

A Little Bit of Heaven

by Colleen Brooks



Oh, Texas Hill Country! Such beauty year round. But I have to admit, no other season showcases our beauty quite like Spring! The trees flaunting their fresh new leaves in beautiful symphony with the wildflowers popping up in their array of colors is like an ever-changing canvas, continuing to reveal more and more beauty.



A great place to see this beauty is riding through the areas of Wimberley, New Braunfels, and Gruene. Each of these towns has their own personality, offering something unique. New Braunfels is home to beautiful Landa Park, which is an ideal place for a family picnic. Kids will delight in the mini-golf, children's game, and paddleboats, and there is also a hiking trail. After, check out the Freiheit Country Store which is known for their burgers and chicken fried steak.

They have been serving New Braunfels since 1889 and have an extensive musical lineup planned for the season on their outdoor pavilion. Downtown New Braunfels will host their 13th annual Wein & Saengerfest on May 7th. This event will offer something for all ages, with wine/beer tasting for adults, live music, a grape stomp and artisan market, in addition to children's activities.

Gruene in the spring is simply magnificent! A former cotton gin town, this area is rich in both history and charm. A day strolling the shops in it's historic district with spring in the air is simply perfection. Be sure to stop in Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall, to look at all their

photos of past performers while enjoying a drink. Afterward, walk on over to The Gruene River Grill, Cantina del Rio, or The Gristmill Restaurant for a fabulous meal with a breathtaking view of the Guadalupe River. Gruene also hosts its wine event, "Come and Taste It", the third Thursday of every month in addition to Market Days, which is held the third weekend of every month.

Step back in time with a drive to Wimberley! If you're coming from Gruene, be sure to drive the back roads as they typically showcase plenty of wildflowers between these two towns. Wimberley has a lot to offer including shopping in it's town square, arts and culture, and their famous boot trail (pick up your boot map at the Visitor Center). Climb Mount Baldy to take in a panoramic view of the Wimberley Valley.



Blue Hole Park is a great place to spend a day, it offers numerous outdoor activities for families to enjoy. Afterward, head on over to I'noz for a bite to eat with an enchanting view overlooking Cypress Creek. Wimberley holds their Market Days the first Saturday of each month. The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens will host their annual Butterfly Festival on April 16, and The Wimberley Valley Art League will host their 8th annual Artsfest at Blue Hole Park April 23 - 24.

Take in the sights and sounds of spring! So much going on. Maybe I'm biased, but there's no place I'd rather be!