

Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



Summer vacation arrives at last - let the fun begin! Not sure where to start? Here's your guide to fun in the sun in hill country!

New Braunfels offers numerous opportunities to cool off on a hot Texas day. Spend a day at Schlitterbahn Waterpark, where there is something exciting for everyone in the family to enjoy.



Another local favorite is the city tube chutes at Hinman Island. This area is serene and beautiful, but don't let that fool you – the tube chutes are pretty thrilling (weaker swimmers may exit just before the chute).

Located just outside of New Braunfels is Natural Bridge Caverns, which maintains a year-round temperature of 70 degrees. Afterward, quench your thirst at Krause's Café and Biergarten. They've been open for a few years now and offer over 70 beers on tap and a wide assortment of delicious eats – including fresh baked pretzels served with ground German mustard – my ultimate weakness!

Nearby Gruene is also worthy of a visit. There are several tube outfitters in this little town, and they are located just over the bridge from the historical district. After you've splashed and floated to your heart's content,

Check out Inferno's Pizza Wood Fired Oven and Spirits, home of the Trinidad Scorpion Pepper Sausage. While I can pretty much guarantee that by itself won't cool you down, I can promise their extensive drink selection will – with choices like the Dreamsicle, Pineapple Express, and their Limeade Rita, there is something refreshing for everyone!

Make a splash in Wimberley by securing a reservation at Blue Hole Regional Park (where you can jump from a rope swing secured to a century-old cypress tree), or Jacobs Well Park (where you can jump from a bluff). For a perfect low-key summer day, check out The Back Porch. Here, you can swim and eat (purchase your water wristband next door at The Lodge at Cypress Creek).

The Back Porch is a very special place – Chef Jay and his staff will treat you like family as they serve up homemade burgers, hotdogs, grilled cheese, and mouth-watering Texas style BBQ. If you still have room after all that, check out his seasonal cobbler for dessert, or indulge in a root beer float.

Summer in Texas is hot, but there is no place I'd rather be! We are blessed by the slightly cooler hill country temperatures in the morning and night, and the boundless opportunities for fun water activities and great eats. This makes it a tough destination to beat!

