



Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



Spring, at last! A time when Texas Hill Country really showcases its beauty. It's fun to watch the bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes emerge and display their colors under the abundant sunshine. There is plenty to be enjoyed in the warmer spring temps!

A visit to New Braunfels should be on your list. Landa Park is the perfect place to spend a day fishing, playing volleyball, horseshoes or miniature golf, or riding the children's train or paddleboats. Two of my favorite eateries in town are McAdoo's Seafood Company and Krause's Café (and Biergarten), and both have fun outdoor seating. If you're looking for the finest BBQ this area has to offer, a stop to Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que is a must! Other nearby attractions include the McKenna Children's Museum, Animal World & Snake Farm Zoo, Natural Bridge Caverns, and Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch drive-thru safari. If you're visiting the area with children, New Braunfels is your place!

The historic district of Gruene is very enchanting when spring is in bloom! Plan to spend an afternoon visiting the quaint shops - or visit their market days, which is held on the third full weekend of every month. One of my favorite things about this charming area is the ability to dine or enjoy cocktails on patios overlooking the beautiful Guadalupe River.

You can find great views at The Gruene River Grill, The Gristmill, or Cantina del Rio. Also, be sure to check out the line-up for Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall. Some of their spring line-up includes Lee Ann Womack, Shooter Jennings, Los

Lonely Boys & Los Lobos, Roger Creager, and Three Dog Night. There is no shortage of live music to be found here!

As a Texan, one of my favorite things to do in the spring is to take a wild-flower drive to see the bluebonnets. The ride from Gruene to Wimberley is one of my absolute favorites! Wimberley is a quaint little village known for its fine arts and theater. There are several galleries here, along with Wimberley Glass Works where you can see a live glass blowing demonstration, and Silo Glass. To check out the live theater schedule, visit The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens or Wimberley Players websites. Wimberley also has a boot trail where there are about 50 large boots displayed throughout town. Visitors love finding these boots and taking photos. You can pick up a boot trail map at the Visitors Center.

To enjoy the local beauty, climb Mount Baldy or visit Blue Hole Park where you might be able to catch the bluebonnets in bloom and take some pretty family photos. Chef Jay's Back Porch, The Leaning Pear, and I'noz deck all offer beautiful views with great food. Wimberley also hosts its Market Days on the first Saturday of every month.

So many choices! No matter what you do, the memories you create here will last a lifetime. Enjoy your stay in our beautiful Texas Hill Country!

