

out *of* town

# new braunfels

*In the heart of the Texas Hill Country, New Braunfels blends old world and small town charm.*



Stroll the New Braunfels Walks tour, with stops at the circa 1890 railroad depot, Main Plaza, and Comal County courthouse. ❶ See the largest caverns in Texas at Natural Bridge Caverns and a safari next door at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch. Ride the miniature train in a beautiful walking arboretum, Landa Park. Enjoy dining,

shopping, and dancing at the nationally registered Historic District of Gruene. Mark your calendar for Memorial Day weekend, when Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort's latest blockbuster sensation, the Congo River Expedition, is scheduled to open. ❷ Explore the darkest jungle depths, passing a rumbling volcano, angry crocodiles, a ferocious lion, and other titillating threats en route to an abandoned diamond mine.

## fun facts

New Braunfels was established in 1845 by a German Prince, Carl of Solms-Braunfels. Braunfels means "brown rock" in German. By 1850 it was thriving as the fourth largest city in Texas, following only Galveston, San Antonio, and Houston in population.

New Braunfels sits along the Balcones Fault, where the Hill Country meets rolling prairie land. Along the fault a string of artesian springs known as Comal Springs give rise to the Comal River, known as one of the shortest rivers in the world. ❹

In 1961 it was "Sausage Festival." Later, "Wurst Week," and now it's Wurstfest. The annual fall event that draws thousands of people and raises funds for charity was originally conceived to be a typical small town festival by Ed A. Grist, a practicing veterinarian and city meat inspector.

**FOCUS ON: GRUENE HALL** ❸ Thirteen years after the Civil War ended Heinrich Gruene built a store and saloon for local farmers; adjacent he built a dance hall. As Gruene Hall weathered the decades it forged a legacy; this monument to Texas music has hosted a range of performers including Lyle Lovett, Merle Haggard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Marshall Tucker Band, Willie Nelson, Pat Green, Arlo Guthrie, and Leon Russell. 🎵 Performances are scheduled all summer. Inspired by the New Orleans tradition, the **Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist** is held second Sundays of the month. Awe-inspiring music plus delicious fare by the **Gristmill River Restaurant & Bar** equal a fine way to spend a Sunday. May 17th Gruene Hall hosts the **KNBT 92.1 FM Americana Jam**; Asleep at the Wheel performs July 4th. 🎵 **Mozie's Bar & Grill** recently opened in the west wing of Gruene Hall while preserving the landmark's floors, walls, windows, and ceiling. Along with mainstay sliders, dogs, and whiskey, Mozie's offers special cut, hormone- and antibiotic-free short ribs, a specialty of the house.