

New Braunfels German Influence

Willkommen zu New Braunfels! You may notice the truly unique ambiance that attracts so many tourists to New Braunfels. This is attributed to the historic German influences that molded the town more than one hundred and sixty years ago! One of the first things to catch your eye might be the German writing on the water tower, which says “Gruene.” Gruene is a town incorporated into the greater New Braunfels area. The water tower is a beacon that reflects the rich German Culture and welcomes people to this vibrant German town. German heritage and Texas lifestyle coexist.

Need a break from the scorching Texas heat? Go ahead and float the Comal or Guadalupe Rivers. Just imagine the relaxation and escape from your worries as you dip your toes in the natural spring water and drink a cold one. You may see towering water slides against the beautiful town backdrop; these are some of the most thrilling rides at the country’s number one waterpark, Schlitterbahn, or “slippery road” in German.

If floating down one of the rivers that surrounds New Braunfels is not for you, visit the Gruene historical district, some historical German houses preserved by the New Braunfels Conservation Society, or take a walking tour of the city. Perhaps you’re in the mood for nature? Well, New Braunfels has you covered. Explore Natural Bridge Caverns or Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch, take the miniature train ride around Landa Park arboretum, or just enjoy the Texas Hill Country landscape.

If you notice a lot of lederhosen and polka music, it must be early November, and time for the annual Wurstfest. This annual festival celebrates the German heritage of New Braunfels with lots of sausage, beer, German music and dance, and carnival rides and games. You’ll feel like you’ve taken a trip to Deutschland when you see everyone in traditional German attire!

It’s also very likely that you’ll spot some folks in cowboy boots and western wear. Although this is fairly common in Texas, there’s a good chance in this town that they are going out to two-step at the famous Gruene Hall, Texas’ oldest dance hall. Gruene has been around since German farmers first settled the area in the 1840’s. It is guaranteed that after experiencing these attractions you will have built up a hunger. Try some of the authentic German restaurants in the area for delicious wurst, streudel, schnitzel, and of course, plenty of beer in your stein.

The unique ambiance of New Braunfels is thanks in large part to the German heritage. Enjoy the many tourist attractions that are offered and come back soon! Auf wiedersehen!

Source(s):

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Wurstfest (2010). The Wurst Story. Retrieved on November 23, 2010 from <http://www.wurstfest.com/>

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