

SAN ANTONIO

THE LIST

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING WITH THE MOST ESSENTIAL THINGS TO SEE THIS MONTH



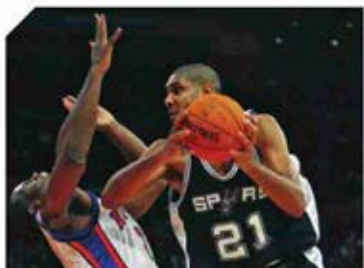
• **Mission San José** The Alamo is just one of the city's five 18th century Spanish Colonial missions, and mission San José is considered the queen of them all. Established in 1720 and restored in the 1930s, it shows visitors a slice of life 250 years ago. Don't miss the bilingual Mariachi mass every Sunday. nps.gov



• **NAO** Map a gastronomic route through Latin America and the Caribbean at NAO, the Culinary Institute of America's newest restaurant. Explore the ancient flavors of huitlacoche, nopales and poiche—paired with hip sips like the pisco sour—all expertly prepared by rising-star chefs. ciorestaurants.com



• **El Mercado** Bring an extra bag for the colorful ceramics and trinkets you'll find at El Mercado, a rambling indoor/outdoor Mexican market and gallery space. Sip margaritas and ogle the crowds at venerable Mi Tierra, where tinsel, lights and roving mariachi's make it seem festive all year round. visitsanantonio.com, mitierracafe.com



• **Spurs at AT&T Center** Score seats to see championship NBA Spurs Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili dunk, drive, pick and roll while Coach Pop rants and raves in nonstop action. Sit on the edge of your seat as they face their in-state arch rivals, the Dallas Mavericks, on Dec. 23. atcenter.com



• **Valero Alamo Bowl Game** Kick it at the 20th Anniversary Valero Alamo Bowl game (Dec. 29) at the massive Alamodome, cheering on the two top college teams from the Big 12 and Pac-12 Conferences. A free-for-all Fan Zone opens before the game with yards of food booths, souvenirs and games. valerokabowl.com



• **McNay Art Museum** McNay houses a majestic permanent collection of Gauguin, van Gogh, O'Keeffe, Picasso, Pollock and Renoir that winds through the 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival residence. The visual feast continues as Estampas de la Raza spotlights colorful Latino printmakers. mcnayart.org

• **Sea World San Antonio** Spend a day with Shamu, sea lions, otters, dolphins, sharks and even Big Bird (there's a Sesame Street Bay of Play for children), and check out feeding times as well as tours like the Behind the Scenes and the Ultimate Seafari Tour. This month, the park gets decked in boughs of holiday with strolling musicians and holiday sculptures. seaworldparks.com



• **Brackenridge Park Golf Course** Get into the swing of things at one of the city's 40+ golf courses. The Brackenridge Park course, the state's oldest municipal course, was just restored to its original 1916 layout created by legendary course designer A.W. Tillinghast. dancitygolftrail.com



• **The River Walk** This month, colorful lights and a holiday spirit add to the already iconic draw of the River Walk, a historic canal lined with vibrant bars, bustling restaurants and romantic nooks that wind along the river. Sing along with choral groups as they float by on barges. thesanantonioriverwalk.com