



2018 H-E-B ALAMO HALF
Full Course Description Version
Includes the Locations and Background Information
on many of the numerous, historical Landmarks
located along the Alamo Half Route

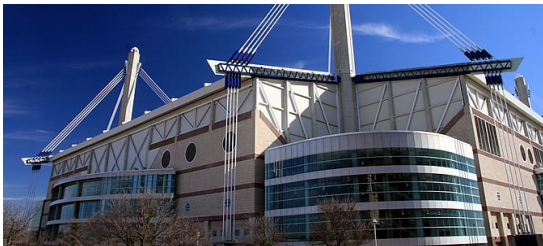


“Knowing about what you’re seeing as you run will make your experience a whole lot more meaningful!”

The H-E-B Alamo Half is truly the ‘flagship’ event of the H-E-B Alamo Run Fest! We are excited to announce our race course for the 6th Anniversary running of San Antonio’s premier ‘home grown’ half marathon on Sunday, April 15, 2018. This is very simply, a one-of-a-kind race course that you won’t find in any other event in San Antonio. In fact, several of its attributes make it a one-of-a-kind half marathon route nationally! Full of historic landmarks, Texas and military history, and cultural icons that are all part of the ‘fabric’ that is San Antonio and ‘Military City, USA’, the Alamo Half marathon route will be a real treat for you, especially when you take a few minutes to learn about some of what you will be seeing and experiencing along the course.

One of the Alamo Half’s true ‘stand out’ features is that for the third year in a row, close to 6 miles of its route will enter onto and through historic Fort Sam Houston - part of Joint Base San Antonio - passing numerous historic, military landmarks!! Plus, as it has each year since the event began in 2013, you’ll get to experience the unique-to-this-event excitement of your own ‘victory’ lap, to the cheers of thousands, onto the red carpeted Finish Line at the center of the floor, **INSIDE** the Alamodome!

The H-E-B Alamo Half begins at 7:15 am on Sunday morning, April 15, 2018...



The VENUE...The Alamodome is our grand and wonderful venue for the start and finish of all Alamo Run Fest events. Standing tall as one of the most prominent features on the downtown San Antonio skyline, the Alamodome has been ‘home’ to the Alamo Run Fest Finish line since the event’s inception in 2013. Home to the NBA’s San Antonio Spurs for the first 10 years after it opened in

1993, the Alamodome has hosted many of the biggest names in music including George Strait, Paul McCartney and many more. It has also been host to some of the country’s most prestigious sporting events including the NCAA Final Four Men’s Tournament in both 1998 and 2008, the annual Valero Alamo Bowl, the NBA Finals in 1998, multiple NFL football games, international soccer matches and many, many more. The NCAA Men’s Final Four Tournament will return to the Alamodome again in 2018 with the Alamo Run Fest being the first event to follow it, less than two weeks later!

We share this because we think it’s important. Think on this for a minute and it will make your running ‘journey’ on April 15th, even more memorable. For the majority of us, when we’ve attended a major concert or sporting event at a large domed stadium like the Alamodome we are spectators up in the stands watching the ‘stars’ of the show or game down on the floor or field. During the Alamo Run Fest **YOU** are the ‘star’ at this sporting event. It’s **YOU** on the floor, with live pictures streaming on four big, brand new video walls of **YOU** crossing the Finish Line!

The RACE COURSE

Following the presentation of the colors, the singing of our National Anthem, an opening prayer and with the majestic spires of the **Alamodome** reaching almost 300 feet into the Texas sky as a backdrop, the blast of multiple muskets from ‘Battle of the Alamo-era reenactors’ will signal the start of the race from the Dome’s newly renovated North Plaza. You’ll very quickly begin to see and experience the history along the route as you start north on Hoefgen Street, immediately passing by the renovated, historic landmark that is **Sunset Station**. Built in 1902, Sunset Station served as San Antonio’s main passenger depot terminal for the Southern Pacific Railroad until 1970 when AMTRAK took ownership of the station, which it operated until 1996 before closing. During its 93 years of operation, Sunset Station serviced millions of passengers.



The race course then turns left onto Commerce Street passing through the **St. Paul Square Historic District**, where most of the buildings were built in the early 1900’s. From here you have a straight shot west on Commerce to the heart of downtown San Antonio. When you pass in front of **Rivercenter Mall** you’ll be crossing over an extension of the San Antonio River that is part of the famous **Paseo del Rio** (San Antonio River Walk). As you approach Alamo Street, to your left you’ll see the beautiful 65 foot high, monumental abstract sculpture **La Antorcha de la Amistad** (The Torch of Friendship) that was presented to the City of San Antonio in 2002 as a gift from the Mexican government.

The course now turns right onto Alamo Street where you’ll soon pass by the most famous landmark in Texas, the historic **Alamo Mission of San Antonio** (originally known as *Misión San Antonio de Valero*).



The history of Texas is intimately tied to this old Spanish mission and the siege and battle that took place here between February 23 and March 6, 1836. What many folks don’t realize is that during the very same time period the Battle of the Alamo was taking place, 170 miles away in another part of Texas, the Declaration of Texas Independence was being created and signed on March 2, 1836. The Alamo was a scene of incredible bravery and courage, much of it written about in hundreds of books over the years. It was this battle

that became the rallying cry of “*Remember the Alamo*” at the Battle of San Jacinto in late April of that same year, which eventually lead to Texas independence.

You’ll then pass by the 60’ tall marble and granite **Alamo Cenotaph Monument** – also known as *The Spirit of Sacrifice* - in Alamo Plaza. This beautiful memorial was dedicated in 1940 to all those who died defending the Alamo. The inscription at its base tells its story... “*Erected in memory of the heroes who sacrificed their lives at the Alamo, March 6, 1836, in the defense of Texas. They chose never to surrender nor retreat; these brave hearts, with flag still proudly waving, perished in the flames of immortality that their high sacrifice might lead to the founding of this Texas.*”

If you’ve never been to the Alamo before, we encourage you to take some extra time before or after your run to visit this most sacred of Texas shrines.



(You can see a copy of the **Texas Declaration of Independence** on a special page of our website that you can access [here](#).)

As you prepare to turn left onto Houston Street you'll have a wonderful view of the old **Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse** which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Then just two blocks west, down Houston Street as you turn right onto Jefferson Street, to your left you'll see the famous **Buckhorn Saloon and Museum**. The Buckhorn is well worth a visit and tour sometime before or after the race!

You're now heading north on Jefferson where you'll pass by beautiful **Travis Park**, originally named Travis Plaza back in 1870 - in honor of Alamo commandant William Barret Travis – when it was deeded over to the City of San Antonio by Samuel Maverick. This is also where you'll pass the first of 10 water aid stations located on the Alamo Half route. Just one block further north you'll pass by **Veterans Memorial Park** on your left, which also includes the **Vietnam War Memorial**. As you look straight



ahead you'll be treated to a head on, frontal view of the beautiful and grand architecture of the **Tobin Center for the Performing Arts**. Originally built in 1926 and called the Municipal Auditorium, the newly remodeled and renamed center is home to Ballet San Antonio, the San Antonio Symphony and a host of music, theatric and cultural events. The route takes a slight right turn here onto Auditorium Circle allowing you to fully take in even more of the Center's architectural beauty.

The route continues straight as the road name transitions to 'Avenue A' as it crosses Lexington Avenue, before a taking a slight left turn onto McCullough Ave. This is where you will cross over the main part of the **San Antonio River and 'Museum Reach' section of the River Walk** for the first of four times. The course then takes a right turn onto North St. Mary's Street. One block later you'll turn right onto Brooklyn Avenue where you will again cross over the San Antonio River. If you look to your left at this point you'll have a great view of the **Brooklyn Boat Locks and Dam** on the river.

The Alamo Half route then turns left onto Avenue B for several blocks before turning left onto West Jones Avenue. Here you will again cross the San Antonio River just prior to passing by the beautiful **San Antonio Museum of Art**. This historic structure was built in 1874 and originally housed the **Alamo Brewing Company of San Antonio**. Anheuser Busch purchased the brewery in 1885 and it became **the Old Lone Star Brewery** who's Lone Star Beer became known as "**The National Beer of Texas**". Prohibition shut the operation down in 1920, ending its run as a brewery. It then transitioned to housing the **Lone Star Cotton Mills**. The building was eventually purchased by the San Antonio Museum Association on 1970. It's a big, long, beautiful building to view, so knowing a bit of its history you'll have some running time to mentally visualize what took place here during its 143 year history as you pass by. This is also where you'll pass the second of the many water stations along the route.

The course takes a right turn off of Jones onto Camden Street where you will pass over the San Antonio River for the 4th and final time. You'll then turn right onto Newell Ave. and then left onto Ave. A and enter the Pearl Brewery District, another area with a long, storied history. As another of San Antonio's historic breweries, the 'City Brewery', was established in 1883. In 1887 the first bottles and barrels of

Pearl Beer rolled off its production line. By 1916 it had become the largest brewery in Texas. Following the end of Prohibition the Pearl Brewery reopened for a long run, before eventually shutting its doors in 2001, ushering in a new phase of restoration for the Pearl District. Now known as ‘The Pearl’ it has transitioned into a beautiful area full of upscale and fun restaurants, cafes and bars, trendy retail businesses, and the weekend Pearl Farmers Market. As you run north on Ave. A through the Pearl you’ll pass close by the Culinary Institute of America and the ‘Pearl Stables’, built in 1894 and originally used to house the Brewery’s draft horses. After numerous uses through the years, it has been beautifully remodeled and is now used for upscale social gatherings and more. The Pearl is certainly worth a visit before or after your run, but knowing the history of this area as you run through it should add a cool perspective to your Alamo Half ‘journey.



The course then turns right onto E. Grayson, eventually crossing Broadway and then heads gradually up towards the entrance to historic Fort Sam Houston. As you close in on the southwest corner of FSH, you’ll pass water station #3 about 3.75 miles onto the route. Just before you get to mile 4, the route turns left onto Fort Sam Houston through what is referred to as the “Quad Gate”. Now you’re in for a whole different experience as you get to experience six miles of the Alamo Half course as it passes onto one of not only the most scenic, but one of the oldest and most historically preserved military posts in the United States.

Historic Fort Sam Houston (FSH)

The first structure you’ll see as you enter is the **Quadrangle**, the oldest structure on Fort Sam, built in 1876. You’ll take a quick left in front of the Quad and head west eventually looping around Staff Post road passing by 15 beautiful government quarters originally built in the 1880’s. The best known of those you’ll pass on this stretch is known as “**Pershing House**”, named for one of its most notable past residents,



General of the Armies John “Black Jack” Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force on the Western Front in World War I.



The route eventually loops back up to the front of the Quad where you will then turn left to enter the Quadrangle through the main ‘Portal’ and run through the center of this historic structure. Laid out with beautifully manicured lawns, majestic old Oak trees and the historic clock tower at its center that is surrounded by beautifully restored old cannons, it’s almost like entering a different world for the short time you’re inside the old fort-like rock walls of the Quad. You’ll even be treated to seeing lots of freely wandering peacocks and ducks that you’ll pass by as you run through this

historic landmark! The history of Quadrangle is a story in itself and well worth checking out when you can.

After exiting out the back of the Quadrangle the route will head north on Liscum and then west on Wilson Way and north again on Stanley Road, entering the area of Fort Sam known as **‘Cavalry and Light Artillery Post’**. The neighborhoods and buildings in this area were constructed between 1905 and 1912 making Fort Sam the largest Army post in the country until World War II. You’ll pass by water station #4 along this stretch.

Continuing along the route here, there are various street name changes, even though you are not making hard left or right turns on many of them. You’ll have long stretches of road paralleling beautifully manicured, wide open parade grounds and more.

While on Artillery Post Road heading east, the route crosses New Braunfels Avenue and then enters the area known as **‘New Post’**. Eventually the route reaches the highest and northernmost point of the

Alamo Half route as it makes a long arcing curve around in front of **“Old BAMC” (Old Brooke Army Medical Center)**, a majestic looking building built in 1937. For its many years of operation it served as one of the top military hospitals in the country, taking care of tens of thousands of our sick and wounded military service men and women before its role as a medical center ended in 1996, when the new BAMC was built.



The route now begins to head back south west along Stanley Road where along the way you’ll pass by the **US Army Medical Department Center and School**. Today,

Fort Sam is known as the **‘home’ to Military Medicine**. Health care professionals in all branches of military service – Army, Navy, Air force, Marines and Coast Guard – come to Fort Sam Houston for various levels of training and education. To your right you’ll see the **Main Post Flag Pole** and just beyond that, a granite monument that is the **‘First Flight Memorial’**. Military aviation was born near this marker when the first military flight in Army Aircraft #1 was made by a Lieutenant Benjamin Foulois on March 2, 1910! His pioneering efforts led to the development of the Army Air Corps which eventually became the Air Force in September of 1947.

The route continues back along the long open spaces of the central parade grounds, eventually turning south on New Braunfels Avenue and exiting FSH with a right turn onto E. Grayson for the final sections of the run back to the Alamodome.

While on FSH you’ll experience awesome views, pass by numerous pieces of military ‘hardware’ (tanks, howitzers, helicopters, canons, etc.) and have some of the longest stretches of open running (without turns) along beautiful parade grounds, that you’ll ever experience in a road race! You’ll pass a total of four water aid stations while on Fort Sam and be supported by hundreds of military race volunteers cheering for you and supporting you, plus some live music provided by military bands, along the way.



The Final Stretch ‘Home’ to the Finish Line

After exiting FSH, just before the 10 mile marker, you pass water station #8 as the route heads back west on E. Grayson Street. The Alamo Half route joins the Alamo 10K route prior to the left turn the course takes leading south on Austin Street for a little more than a mile. From here it’s easy to see you are heading for home as you’ll be able to see the tall spires of the Alamodome in the distance begin to get closer. Along the way you’ll pass water station #9. Eventually there will be a slight left turn you’ll make off of Austin St. onto Brooklyn, then turn right on Burnett heading south. Next is a left turn onto Nolan Street where you’ll pass under the train tracks and then up to a right turn onto Cherry Street, heading



south on the wide open road. This is also where the Alamo 5K joins the route (at the junction of Burnet and Nolan) heading to the Finish Line. After turning onto Cherry Street you’ll pass by the last water station (#10) right next to the San Antonio Fire Department’s ‘Fire Station #1’. The Alamodome is now well within your vision as you close in for the final mile to the finish.

The course turns right from Cherry onto Montana Street and heads west, passing underneath the Alamodome’s

North Plaza, where you started your race earlier, and then takes a left on the IH-37 access road along the west side of the Alamodome, headed south. You’re almost there.

At the south end of the Alamodome you’ll turn left into its south parking lot entrance (Lot A) and then take a left to descend to the southeast tunnel where you’ll enter onto the floor of the Alamodome. As you exit the tunnel you’ll be greeted by the cheering crowds, wild announcers, live music and your first view of the Finish Line you’ve journeyed almost 13.1 miles now to cross over. But first you’ll complete your ‘victory lap’ around the dome floor ‘track’ before you come onto the red carpet approach to the Finish Line at center floor! That’s right, we lay out a red carpet just for you! The Finish Line is yours! Now it’s time to collect your cool Finisher’s medal, grab some cool refreshments and food, relax and enjoy your accomplishments, cheer other runners in, and have fun with all that’s going post-finish with the awards presentations, Expo and more. And remember, wet, hot or cold outside, your finish is guaranteed to be in ‘perfect weather’ inside the Alamodome!



As you depart at the end of the event, we hope you’ll have a new rallying cry for your many days of running ahead and lots of great memories...

*“Remember the
Alamo Half!”*



alamohalf.com
alamorunfest.com

