



San Marcos is for the birds



Located on the Central Flyway, San Marcos and Hays County are great places for birdwatching, or "birding," as the insiders say.

Not sure where to go? Local birders suggest the following sites:

- The San Marcos River Walk, which winds through the city's parks.
- Southwest Texas University's ponds on the campus near University Drive.
- The river banks of Stokes Park at Thompson's Islands on CR 299 offer a wilder, more natural setting on the edge of town.

• The A. E. Wood Fish Hatchery, located on Staples Road (FM 621), is a left turn off Hwy 123, just east of IH 35.

• CR 266, 1.8 miles past the Hatchery on 621, turn left and find the pond.

• (CR 234) east of IH 35, behind the outlet malls.

Bring binoculars and enjoy the outing.



aquarena.txsstate.edu

Life springs eternal at Aquarena

Created at the site of a former amusement park, Texas State University's Aquarena Center is today a unique educational resource not only for the university but the community and public at large.

Glass-bottomed boats still glide over the crystal-clear lake and point out the San Marcos Springs, but there are also a floating wetlands boardwalk, educational tours for school-children and other groups, scien-

tific diving classes and other activities.

The old Aquarena Springs Hotel is now home to the Texas Rivers Institute, which works with local governments to help insure the health of aquifers, springs, rivers and coastal estuaries.

There's also a golf course, picnic areas and trails.

Also on site is an endangered species exhibit and examples of artifacts, found beneath Spring

Lake, that show evidence of human habitation more than 12,000 years ago.

The grounds are open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free admission.

Call or go online for times of glass bottomed-boat rides and other activities. Facilities are also available for weddings and other special events.

245-7570

aquarena.txsstate.edu

Pick a B&B for some restful TLC

Interested in spending a few days in town in a quieter, maybe romantic setting?

Check out the area's Bed & Breakfast Inns:

- Crystal River Inn, 326 W. Hopkins, 396-3739
crystalriverinn.com
- Paradise on the River, Martindale, 754-1851
maritisa.com/vacationrental.htm
- Bella Vista Carriage House,

- Martindale, 357-2193
- River Dance Resort, 1500 River Grove Road, Fentress, (512) 488-0273
riverdanceresort.us
- Creekhaven Inn, 400 Mill Race Lane, Wimberley, (512) 847-9344
creekhaveninn.com
- Blair House Inn, 100 W. Spoke Hill Drive, Wimberley, (877) 549-5450
blairhouseinn.com

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From 95 off South, exit west on 1407 (Wacker World Drive). Left on South Road (Highway 172) onto IH 35.

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