts restaurants, hotels, retail space and boat tours. Museum Reach just north of Downtown includes hotels, residences and a number of museums. The section south of Downtown, Mission Reach, is a woodland habitat that connects several UNESCO World Heritage-designated missions.

### #4 Comal River in New Braunfels

The Comal River is considered the shortest river in Texas, at 2.5 miles, and stays a constant 70-72 degrees. When entering the river at Prince Solms Park, the first splash of cold water is a shock, but your body acclimates as you float on a tube toward the tube chute. If you choose to forgo the chute, you can walk around and return to floating down river through several small rapids.

Disposable items, such as sandwich baggies, cans and water bottles are no longer allowed on the river, so be sure to pack reusable containers for food and beverages. Wear a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and, if necessary, grab a waterproof bag to store important belongings. Paid parking is available at the park, or you can catch a shuttle from one of the local tubing outfitters.

### #5 Fort Worth Stockyards





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The historic Fort Worth Stockyards has been a staple in North Texas since it was established in 1849 as an outpost for cattle drives along the Chisholm Trail. In recent years, more hotels were added to the area, and horse and mule barns underwent restorations to create Mule Alley.

New restaurant concepts and trendy shops add to some Stockyard staples — Billy Bob's for all of your honky-tonk needs and Cowtown Coliseum for an evening of rodeo. Visitors can ride a mechanical bull, take a ghost tour, taste some wines and catch one of the twice-daily cattle drives of the Fort Worth Herd. Paid parking is available if street spaces are occupied.

No matter your interests, Texas has much to offer. So, have fun exploring The Lone Star State! **NOW**

#### Sources:

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