

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



THE GREAT AMERICAN TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Texas Hill Country

April 5–9, 2024



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Riverwalk, San Antonio

The Great American Total Solar Eclipse

View a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, at one of the premier viewing locations in the country, the Hill Country of central Texas. Harvard Alumni Travel has found an exclusive viewing site to maximize your enjoyment comfort, and convenience. We'll travel to the path of totality to observe this total eclipse when the bright disk of the Sun becomes entirely hidden behind the Moon, the sky becomes dark, and the Sun's corona flashes into view. During this brief time of the full eclipse, it becomes safe to look directly at the sun. Bright stars and planets shine forth, and the air temperature drops noticeably. Birds and other animals, thinking dusk has settled, return to their nests and evening shelters. This is one of the most beautiful astronomical events, worth seeing at least once in a lifetime. Accompanying us will be a Harvard professor soon to be announced.

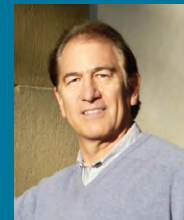
Gather in Austin, Texas and visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin, home to more than 900 species of native plants. Journey on the scenic Hill Country when bluebonnets will be in full bloom. Arrive in time for cocktails and a dinner reception at Tapatio Springs located on 220 acres in the Hill Country. Before the eclipse visit an authentic Texas, ranch for a private rodeo demonstration, and tour the highlights of San Antonio including a VIP tour of the Alamo, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a chartered cruise along the San Antonio River and its famous Riverwalk.

Activity Level 2: 

AN EASY PACE

A fair amount of walking (up to one mile for two days) with excursions lasting up to three hours at a time. Involves some exposure to the outdoors particularly during eclipse watching.

Study Leader



DAVID A. AGUILAR is an internationally recognized naturalist/ astronomer, author, space artist, and

musician with the unique ability to open minds to the vast frontiers of space and their potential effects on our own world. His expertise lies in sparking intricate, yet fascinating connections between the universe, nature, and ourselves. A veteran of many Harvard Alumni Travel Programs, David spent 14 years at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) in Cambridge, MA where he was director of Science Information and Public Outreach.

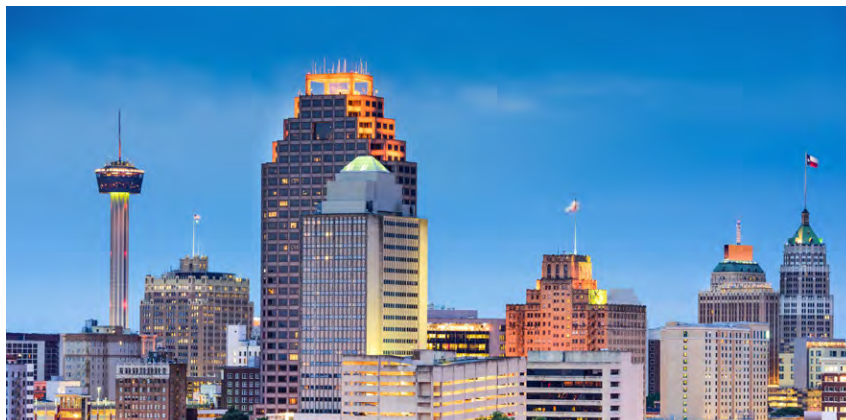


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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Barrel Racing performer; Big horn cattle; portrait of Lady Bird Johnson; San Antonio skyline, Texas; Texas barbeque lunch

Schedule by Day

B=BREAKFAST, L=LUNCH, R=RECEPTION, D=DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Austin, Texas

Fly independently to Austin, Texas, and transfer to your hotel overlooking Lady Bird Lake with close access to downtown Austin. Gather this evening for an orientation and welcome dinner. Overnight Hyatt Regency Hotel (D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Austin / Boerne

This morning immerse yourself in the spectacular beauty and elegance of the University of Texas at Austin Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The center, founded in 1982 with the assistance of Texas' beloved former first lady, has a display of wildflowers, plants, and trees that grow in Texas, with an emphasis on Hill Country flora. Enjoy a lecture about the architecture of the center and Lady Bird Johnson's role in conserving Texas wildflowers. After touring

the center, head out to the Texas Hill Country along highways lined with stunning spring-time bluebonnets and other wildflowers that stretch for miles. Gather for welcome cocktails and dinner at our Hill Country accommodations and eclipse site. Overnight Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Boerne / San Antonio

Depart for an authentic Texas Ranch tucked away in the corner of Bulverde, Texas to provide a true taste of Texas and its Western heritage. Attend a rodeo demonstration with the grand entry of Texas Longhorns as well as barrel racing and an award-winning Texas Drill team performing on horses. Enjoy a catered Texas barbecue lunch with a full bar. After lunch, head to San Antonio and a city tour of its landmarks and cultural hotspots. Take a VIP tour of the Alamo to see the UNESCO World Heritage site and learn of the heroic battle of 1836 for Texas' independence from Mexico. After touring the Alamo, embark on a privately chartered river barge along San Antonio's famous riverwalk. Finally, experience firsthand some of San

Antonio's Hispanic heritage and the flavors of old Mexico at El Mercado. After exploring Mexican artifacts, jewelry, and other crafts, gather for dinner at a local restaurant before we head back to Boerne to prepare for the eclipse. Overnight Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort (B, L, D)

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Boerne / Total Solar Eclipse

This morning our study leader will walk us through the rare total eclipse we will be seeing. Enjoy a buffet lunch at our private eclipse site. The partial eclipse will begin around 12:41 pm and culminate with the beginning of the Full or Total Solar Eclipse at 1:32.47 pm. Once the celestial excitement abates imbibe in a celebratory glass of champagne followed by a festive farewell dinner. Overnight Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Boerne / Austin

This morning after breakfast transfer to the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport for flights home. (B)

Pre-Trip Extension

APRIL 4 & 5, 2024

Austin, Texas Tour

Arrive a day early and discover Austin on a city tour that will give you a snapshot of Austin from its Capitol dome, the UT campus and downtown to its funky neighborhoods only a local would know about. This tour is jam-packed with history and information on the people, music, culture, and food of Austin. Lunch will be at one of Austin's iconic eateries. After lunch we'll head out to a local brewery for a tasting of some of Austin artisan beers. Includes lunch, transportation, tour guide, and one extra night at the Austin Hyatt Regency. Minimum of 10 passengers.

TEXAS

. Austin
Boerne .
. San Antonio

Austin, Texas; San Antonio riverwalk; the Alamo; Solar eclipse



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Accommodations

Hyatt Regency Austin

Located in downtown Austin on the shores of Lady Bird Lake, the Hyatt Regency Austin is a full-service hotel that offers cool, contemporary new guest rooms. Situated along the Hike & Bike trail, this luxury hotel is within walking distance to all of downtown Austin's major entertainment districts, and 7 miles from Austin Bergstrom International Airport. Take a five-minute walk to Congress Ave Bridge near sunset in the summer to catch Austin's famous bat show, featuring more than 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats. Austin Hyatt Regency has a seasonal outdoor swimming pool with a sundeck overlooking the lake. Free WiFi is available throughout the property.



Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort Boerne, Texas

The Resort is nestled in the heart of the Hill Country on 220 acres among rolling hills, wildflowers, and limestone cliffs and features an 18-hole championship golf course, a driving range, a putting green, and a pro shop. A private balcony or patio with a view is featured in each guest room. Rooms feature complimentary bottled water and coffee/tea makers. A seating area, LED TV, refrigerator, coffee maker, and work desk are also provided. Guests can enjoy many recreational activities on the grounds, including golf, frisbee golf, golf lessons, hiking trails, two outdoor pools, fire pits, and a full-service spa. Other amenities include restaurants, a fitness center, and a bar/lounge. Free wi-fi in all the rooms.



Program Cost Includes

Study leader's lectures and discussions • Four (4) nights hotel accommodations: one (1) night at the Hyatt Regency in Austin and three (3) nights at the Tapatio Springs Resort in the Texas Hill Country (based on two persons sharing a room with private bathroom) • The services of a professional Tour Director exclusive to HAA throughout the tour; gratuities to waitstaff, guides, tour director, and drivers • Professional local guides for San Antonio excursion • Lecture and docent-led tours at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center • Welcome cocktail dinner reception at the Tapatio Springs Resort on arrival • Wine or beer included with all dinners at Tapatio Springs Resort • Catered lunch on April 7, 2024, includes a full bar • Private chartered river barge on San Antonio Tour; specially-reserved eclipse viewing site, eclipse viewing glasses, meals as set forth on the itinerary • Transportation by private motor coach, guided excursions and tours, baggage handling, all service charges and taxes, entrance fees • Pre-trip notes including a Travel Guide • Customized luggage tags and name tags.

Rates per Person

Land Program Cost (Double occupancy) \$5,690
 Single Occupancy (Limited availability) \$8,190
Limited Triple & Quad Occupancy Available, Please call for a quote

AUSTIN CITY TOUR PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

Double occupancy. \$585
 Single occupancy \$765
(Rates are based on a minimum of 10 guests.)

SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE

Los Angeles to Austin roundtrip. \$330
(As of May 2022 and subject to change)



AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 800-447-3560. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.



Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1

Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/texas-solar-eclipse-2024

Step 2

Click the Blue “Register Today” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



What to Expect

This expedition is designed for Harvard alumni and friends who are interested in learning and experiencing a total solar eclipse as well as the flora and fauna of the Texas Hill Country and the history and culture of Texas. The pace of walks will be leisurely. Average temperatures in Austin, San Antonio, and the Texas Hill Country will be approximately between 81° and 57° F. The accommodations and some excursions in this departure will be shared with the UCLA Alumni Association. The Harvard Alumni Association will have its own tour director, buses, lecture space, and eclipse viewing site. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, weather, and dust. To enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and anticipation and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas as well as urban areas are a must. There are a couple of relatively long drives in the Texas Hill Country (approximately 2 hours and a half), which are necessary for the chance to explore the superb wildflowers of Texas and for a visit to a Texas Ranch. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, boat (for some optional day excursions), and motorcoach. Travel is by boat (on the San Antonio river cruise) and by motorcoach.

PROGRAM NOTE: The Texas Hill Country will be a prime location to experience the Great American Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. We will provide an optimal viewing location to experience this phenomenon. Please keep in mind that because viewing the total solar eclipse will be weather dependent, there is always a chance that passengers will not be able to view it or view it only for a short period of time. Neither Royal Adventures nor the Harvard Alumni Association makes any guarantees as to the viewing of the total solar eclipse.



*Photos (Top to Bottom):
Bluebonnets,
Total Solar Eclipse,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.*

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