

Transportation

The Gunter Hotel is located at 205 East Houston Street in downtown San Antonio, Texas. Telephone: 1.888.627.9001

San Antonio International Airport

Taxis, rideshare options, and public transit services are available. VIA bus tickets may be purchased at the far west end of Terminal B at arrivals. Catch VIA bus Route 5 to downtown San Antonio. Ride to the St. Mary's & Pecan St. stop. It will be a 4-minute walk to the Gunter. The total cost is less than \$3 one way. Average drive time from the airport to downtown is 20 minutes.

Directions

From the airport, follow the signs to 281 South (also I-37) to downtown. Entering the downtown area, take the Commerce St. exit. Turn right on Commerce and proceed to Navarro. Turn right on Navarro. Turn left on Travis. Turn left on St. Mary's and the Gunter will be on your immediate left.

Gunter Valet Parking

Those driving in or choosing to rent a car should be aware that valet parking rates may be higher than expected. The Gunter has offered us a 25% discount per day for in and out privileges for hotel guests attending the tournament.

Public Parking Facilities

Numerous city parking lots are available adjacent to the Gunter, offering both covered and uncovered parking. Prices range from \$10 per day to approximately \$32 per day.

Getting Around San Antonio

Explore the City with VIVA at viainfo.net

Catch VIVA Missions to tour the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site Missions. Board VIVA Culture to experience the Pearl, the Southtown Arts District, the King William Historic District, and the Broadway Cultural Corridor. Or take in San Antonio's scenic downtown on the VIVA Centro. From \$1.30!

Go Rio Cruise Service

For a scenic tour along the Riverwalk, try a Go Rio cruise. Stopping continuously at over 39 stops along the Riverwalk, the Go Rio service is priced from \$20.50 for a 1-day pass, or \$14.50 for a narrated cruise. See goriocruises.com for info.

Sheraton Gunter Hotel

The Sheraton Gunter Hotel is situated directly across the street from the famed Riverwalk and 2 blocks from the Alamo. Under the ownership of the Sheraton organization, the hotel underwent an immense renovation. Rooms feature city views of major downtown landmarks. The hotel offers in-room and casual dining from Market on Houston, a heated outdoor pool, free Wi-Fi, live jazz at the famous Bar 414, valet or self-parking, and optional access to the private Sheraton Club lounge.

Unique History & San Antonio Heritage

The Gunter Hotel was opened in 1909, but its history goes back much further. The Gunter's location was initially a stage coach stop called the Frontier Inn, which opened in 1837 following the Battle of the Alamo.

Will Rogers, Max and Buddy Baer, and Mae West were guests. John Wayne stayed at the Gunter while filming "The Alamo." When Harry S. Truman was president, he stayed in the 12th floor presidential suite. Fascinating historical photos and memorabilia are on display at the hotel's Gunter Museum.

Gunter Crystal Ballroom

The second-level Crystal Ballroom, extending to the Gunter Terrace overlooking Houston Street, will serve as the playing room for the Texas Backgammon Championships. The ballroom space and pre-function area total over 11,000 sf and feature soaring ceilings and superb views of the many chic restaurants and hotels lining Houston Street.

Dining & Sightseeing

The Gunter's location on Houston Street is also home to some of San Antonio's finest dining establishments.

Within a one-block radius you can choose from Bohanan's, The Palm, Acenar, Rebelle, Range, Starbucks, La Panadería, Texas de Brazil, Dorrego's, and Voodoo Doughnut; plus endless restaurant and bar options can be found on the Riverwalk. Stroll to the Alamo or take the trolley to visit Mission San Jose. Take a dinner cruise down the San Antonio River or a horse drawn carriage ride around the Alamo and Alamo Plaza. Don't miss our updated restaurant reviews, recommended dining options, must-see historical attractions, and day trip suggestions detailed in our "Where to Eat" and "What to See" pages on our website at www.texasbackgammon.com.



Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Gunter Hotel

Reserve by Wednesday, January 17, 2024

The historic Gunter Hotel is offering discounted group rates to all tournament participants. These rates are valid from Saturday, February 3rd through Thursday, February 15th, 2024. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 to guarantee these special rates.

Gunter Rooms

\$145 Per Night Group Rate

A group rate of \$145 per night for single or double occupancy is available for all tournament participants. Special requests are subject to availability. Make your reservations early!

Gunter Suites

\$195 Per Night Group Rate

Reserve one of seven of the Gunter's suites at a superb price. Suites range from 400 sf and feature high ceilings and separate sitting areas. All suites are subject to availability and must be booked well in advance. Reservations for suites may only be made directly through Bill Riles. To reserve a suite at our group rate, tournament participants must contact Bill Riles by phone at 281.703.9304 or by email at billriles@sbcglobal.net.

Reserve Your Room Online

Visit www.texasbackgammon.com/hotel

Go to www.texasbackgammon.com/hotel. Enter your check-in and check-out dates and hit, "CHECK AVAILABILITY". The system will allow you to reserve your choice of rooms.

Reserve Your Room By Phone

Call 1.888.999.2089

To make your reservations by phone, call 1.888.999.2089 and be sure to mention the "BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT" to take advantage of our discounted group rate.

San Antonio Weather

Bring Your Swim Suit!

Weather in early February is normally sunny and dry. Expect highs near 80 and lows around 60 degrees. Make plans to relax and enjoy yourself at the Gunter's wonderful heated pool.



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 7-11, 2024
www.texasbackgammon.com



SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

10:00 am Registration Begins & Announcements
10:00 am UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 1
11:15 am UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 1
12:30 pm UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 2
01:45 pm UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 2
03:00 pm UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 3
04:15 pm UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 3
05:30 pm Dinner Break
06:45 pm Play Resumes
06:45 pm UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 4
08:00 pm UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 4
09:15 pm UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 5
10:30 pm UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 5

Thursday, February 8, 2024

09:30 am Registration Continues & Announcements
10:00 am Fiesta Mixed Blitz Begins (Continuous Entry)
10:00 am Cinco Doubles Begins (Continuous Entry)
10:00 am Seniors Begins (Continuous Entry)
10:00 am AP DMP Trny & Speedgammon Begin (Cont. Entry)
10:00 am UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 6
11:15 am UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 6
12:30 pm UBC USA Championship, Group A, Round 7
01:45 pm UBC USA Championship, Group B, Round 7
03:00 pm Longhorn Classic Masters Jackpot First Start
04:00 pm Alamo Classic Limited Jackpot First Start
05:00 pm Dinner Break
06:00 pm Play Resumes in All Events
08:00 pm UBC USA Championship Semi-Finals

Friday, February 9, 2024

09:30 am Registration Continues & Announcements
10:00 am **UBC USA Championship Final**
10:00 am Fiesta Mixed Blitz Continues
10:00 am Cinco Doubles & Seniors Continue
10:00 am AP DMP Tournament & Speedgammon Continue
11:00 am \$1500 Super Jackpot Draw - Flexible Start
01:00 pm Longhorn Classic Masters Jackpot Second Start
02:00 pm Alamo Classic Limited Jackpot Second Start
03:00 pm Texas Classic Advanced Jackpot Begins
05:00 pm **Dinner Break Poblano's All-You-Can-Eat Buffet**
07:00 pm Play Resumes in All Events & Announcements
07:15 pm GP Championship Division 1st Rnd (Rebuys follow)
07:30 pm Intermediate Division 1st Rnd (Rebuys follow)

Saturday, February 10, 2024

10:00 am **Breakfast Tacos at Gunter Crystal Ballroom**
11:00 am Geoffrey Parker Championship Division Continues
11:15 am Intermediate Division Continues
11:30 am Novice Championship Begins

Schedule of Events Cont.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 Cont.

12:00 pm Fiesta Mixed Blitz Continues
12:00 pm Cinco Doubles & Seniors Continue
12:00 pm AP DMP Tournament & Speedgammon Continue
05:00 pm Dinner Break
07:30 pm Play Resumes in All Events
07:30 pm **Calcutta Auction-Final 8 in Championship Div.**
08:00 pm Fiesta Mixed Blitz Playoff Begins

Sunday, February 11, 2024

10:30 am Play Resumes in All Events
11:00 am Fiesta Mixed Blitz Playoff Continues
11:00 am Cinco Doubles Continues
12:30 pm Seniors, Speedgammon, & AP DMP Trny Continue
01:30 pm Geoffrey Parker Championship Division Final
01:30 pm Intermediate Division Final
01:30 pm Novice Championship Final
02:00 pm \$1500 Super Jackpot Final
02:00 pm Longhorn Classic Masters Jackpot Final
02:00 pm Alamo Classic Limited Jackpot Final
02:00 pm Texas Classic Advanced Jackpot Final
05:00 pm **Awards Presentation by Geoffrey Parker Games**
05:30 pm Super Bowl LVIII Party (Pinkerton's BBQ buffet, beer, & wine at the Gunter Hotel Presidential Suite #1215)

Main ABT Tournament

USBGF Membership
Required to Enter

Geoffrey Parker Championship Entry: \$400 Rebuys: \$240 Return: 90% Side Pools: \$100/\$200

Open to all. Single elimination with progressive consolation & progressive last chance. 11pts in Main, 9pts in Consolation, & 5pts in Last Chance. Clocks mandatory at 2m/12s settings.
The winner of the Championship Division will be awarded a voucher for a custom board made by Geoffrey Parker Games.

Intermediate Division Entry: \$200 Rebuys: \$100 Return: 85% Side Pools: \$50/\$100

Open to players not deemed of Championship level & subject to eligibility approval. Single elimination with progressive consolation & progressive last chance. 9pts in Main, 7pts in Consolation, & 5pts in Last Chance. Clocks preferred at 2m/15s.

Calcutta Auction

Calcutta Auction of Final 8 in Championship Winner Take All Return: 90%

The final eight undefeated Championship Division players will be sold individually in a Calcutta auction starting on Saturday at 7:30 pm. Bidding will start at \$200 per player and will increase in \$50 increments. Players have the option to buy back 40% of their interest from their purchaser.

Side Events

\$1500 Super Jackpot

Entry: \$1500

Return: 95%

Open to all players. Single elimination. 17pt rounds. Clocks mandatory at 2m/12s settings. Maximum of 16 entrants.

Malcolm Davis Longhorn Masters Jackpot

Entry: \$620

Return: 90%

Side Pool: \$150

High equity single elimination jackpot. 13pt rounds. Clocks mandatory at 2m/12s settings. Win your entry \$ in Texas Draw!

Alamo Classic Limited Jackpot

Entry: \$310

Return: 90%

Side Pool: \$75

Open to all players not deemed of Masters level & subject to eligibility approval. 9pt rounds. Single elimination. Clocks preferred at 2m/12s settings. Win your entry \$ in Texas Draw!

Texas Classic Advanced Jackpot

Entry: \$100

Return: 90%

Side Pool: \$50

Open to all players not deemed of Limited Jackpot level & subject to eligibility approval. 7pt rounds. Single elimination.

Novice Championship

Entry: \$50

Return: 90%

Open to players with commensurate skill level & subject to eligibility approval. 7pt/5pt double-elimination format.

San Antonio Cinco Doubles

Entry: \$200/Team Return: 90% Team Pool: \$100

Re-entries allowed with carry-over team side pools. 5pt rounds. Single elimination. Clocks mandatory at 3m/15s.

Ace Point DMP Tournament

Entry: \$10

Return: 90%

\$100 Added Prize

Open to all players. Unlimited re-entries. 1pt rounds. Single elimination. \$100 AP Backgammon Shop credit added prize.

Seniors

Entry: \$50

Return: 90%

Single elimination tournament open to all players over 50 years of age. Continuous entries and re-entries. 7pt rounds.

Speedgammon

Entry: \$50

Return: 90%

Single elim. Continuous entries and re-entries. 5pt rounds. Clocks mandatory at 2m total bank time/10s settings.

Fiesta Mixed Blitz

Entry: \$50 Champ. /\$25 Other

Return: 90%

5pt rnds. 7pt playoff final. Maximum of 16 single-elim brackets. Winners go to 4 rnd. playoff. Qualifier bracket winners receive \$100 if a Championship Division player, and \$75 if other.

UBC USA Championship

The UBC USA event employs the UBC format and scoring methodology—the top two point winners, plus the two remaining best average PR players, advance to the semifinals. 100% return. All matches will be transcribed and streamed. Sanctioned BMAB event. The winner's prize includes airfare, room, and entry fees for the 2024 UBC Contender Tournament.

Players' Dinner & SB Party

Sumptuous Private Buffet at Poblano's

We will be honoring players in attendance and would love to have you join us on Friday, Feb. 9 from 5pm to 6:30pm at Poblano's, located across the street from the Gunter ballroom. Tickets may be purchased at the tournament.

Super Bowl LVIII TV Party

Watch the game at our private Director's party! Multiple TVs plus Pinkerton's BBQ buffet with main course, side dishes, desserts, beer, wine, & soft drinks will be provided. Party tickets may be purchased for \$40 at the tournament.

Tournament Staff

Directors & Committee Members

Directors: Bill Riles and Tara Mendicino

Executive Staff: Jesper Carlsson and Jeff Proctor

Associate Staff: Jason Granstedt and Aviv Ziva

Technical & Marketing Director: Tara Mendicino

Commentary Director: Justin Nowell

Transcription Director: Aviv Ziva

Eligibility Advisory Committee: Carol Joy Cole, Tara Mendicino, Rory Pascar, and Jesper Carlsson.

Rules Committee: To be announced at the tournament.

Contact Us

Contact Bill Riles for any questions or assistance.

Cell Phone: 281.703.9304 E-Mail: billriles@sbcglobal.net

Reminders

Bring your own board & digital clock!

Pre-registration mail-in deadline is Thu., Feb. 1 (postmark). Walk-in entries accepted. Fees paid on-site must be in cash.

Visit Us Online & Watch Live!

Visit www.texasbackgammon.com

Quintuple streaming with live commentary & transcription may be viewed on youtube.com/backgammongalaxy and youtube.com/aplive