

Our Great Texas Hill Country

by Colleen Brooks



It's a fabulous time to be visiting Hill Country! There's plenty to see and experience while most of the country is hibernating from the cold. Here are a few spots you don't want to miss!

Wimberley has a little something for everyone. Spend an afternoon visiting the shops and art galleries on the square and at night, catch a live theater performance at The EmilyAnn Theatre and Gardens, or at The Wimberley Players. A big destination for visitors is Wimberley Glass Works, where you can catch a live glass-blowing demonstration.

Adventure seekers will enjoy soaring above the Wimberley Valley by reserving a zip lining tour with Wimberley Zip Line Company. Those wanting a similar but more docile experience can climb Mount Baldy's 218 steps to enjoy a panoramic view of the Wimberley Valley. You can find some of your favorite comfort foods at The Back Porch, The Leaning Pear (ask to dine in their "treehouse"), and Linda's Fine Foods. Also, check out l'noz, where they often have nightly live music on their deck overlooking Cypress Creek.

New Braunfels also has a lot to offer. Children will enjoy the interactive displays at The McKenna Children's Museum, and the wildlife at the Animal World Snake Farm Zoo. Natural Bridge Caverns and Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch also offer a unique family experience that is not to be missed.

When hunger hits, check out The Downtowner for a casual and swanky, yet rustic dining experience. The Faust Brewing Company (located in the Faust Hotel) offers a beautiful assortment of hot sandwiches that are sure to satisfy any meat

lover, along with my husband's favorite, jalapeno-cheddar cheese potato stuffed pierogies. If you're a seafood lover, McAdoo's Seafood Company has you covered – just don't overlook their lobster bisque!

Last but certainly not least, Krause's Café and Biergarten offers all the seasonal favorites like homemade beef stew, fried chicken, and authentic German fare, with over 60 beers on tap. Krause's Café is open all day with an extensive menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Finally, Gruene is simply magical this time of year! Stroll around the shops and indulge in a wine tasting at The Grapevine, or Winery on the Gruene. Then, head on over to The Gruene Olive for an olive oil tasting. Both the Gristmill and Gruene River Grill offer all the best comfort foods along with fantastic outdoor views of the Guadalupe River. To work off all your indulgences, mosey on over to Texas' oldest dance hall, Gruene Hall. It's been a cherished landmark for live music and two-steppin' since 1878.

It's just about impossible to fit everything in, so have no fear! Use whatever is left on your list as your starting point for your next visit. You will come back, won't you?



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