

# 101+ Things to do in (and around) San Marcos



Tubing at Rio Vista Falls

## 1) Ride the Rapids at Rio Vista

The new white water park at the site of the old Rio Vista Dam is the hottest place in town to cool off this summer. The new design includes three "drops" of approximately two feet each, separated by ponds about six feet deep. Swimmers, tubers and kayakers are sharing the spot, so keep your eyes open while you enjoy! Convenient free parking at Rio Vista Park or in the city lot across Cheatham Street from the San Marcos River Pub and Grill.

## 2) Float the River Lions Club Tube Rental and River Taxi

City Park  
396-LION  
[tubesanmarcos.com](http://tubesanmarcos.com)  
Float with your toes and fingers dangling in the cool clear water of the San Marcos River. It's relaxing, it's fun, and it benefits Lions charities. Open every day through September, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. River Taxi pick up at Rio Vista Park.

## 3) Canoe the River T.G. Canoe Livery

353-3946  
[tgcanoe.com](http://tgcanoe.com)

**Spencer Canoes**  
357-6113  
[spencerscanoes.net](http://spencerscanoes.net)

Pack a lunch and start paddling down the river, navigating at your own pace. Local river outfitters offer beginner lessons and all the rest you need for an enjoyable trip.

## 4) Learn to Kayak Power Olympic Outdoor Center

602 IH-35 North  
392-9910  
[kayakinstruction.org](http://kayakinstruction.org)  
Have you ever been fascinated by seeing a kayaker turn completely over in the water? Does it look like fun? Find out if kayaking is for you.

## 5) Bait Up & Go Fish The Critter Shop

360 S. LBJ Drive  
353-0707  
**Gee's Food Store**  
1001 Hwy. 80  
353-5035  
Gee's also sells fishing (and hunting licenses). State Game Wardens will ask to see yours if they catch you dropping a line in the San Marcos River. Fishing licenses are required of everyone fishing in Texas public waters, excepting those younger than 17 and those born before Sept. 1, 1930.

## 6) Visit River's Source Aquarena Center of Continuing Education

One Aquarena Springs Drive  
245-7575; (800) 999-9767  
[aquarena.txstate.edu](http://aquarena.txstate.edu)  
Open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., free admission to Texas State University-owned grounds. The former amusement park still offers rides on glass bottomed boats. The aquarium, endangered species exhibit and wetlands walkway are free.  
The Texas Rivers Center, which opened last year, occupies the old Aquarena Springs Hotel, featuring exhibits on aquifers, rivers and coastal estuaries.

Below the surface of Spring Lake, a scientific diving program goes on virtually year-round.

## 7) Go Camping Leisure Camp & RV Park

Countdown Road  
Fentress  
(512) 488.2563  
[leisurecamp.net](http://leisurecamp.net)  
Enjoy this family oriented RV park on the San Marcos River at Fentress. Shaded sites are available, as are hot showers, restrooms, tubing, fishing, horseshoes, volleyball and a playground. Reservations recommended.

**Pecan Park Retreat**  
392-6171  
[pecanparkretreat.com](http://pecanparkretreat.com)  
Located on the banks of the San Marcos River two miles east of IH-35 off Hwy. 80, Pecan Park is primarily for Scouts, youth and church groups. This group-oriented facility has a no-alcohol policy to insure a relaxing, enjoyable weekend. Restrooms, showers, electricity, water and a dump station provided. Call for reservations.

**Shady Grove Campground**  
FM 1979, Martindale

357-6113  
[shadygrovecampground.net](http://shadygrovecampground.net)  
Shady Grove is a family oriented, natural campground next to the San Marcos River. Restrooms, showers and group sites available. Reservations recommended.

**Plum Creek RV Campground**  
24800 IH-35 South, Kyle  
396-8300  
[plumcreekrv.com](http://plumcreekrv.com)  
Amenities include a natural spring-fed pond, fishing lake, pull-thru sites, security/gated entry, paved roads and wilderness trails with a children's play fort, horseshoe pit, swimming pool, air conditioned bath houses, laundry room and more.

**8) Visit City Parks San Marcos Parks & Recreation Department**  
393-8400  
[ci.san-marcos.tx.us](http://ci.san-marcos.tx.us)



San Marcos Parks

**Bicentennial Park**  
Bicentennial Park on the San Marcos River has picnic tables, a river walk and jogging trails.

**City Park**  
City Park has restrooms, parking, a playground, hike and bike trails, basketball courts, barbecue grills, picnic tables, football fields, river access, volleyball courts, a recreational hall and a canoe launch in its 7.8 acres. Aluminum steps make it easy to get in and out.

Crystal River Inn

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