



San Antonio Mission Walk

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the San Antonio Mission Walk?

The San Antonio Mission Walk is an optional pre-Gathering experience taking place on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, the day before we head to Mo-Ranch. This beautiful urban pilgrimage follows the El Camino de San Antonio Missions Trail, a route where spirituality and history naturally intertwine.

How long is the walk?

The walk, which begins at the Mission San Francisco de la Espada, is approximately 13 miles long. We'll visit four of San Antonio's UNESCO-designated missions (Espada, San Juan, San José and Concepción). The day ends at the San Fernando Cathedral, the oldest continuous-functioning Cathedral in the United States — giving the walk a true pilgrim's arc of beginning, journey, and arrival.

- Mission San Francisco de la Espada to Mission San Juan Capistrano - 1.5 miles
- Mission San Juan Capistrano to Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo - 4 miles
- Mission San José to Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña - 4 miles
- Mission Concepción to San Fernando Cathedral - 3.5 miles

What if I am unable to walk the entire 13 miles?

If you choose not to walk the entire 13 miles, you can easily arrange for an Uber or other rideshare service from any of the Missions to return downtown.

Is this route a recognized Camino?

The Pilgrim Office in Santiago officially recognizes this route, which means your miles can be applied toward your Compostela distance in Spain.

What are the Pilgrim Passport and Compostela?

Just like the Camino de Santiago, the Padre Margil Pilgrimage Center in San Antonio offers both a Pilgrim Passport to collect stamps at each Mission as well as the El Camino de San Antonio Compostela certificate of completion. Both the Pilgrim Passport and Compostela certificate of completion are optional.

What is the cost to participate?

Although the San Antonio Mission walk itself is free, optional add-ons include the Pilgrim Passport, Compostela certificate of completion, boxed lunch at Mission Concepción, and bus transportation to Mo-Ranch.

LOGISTICS

How do I register?

The San Antonio Mission Walk is a stand-alone event, separate from the 2026 Gathering. Separate registration is required for both the Mission Walk and the 2026 Gathering. Registration for the Mission Walk and Gathering will be open in January 2026. A registration link will be sent in the confirmation email after you have registered for the Gathering. The link will also be posted on the American Pilgrims website. **Registering for the Mission Walk does not register you for the 2026 Gathering.** There is no maximum for the number of attendees who can attend the Mission Walk.

When should I arrive?

We recommend arriving in San Antonio on Tuesday, April 7, so you're rested and ready for the early start on Wednesday.

Do I need to check in for the walk when arriving in San Antonio?

No. We will meet as a group on Wednesday morning, April 8 at 7am.

Where should I stay?

Participants are responsible for booking their lodging in San Antonio (April 7–8). We've arranged a block of hotel rooms with a discounted group rate for your convenience. ***Hotel registration links for discounted rooms will be sent with the confirmation email.***

Will there be any transportation from the hotel to the Mission Espada starting point on Wednesday, April 8?

No. We recommend participants use Uber or other rideshare service to get to the starting point at Mission Espada on Wednesday, April 8 at 7am.

What should I do with my luggage while I walk?

We recommend arriving in San Antonio on Tuesday, April 7 and booking two nights in a hotel. Your luggage would be in the hotel until the bus pickup on Thursday.

What options are available for getting from downtown San Antonio to the National Gathering at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX on Thursday, April 9?

Transportation from downtown San Antonio to Mo-Ranch will be offered as these times:

- 1pm

PILGRIM PASSPORT AND COMPOSTELA

How do I get my Pilgrim Passport?

It is the responsibility of each participant to order the Pilgrim Passport (if desired) well in advance so it can be mailed to you. The cost is \$10 for the passport plus \$6 shipping. To purchase, go to the El Camino de San Antonio Missions website and follow the prompts: <https://caminosanantonio.org/plan-your-pilgrimage/register/compostela/>. When filling out the online order form, select:

- “Mission San Francisco de la Espada” as the starting point.
- Walking with a group
- Type in “American Pilgrims on the Camino, April 8” as the group name

To order two or more credentials for the walk and avoid multiple shipping charges, it would be best to call the Pilgrimage Center directly at 210-332-0169 and order them over the phone.

The El Camino de San Antonio Missions website says that you must return to the Padre Margil Pilgrimage Center to receive the Compostela certificate of completion. Is that true?

The Pilgrimage Center is located about midway through the walk, so we have arranged with them to have all of the certificates available at the end of our walk at the San Fernando Cathedral.

Where do I get the Compostela certificate of completion?

The Compostelas will be available at the end of the walk on Wednesday, April 8 at the San Fernando Cathedral from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. The cost of the Compostela is \$5 (cash only) to be paid on site at the Cathedral.

What time will the Compostela certificates of completion be available for pick up at the Cathedral?

The Compostelas will be available at the San Fernando Cathedral from 2:30pm to 4:30pm on April 8. The cost of the Compostela is \$5 (cash only) to be paid on site at the Cathedral.

What happens if I miss the window for getting the Compostela at the Cathedral?

If you miss the window, you will have to go back to the Pilgrimage Center at Mission Concepción upon completion to present your stamped Pilgrim Passport. You can also contact Mary at marysforman@gmail.com or text her at 386-734-3534 to make other arrangements.

LUNCH OPTIONS DURING THE WALK

Where do I get the boxed lunch at Mission Concepción?

If you prepaid for the boxed lunch when you registered for the Mission Walk, the lunch will be available in a private room across from the Padre Margil Pilgrimage Center, which is directly behind Mission Concepción (approximately 9.5 miles from our starting point at Mission Espada).

What time will the boxed lunches be available?

You can pick up your boxed lunch any time between 11:45am and 1:15pm.

Are there other food options if I don't want to order the boxed lunch in advance?

We recommend that all participants carry plenty of water and snacks for the walk. Many food options are available between Mission Concepción (mile 9.5) and the end point at the San Fernando Cathedral. Local restaurants such as the following begin at approximately mile 11.

Blue Moon - Blue Star Southtown
403 Blue Star, Ste. 105, San Antonio, TX 78204
Open 7 am-10 pm

The Guenther House
205 E Guenther St, San Antonio, TX 78204
Open 8 am - 2 pm
<https://guentherhouse.com/>

Blue Star Provisions (grocery)
1414 S Alamo St #103, San Antonio, TX 78210
Open 7 am - 9 pm
<https://www.bluestarartscomplex.com/at/blue-star-provisions>

Blue Star Brewing Company
1414 S Alamo St #105, San Antonio, TX 78210
Open 11 am - 10 pm
<https://bluestarbrewing.com/>

Halcyon Coffee + Bar + Lounge
1414 S Alamo St #101, San Antonio, TX 78210
Open 8 am - midnight
<https://www.halcyoncoffeebar.com/>

In addition, there is a restaurant right outside Mission San Juan (at mile 1.5)

Esmerelda's Mexican Restaurant
8750 S. Presa St. San Antonio, TX 78223
Open 6 am - 10 pm
<https://esmeraldasmexicanrestaurant.net/index.html>

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE AND AFTER THE WALK

BEFORE THE WALK

Tuesday, April 7 from 3pm to 5:30pm. Karin Kiser is organizing a "Camino Social Hour" from 3pm to 5:30pm on Tuesday, April 7 (the day before the walk) at Otro, located on the third floor of the Canopy by Hilton San Antonio Riverwalk. The address is 123 N. Saint Mary's Street, 3rd floor. Otro offers happy hour specials on food and wine from 3pm to 5pm. Check out the menu and prices at <https://www.domingorestaurant.com/otro-bar/otro-bar-happy-hour>.

AFTER THE WALK

Karin Kiser is also organizing an unofficial, informal dinner after the walk on **Wednesday, April 8 at Casa Rio restaurant starting at 5pm.**

Casa Rio is the oldest restaurant along the historic Riverwalk. Although they typically don't take reservations, they have graciously offered to make an exception for us by reserving some outdoor seating in the "under the bridge" area along the Riverwalk. Our space is reserved from 5pm to 7pm only. Please bring cash, as split checks may not be accommodated. The address is 430 E. Commerce Street. Check out the dinner menu here: <https://www.casario.com/menu>

For specific questions, please contact:

Mary Forman, marysforman@gmail.com, 386-734-3534

Robert Acosta, racostasa@gmail.com, 210-445-8326

Karin Kiser, 2026missionwalk@americanpilgrims.org, 858-780-2660

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