

MLA LGBT SIG: Dining Guide for San Antonio, MLA '05

The following dining options are offered for your consideration. A few select Riverwalk locations are listed here, but there are countless other dining establishments to be found on the Riverwalk.

The restaurants are sorted by mileage distance from the Menger Hotel (according to Mapquest.com). Places frequented in years past by the Crossno family (during visits to San Antonio in this co-editor's youth as well as on more recent expeditions) are marked with 2 plus signs ("++").

Several gay-friendly locations were mentioned by a local insider we were fortunate to find at the UT Health Sciences Center-San Antonio Library. They are marked with an asterisk ("*").

Landry's Seafood House on the Riverwalk (0.2 miles)

517 N Presa St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.229.1010

<http://www.landryseafoodhouse.com/>

Seafood, Cajun-style; moderate to expensive; casual dress.

Twin Sisters Bakery & Café (0.25 miles)

124 Broadway St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.354.1559

Breakfast & lunch only (closes at 3pm); vegetarian options abound.

++Boudro's on the Riverwalk (0.3 miles)

421 E Commerce St

San Antonio, Texas 78203

210.224.8484

<http://www.boudros.com>

Southwestern food; moderate to expensive; located on Riverwalk; casual to business casual.

Co-Editor's Note [JC]: I ate here with my family last year, and it was fantastic. Every single item we selected was absolutely delicious! (I had the Gulf Coast Seacakes.)

Casa Rio (0.3 miles)
430 E Commerce St
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.225.6718
<http://www.casa-rio.com/>
Inexpensive Tex-Mex; casual dress.

++Las Canarias Restaurant (0.4 miles)
(in Hotel La Mansión del Rio)
112 College St
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.518.1000
Expensive continental/southwestern cuisine; business casual dress.
Co-Editor's Note [JC]: Lunch offerings are tantalizingly wonderful, as I discovered on my one and only visit last year. And the restaurant offers a "champagne brunch" on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Ácenar (0.5 miles)
146 E Houston St
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.222.2362
<http://www.acenar.com>
Southwestern/fusion; located just off Riverwalk; moderate to expensive, casual to business casual dress.

*Biga on the Banks (0.5 miles)
203 S Saint Marys St
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.225.0722
<http://www.bigacom>
Expensive continental cuisine; beautiful setting; business casual dress.

Fig Tree Restaurant (0.5 miles)
515 Villita St
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.224.1976
Expensive American cuisine; casual to dressy.

++Little Rhein Steak House (0.6 miles)

231 S Alamo St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.225.2111

Expensive steakhouse in a quaint little limestone cabin (part of the city's original settlement, La Villita); serves thick steaks and hearty potatoes.

Co-Editor's Note [JC]: It is expensive, but it's more than worth it!

El Mirador (0.8 miles)

722 S Saint Marys St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.225.9444

Located short drive from Riverwalk; awesome Tex-Mex; casual dress.

*Rosario's Mexican Café y Cantina (0.8 miles)

910 S Alamo St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.223.1806

La Margarita Mexican Restaurant & Oyster Bar (0.9 miles)

120 Produce Row

San Antonio, Texas 78207

210.227.7140

Located in El Mercado (short drive/walk from River Walk); inexpensive to moderate Tex-Mex; casual dress.

++Mi Tierra Restaurant & Bakery (0.9 miles)

218 Produce Row

San Antonio, Texas 78207

210.225.1262

<http://www.mitierracafe.com>

Inexpensive Tex-Mex; located in El Mercado (short drive/walk from Riverwalk); casual dress.

Co-Editor's Note [JC]: Every time my family made a trip to San Antonio when I was a kid, we always made at least one stop here. The atmosphere is fantastic, and the food is downright awesome! The bakery offers authentic Mexican pastries and desserts.

*Madhatter's Tea (1 mile)
320 Beauregard
San Antonio, Texas 78204
210.212.4832

<http://www.madhatterstea.com>

Gay-owned place serving tea, breakfast, lunch, and dinner; casual dress.
Co-Editor's Note [JC]: While I've never been here, our local insider highly recommended this place. In fact, it was one of the finalists for the location of our SIG Social Dinner!

*Liberty Bar (1.8 miles)
328 E Josephine St
San Antonio, Texas 78208
210.227.1187

<http://sanantonio.citysearch.com/profile?id=10102260>

American food; awesome Portobello mushroom sandwich; great pot roast; wonderful bread.

*La Fonda on Main (2.3 miles)
2415 N Main Ave
San Antonio, Texas 78212
210.733.0621

Great Mexican food in a 1930s house; very nice patio.

*W D Deli (2.5 miles)
3123 Broadway St
San Antonio, Texas 78209
210.828.2322

Soups and sandwiches; gay-owned, open for dinner during the week.

MLA LGBT SIG: Nightlife Guide for San Antonio, MLA '05

Our insider at the UTHSCSA Library also provided this information, but he did say that it needed to be prefaced by a caveat his friends gave him: "Lower y'all's expectations. Please lower them."

According to his friends, the best bet is the Bonham Exchange (a.k.a. the "Bottom Exchange), which is the most architecturally interesting nightlife location.

Bonham Exchange (0.2 miles)

411 Bonham St

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.271.3811

<http://www.bonhamexchange.net/>

This nightclub is situated within an old men's gymnasium from the end of the 1800s, and it has been around forever. It is actually just a couple of blocks from the Menger Hotel. According to our insider, the multi-level club is somewhat busy on Friday nights but is THE place to go on Saturday nights — at least until midnight when everyone then goes to the bars on North Main.

For other locations, you'll actually need to go a little farther afield — specifically, a little strip of bars/clubs on North Main across from San Antonio College. These are near downtown, but not too close. So if you're going, it is advisable to either drive or take a taxi.

Pegasus (1.6 miles)

1402 N Main Ave

San Antonio, Texas 78212

210.229.4222

Silver Dollar Saloon (1.6 miles)

1418 N Main Ave

San Antonio, Texas 78212

210.227.2623

Country/western bar with a large patio.

The Saint (1.6 miles)
1430 N Main Ave
San Antonio, Texas 78212
210.225.7330

Heat (1.6 miles)
1500 N Main Ave
San Antonio, Texas 78212
210.227.2600

Largest gay bar in San Antonio; open daily; includes video room with 30+ screens, a heated outdoor patio, and dance floor; modern & upscale.