



PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION PACK

Bishop Burton College

The background image shows a group of people riding horses through a grassy field. In the foreground, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey jacket and a white cowboy hat, is smiling. Behind her, several other riders on horses are visible, some wearing cowboy hats. The landscape is hilly and green, with a line of trees in the distance.

USA: Texas Equine Ranch Experience



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ARRIVAL

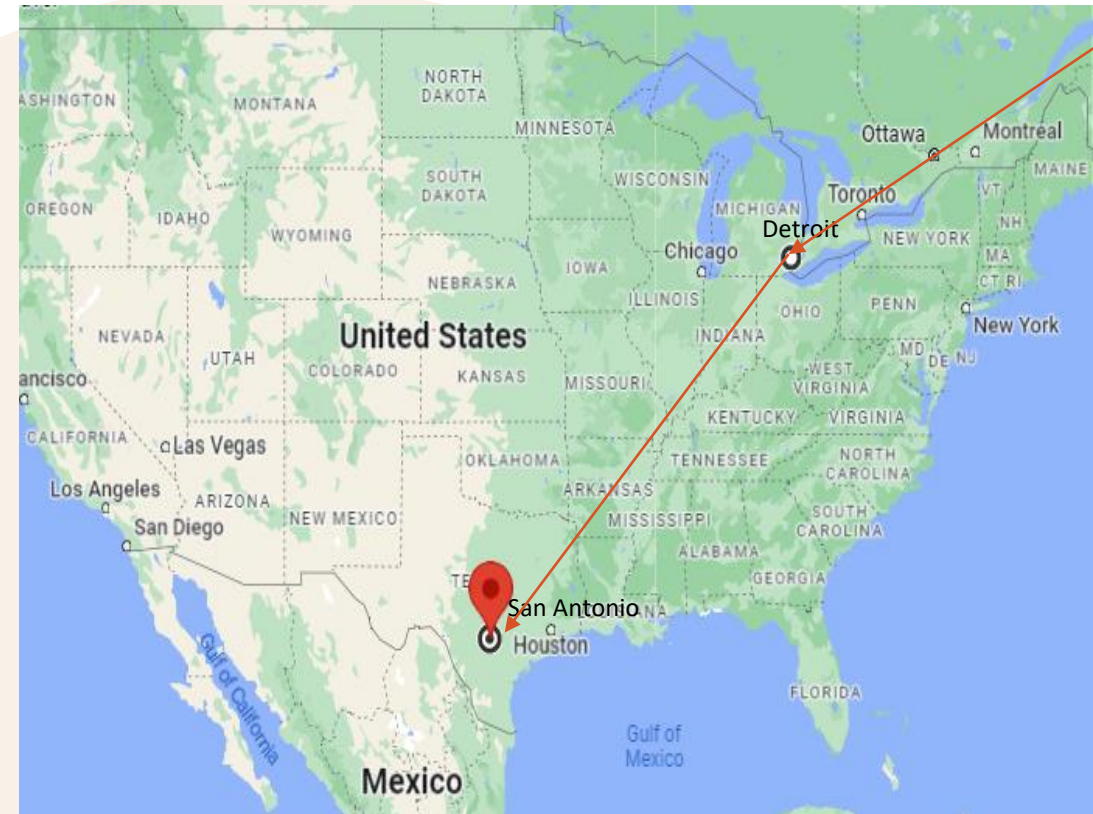
NORTH
AMERICA

Arriving at San Antonio Airport

On arrival at San Antonio Airport you will be met by a representative from Star Shuttle & Charter who will transfer you to Rancho Cortez.

If you are unable to locate the representative please contact them on:

Tel: 210-341-6000/512-479-8100



CONTACT DETAILS

**NORTH
AMERICA**

Address:

872 Hay Hollar Road
Bandera, Texas 78003

Telephone:

+1 830 796 9339

Email:

info@ranchocortez.com

Gap Africa Projects

+44 (0) 797 657 5949

24 Hour Emergency Only

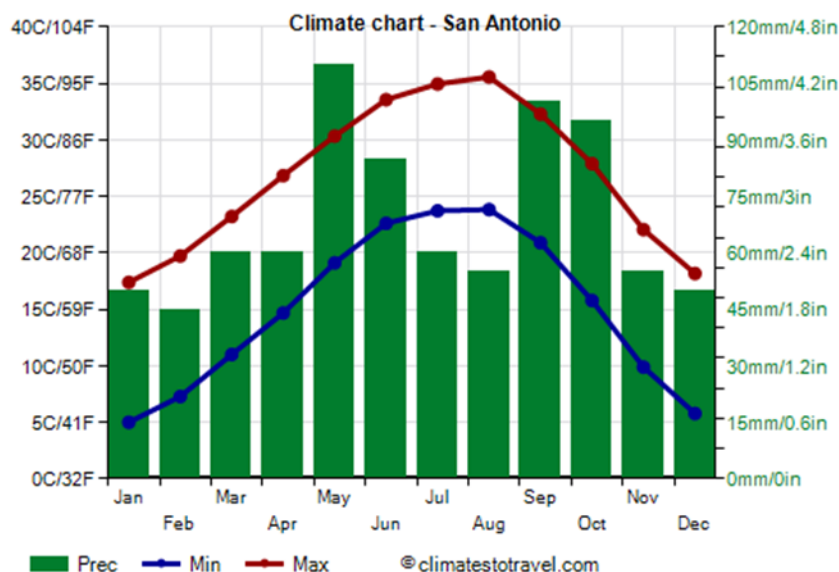


USEFUL INFORMATION



Climate

The average temperature in San Antonio in May for a typical day ranges from a high of 89°F (32°C) to a low of 67°F (19°C). Some would describe it as pleasantly warm and breezy.



Currency, Credit Cards, Phones & Internet

Currency

The US dollar is the currency for the United States, all major credit cards are accepted.

Tipping is expected in the US in cafes, restaurants etc. of between 15-25%.

Mobile Phones

Please check with your mobile phone service provider regarding roaming charges etc. whilst in the US.

Internet

WiFi is available in the dining hall at the ranch, this is only a short walk from the bunkhouse.

USEFUL INFORMATION



Health Risks

Immunisation:

Contact your GP around 4-6 weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures. The following website offers up to date information for travellers to the United States

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/235/usa>

Drinking water:

Tap water in the US is drinkable

Sun:

Texas has a warm sunny climate, you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4pm – regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Even if you have a dark complexion, you can still get sunburned if you are from a cooler climate and have not had much exposure to the sun. Sunglasses are also recommended, as the glare of the sun can be very strong.

Stay safe overseas – KBYG

The better prepared you are when you travel abroad the safer you will be. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office offers 'Know before you go' travel advice, including simple precautions you can take before and during your trip.

To find out more, check out their website:


<https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/travel-abroad>

USEFUL INFORMATION



Insurance

Personal travel insurance is compulsory. Travel insurance does not need to be expensive and there are many good deals available for backpackers etc. Always be sure to check the insurance details to make sure you are covered for Covid 19, theft, loss, illness and injury. Check to see if your medical benefits are paid out as they occur or on your return home.

Please follow this link to our preferred insurer: 

<https://www.true traveller.com/backpackers-insurance?tag=4480>

Covid 19 Requirements

All non US citizens aged 17 and over must be fully vaccinated for entry into the US and must have full proof of Covid 19 vaccination status, see link below for further information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/proof-of-vaccination.html>

There are currently no requirements for re entry into the United Kingdom.

Passport Requirements

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay

Visa Requirements

You will need to get a visa or an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) visa waiver to enter or transit the USA as a visitor.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



Rancho Cortez

During your stay at the ranch, you will be accommodated in the bunkhouse in open dorm style rooms with shared bathrooms.

Three meals per day are provided; basic breakfast and packed lunches followed by a relaxing dinner, all homemade with fresh healthy ingredients and desserts made from scratch. After dinner, wind down at the campfire listening to cowboy tales and roasting marshmallows for s'mores.



USEFUL INFORMATION



Suggested kit list

- Short sleeve shirts / T-shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (or trousers with zip-off longs)
- Jodhpurs
- Riding boots
- Riding gloves & helmet
- Rain jacket / poncho
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker - warm
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Hat for sun protection
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear
- Bath towel
- Swimming costume
- Toiletries
- Tick / insect repellent

Other useful items:

- Good torch (head lamp)
- 2L Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical items
- Sunscreen
- Notebook/diary and pen

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



Ranch Photos





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