

## 2018 TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TOUR ITINERARY

*The enchanting Texas Hill Country is one of the finest places in the US for cycling. We doubt that Lyndon Johnson had any idea he'd be creating such road cycling bliss when paved every little back road in his county while Governor of the State of Texas. Many of our extraordinary cycling routes follow lightly traveled single and two-lane roads that wind through sprawling ranchlands. During the springtime, the wildflowers lining our routes are prolific and brilliant—including the famed Texas bluebonnets that blanket the rolling fields in purple hues. Visit the Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, the hub of the Hill Country and a town settled by German immigrants in the mid-1800s. Historic buildings still depict a half-timbered style and the local dialect known as Texas German is still evident among descendants. If there's one place in Texas that every cyclist must experience, the Hill Country is it. So, pack your old faded Levis and pick yourself up a Lone Star belt buckle while you're spinning through an amazing vacation this spring in big, beautiful Texas! You'll come away understanding why many of us still want to grow up to be cowboys.*

**Saturday – Day 1:** Begin your Texas vacation at the Omni La Mansión del Rio, located overlooking the River Walk in downtown San Antonio. The hotel is within easy walking distance of the shops and restaurants that line the winding canal of the River Walk. Spend your afternoon visiting such famous historic sites as The Alamo, El Mercado, and La Villita—all a short distance from the hotel. The Alamo pays homage not only to the volunteer soldiers who lost their lives battling for independence at the hands of Mexican troops in 1836 but also to its history as Mission San Antonio de Valero and a Native American burial ground. Meet your tour leaders and fellow travelers for a private reception and dinner in Las Canarias, the hotel's four-star restaurant, where the group will enjoy an exceptional dining experience in the River Walks most historic and beautiful property.

**Lodging:** Omni La Mansión del Rio San Antonio, TX 210-518-1000

[www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)

**Sunday – Day 2: Mission Trail and San Antonio** – Quiet morning hours are the perfect time of day for riding the National Park Service's historic Mission Trail. Wind through beautifully preserved and historic neighborhoods, and along bike paths leading to a series of Spanish missions established in the early to mid-18th Century. The missions lined the trade route from Mexico City to the northern frontier in Texas. In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain and then fought to retain control of Texas, at the Alamo, in the spring of 1836. Though the Alamo was ultimately sacked by Mexican fighters, it still serves as the symbol of independence for Texas who ultimately drove the Mexican army from the region later that year. Following the ride along the Mission Trail, the group will meet for a meal together at Blue Star

Brewing Company, just off the bike path. This afternoon and evening you will have ample opportunity to explore the sites in San Antonio – most everything is within easy walking distance from the hotel.

**Lodging:** *Omni La Mansión del Rio* San Antonio, TX 210-518-1000 [www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)

**Cycling Options:** 23 miles

**Monday – Day 3: Head for the Hills** – Following breakfast, the group will shuttle 40 miles north of San Antonio to the tiny town of Sister Creek where your Hill Country riding begins. Lightly traveled roads through sprawling ranchland and past cypress-lined creeks offer a glorious introduction to this beautiful region of Texas. Pause to take in the beauty of the mystical Guadalupe River before winding your way north to Luckenbach whose country music fame was sealed years ago when country music legend Jerry Jeff Walker made popular the song *Back to the Basics of Love*. This one-of-a-kind place is a must see for anyone visiting the Hill Country, and chances are, there'll be someone picking a guitar while you're there enjoying the picnic lunch your leaders will prepare. Today's ultimate destination is the town of Fredericksburg which was settled by German immigrants. The place you'll call home for the next four nights is a lovely property that is the essence of rustic sophistication and just a few blocks from town. This evening, gather for an intimate dinner at the inn with your fellow travelers.

**Lodging:** *Hoffman Haus* Fredericksburg, TX 830-997-6739 [www.hoffmanhaus.com](http://www.hoffmanhaus.com)

**Cycling Options:** 32 and 45 miles

**Tuesday – Day 4: Willow City Loop** – Most of our cycling routes in Texas are well off the beaten path but this is one ride on every cyclist's list when they visit the Hill Country. Our route begins in Fredericksburg and winds for miles along roads so lightly traveled you might feel as though you're riding on a bike path. In years when winter rains have soaked the alkaline soil, the route is ablaze with the rich purple hues of Texas bluebonnets. In addition to bluebonnets, a variety of lupine, paintbrush, and other brightly colored wildflowers punctuate the landscape. Willow City Loop is a narrow and winding valley road that penetrates some of the densest concentrations of bluebonnets in the area. Lunch today is a truly Texas affair—a catered Texas BBQ at Bell Mountain Winery—where you'll also be treated to some locally crafted wines. This afternoon choose to continue your ride or return to town to visit the fabulous Museum of the Pacific War, just a short walk from the Hoffman Haus. In case you're wondering why the museum is in the middle of Texas, US Navy Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was born and raised in Fredericksburg. Massage is available at the inn by prior appointment and shops and eateries line the main street in town, offering plenty of options for browsing. Dinner this evening is at one of our favorite local restaurants just a short walk from the inn.

**Lodging:** *Hoffman Haus* Fredericksburg, TX 830-997-6739 [www.hoffmanhaus.com](http://www.hoffmanhaus.com)

**Cycling Options:** 20, 41, and 60 miles

**Wednesday – Day 5: Ride, Hike and Immerse Yourself in History** – Your day is full of options for cycling, hiking, and exploring all that the charming town of Fredericksburg has to offer. A ride along rolling roads through rural ranchlands is on tap for the morning. Later in the day, those interested in hiking will join your tour leaders for hike up a giant granite dome that punctuates the landscape. The bald-topped Enchanted Rock offers a unique perspective of the Hill Country topography and is a bit of a geologic wonder to behold. If you feel like a less active day, The Museum of the Pacific War is an internationally renowned museum of high acclaim. You might also be interested to learn more about Fredericksburg's German heritage by visiting the Vereins Kirche or Pioneer Museums in town. There is also a self-guided

walking tour through the downtown area that is part of the National Register of Historic Places and features more than 80 historic points of interest. This evening, choose from any number of the fine options in town for dinner.

**Lodging:** Hoffman Haus Fredericksburg, TX 830-997-6739

[www.hoffmanhaus.com](http://www.hoffmanhaus.com)

**Cycling Option:** 30 and 50 miles

**Hiking Option:** 1.5 miles round trip (425' elevation)

**Thursday – Day 6: LBJ Ranch** – Today's ride leads east to Stonewall and the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Nestled among oak trees along the banks of the Pedernales River is the homestead and ranch of the Johnson family which produced our nation's 36<sup>th</sup> President. The property recently opened to the public and includes a gently rolling, one-way loop past livestock barns and through open grasslands where longhorn cattle roam freely. You might also pay a visit to the Texas White House and stop to admire LBJ's old Air Force One. Folks often wonder how the plane got to its current home but if you search for it, you'll notice a runway cleverly tucked in an inconspicuous location in the center of the ranch. Your tour leaders will prepare a delicious picnic lunch overlooking the ranch and the Pedernales River where you can relax as the gentle waters flow past. LBJ undoubtedly hosted many similar meals during his years at the ranch. Dinner this evening will undoubtedly be a grand occasion as you and your travel companions will be the guests of delightful local hosts in town.

**Lodging:** Hoffman Haus Fredericksburg, TX 830-997-6739

[www.hoffmanhaus.com](http://www.hoffmanhaus.com)

**Cycling Options:** 29 and 46 miles

**Friday – Day 7: Follow the Creek to Comfort** – Today's ride leads to the charming town of Comfort. Much of the town's downtown area is a National Historic District and contains the most authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century business district in all of Texas. This ride is often a guest favorite as it follows creeks for much of the route, including a beautiful section along aptly named Cypress Creek, as it rolls steadily downhill through rural ranchland. Explore the antique shops in town and relax over lunch before the group shuttles to the San Antonio airport. You will have the opportunity to shower at a local health club prior to the airport drop-off.

**Cycling Option:** 32 miles

## TRAVEL & TOUR QUICK FACTS

<b>Tour Start</b>	5:30pm Saturday (Day 1) – Omni La Mansion Del Rio.
<b>Tour Conclusion</b>	Group arrival at the airport in San Antonio at approximately 3:00pm. Departing flights on Friday (Day 7) should not be scheduled prior to 4:15pm.
<b>Travel To/From Tour</b>	Fly into San Antonio Airport ( <a href="#">SAT</a> ). <a href="#">Parking</a> available at SAT for those driving to tour.
<b>Pre-Tour Lodging</b>	Arrival day (Day 1) included at the <a href="#">Omni La Mansion Del Rio</a> , San Antonio.
<b>Days/Nights</b>	7 days/6 nights
<b>Included Meals</b>	All breakfasts, four lunches, four dinners.
<b>Rating</b>	Intermediate. 45 – 65 miles/day with options for more on select days. Rolling terrain with a few lengthier climbs.
<b>Activities</b>	Cycling, hiking, swimming, options for golf.

## STANDARD INCLUDED ASPECTS

<b>Equipment</b>	Computer-equipped road or hybrid bike, helmet, rear light, seat bag for road bike or rack bag for hybrid, map case, water bottle, and jersey. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for a more personalized fit.
<b>Van Support</b>	Rides supported by a Sojourn van as well as a tour leader on a bicycle.
<b>Tour Leaders</b>	Two experienced tour leaders guide each trip from start to finish.
<b>Ride Nourishment</b>	A selection of snacks and refreshments are supplied throughout all rides.
<b>Ride Information</b>	Detailed route directions, maps, and a daily briefing are provided.
<b>Office Support</b>	At your service 9:00am – 6:00pm EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771
<b>Detailed Information</b>	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

## DATES & PRICING

<b>Texas Hill Country 2017 Tour Dates</b>	<b>Per Person DBL Occupancy</b>	<b>Single Room Supplement</b>
April 7 - 13	\$2,995.00	\$745.00
April 14 – 20	\$2,995.00	\$745.00
April 21 – 27	\$2,995.00	\$745.00

## WEATHER

<b>San Antonio</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Avg. High	63°	67°	74°	81°	87°	92°	95°	95°	90°	82°	72°	65°
Avg. Low	41°	45°	52°	59°	67°	72°	74°	74°	69°	60°	50°	42°
Avg. Precip.	1.8 in	1.8 in	2.4 in	2.5 in	4.0 in	3.8 in	2.5 in	2.3 in	2.7 in	3.2 in	2.2 in	2.0 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit