



Welcome to Hills & Horizons Country.

This trip takes travelers to Hills & Horizons Country, where rolling green hills replace the far-reaching desert range. Conveniently located between San Antonio and Austin, San Marcos is close enough to major attractions and is perennially ranked as one of the best cities to raise a family. Known as a college town, San Marcos is always on the rise. Wherever the road takes you in this Texas community, Country Inn & Suites By Carlson will be ready to welcome you home for a peaceful night's rest.



I love this Country.™

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Welcome to Hills & Horizons Country, a place where history and nature collide. Let your senses soar watching millions of the region's most notable flying friends along Congress Avenue, or kick your feet up while floating your day away on the San Marcos River. Here you won't have to travel far to find adventure. When the sun sets over the hills at the end of the day, return to the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, take a dip in the swimming pool, or grab a book from the Read It and ReturnSM Lending Library while enjoying a fresh baked cookie.

San Marcos-area Country Inns & Suites By Carlson locations:

[Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, San Marcos](#) - 2.4 miles from downtown

[Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Austin-North](#) - 30 miles from downtown

Aquarena - Glass Bottom Boats	Family Choice** Explore the Aquarena on a Glass Bottom Boat Ride at Texas State University. Enjoy the life within the San Marcos River in these unique boats. This experience will be educational, as well as entertaining. Rides last 30 minutes and cost \$8/adults, \$7/seniors, \$6/kids 4-15, under 4 are free.	aquarena.txstate.edu/Glass-Bottomboats/
Outlet Malls	Family Choice**: Prime Outlets and Tanger Outlets – two of the nations' leading outlet malls – all in one convenient area. Shop 'til you drop and be sure to get a new outfit or two so you're truly vacation ready.	primeoutlets.com/locations/san-marcos.aspx tangeroutlet.com/sanmarcos
Wonderworld Park	Mom's Choice** Visitors to Wonderland Park enjoy many of the earth's amazing geological features in one convenient stop. Be sure to climb the Tejas Tower, float around the Anti-Gravity House and cool off with a subterranean cave tour. Visit the website for a \$3 off coupon. Admission is \$19.95 for adults, \$14.95 for kids 6-12, \$7.50 for kids 3-5, kids under 3 are free.	wonderworldpark.com
San Marcos River Pub & Grill	Soak up breathtaking views while sipping on local drink and food specials. Bite into a taste of the southwest - the Spinach Salad features toasted Texas pecans that are, fittingly enough, bigger than pecans you'll find anywhere else! Entrees range from \$7 to \$12.	riverpubandgrill.com
Salt Lick BBQ	When in Texas, eat like a Texan! The Salt Lick BBQ has famous sauces that will leave their marks on your mind - and taste buds. Family-Style dining is ideal, as you'll come hungry and leave full. Family dining starts at \$18.95/person.	saltlickbbq.com

The Witliff Collections	For the academic in your family, a visit to the Wittliff Collections on the UT-San Marcos campus is a must. Thousands of timeless works of literature, photography and art are on display. Exhibits include the Lonesome Dove collection, featuring manuscripts from the 1985 Pulitzer Prize winning novel, and 1989 TV miniseries starring Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones. Admission is free.	thewitliffcollections.txstate.edu
Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country	Step back in time - literally - by stepping next to fossilized foot prints from dinosaurs and other ancient creatures. The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country offers several prehistoric exhibits, including the Dinosaur Track Pavilion, as well as early pioneer artifacts. A big hit with kids. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children.	theheritagemuseum.com
Tube San Marcos	Peacefully wind down the San Marcos River in your own personal watercraft - a floating tube! The constant 72 degree temperatures, fed by the Aquarena Springs, offer watery delight to beat the Texas heat. Float trips last about 90-minutes, depending on the current, and cost \$7 for tube rental, or bring your own tube and just pay for the ride back.	tubesanmarcos.com
LBJ Museum	A staple within historic downtown San Marcos, the Lyndon B. Johnson Museum recognizes the 36th President of the United States through mementos, photos and more. LBJ spent his college years at Texas State-San Marcos. Admission is free.	lbjmuseum.com
Adobe Verde	One bite of Adobe Verde's fresh made Mexican food and you'll be saying 'muy bueno!'. Lasso the La Bandera Mexicana, with a Classic Margarita on the Rocks and you'll be dining like the locals. Meals range from \$6 to \$10.	adobeverde.com
Gruene, TX	Visitors to Gruene, Texas - a small city in the Hill Country - remains true to its' German settlers' roots from 1872. Charming and welcoming, be sure to bite into the town's famous Fickle Pickle. Gruene is an easy 25 minute drive south on I-35	gruenetexas.com
Congress Avenue Bats	The country's largest natural urban collection of bats take flight on a nightly basis. Just up I-35 in Austin, seeing these creatures cruise around the twilight skies will captivate your children's imaginations, and perhaps awaken your own! Austin is 35 minutes northwest of San Marcos. No admission fees.	capitalcruises.com

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Wimberly Glassworks	Get blown away as you watch art formed right before your eyes! Wimberly Glassworks' artists allow visitors to watch as they create glass wares, and explain the process along the way. Meet artisans in action Wednesday thru Sunday before and after lunch. Demonstrations are free, but appointments can be made for \$2/person.	wgw.com
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** Family Choice and Mom's Choice designation based on fun for all ages, cost and Mom's approval.