

Best Place to Hang All Day

HOTEL EMMA
San Antonio

▷ The sprawling Hotel Emma isn't just a place to crash in style; it's also home base for exploring San Antonio's Pearl District, a vibrant 16-block area once home to the legendary Pearl Brewery. You can spend a full day without leaving the Pearl's boundaries and still consume everything from croissants to tacos to snapper collars. Here's my favorite way to do it. —A.K.

You can't beat the location (or the vibes) of the Roman and Williams-designed Hotel Emma.

9 A.M. Grab a cup at **Local Coffee**, where you'll hang with, yes, the locals.

9:30 A.M. Two former Thomas Keller acolytes run **Bakery Lorraine**, which means the croissants and morning buns are legit. Grab some macarons for an afternoon sugar fix.

10:30 A.M. If it's the weekend, it's farmers' market time in the Pearl. Remember: Dried chiles make good souvenirs.

12 P.M. Chef Johnny Hernandez's **La Gloria** specializes in the street food of Mexico. Order some old standards (like

tacos) along with lesser-known snacks (like *panuchos* and *tlayudas*).

2 P.M. Pop into the Texas outpost of the **Culinary Institute of America** to book a cooking class.

4 P.M. Stoke the appetite with a spin around the Pearl,

courtesy of the BCycle bike share.

5 P.M. It's happy hour! Grab a Gold Export Lager (brewed on the premises) at **Southerleigh** brewery. Pair it with fried snapper throats (i.e., fish collar).

8 P.M. After a quick recharge in your

room, go to Steve McHugh's **Cured** for dinner. Make sure you go big on the charcuterie.

10:30 P.M. Head back to the Emma's dramatic vaulted-ceiling bar, **Sternwirth**, for a nightcap...or two. Then it's off to bed (luckily, it's not far).