

## 4PLAY

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**THE SINGLE FILE**  
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## A big change means chaos, cleaning and moving on

The writer Thomas Wolfe once famously wrote, "You can't go home again."

He should have added, "But at least you can always rent another one."

For many of us single folk, we regularly move from the time we turn 18 and leave for college until the time we finally plunk down a grotesque amount of money for a home. In between, we scour the apartment listings for

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more square footage, hardwood floors and washer/dryer hookups, all the while knowing at any moment we could pack up and leave.

And that's what I'm about to do.

I have spent the past few days boxing up my entire life. I have taken down photos and artwork from the walls. I have begun to clean out corners. Then, as quickly as I arrived, I will be gone.

To a renter like me, ownership is a relatively foreign concept. Yes, I own books, CDs, too many clothes and pairs of shoes, and I like to think I own my cat, though she probably disagrees. But real-deal real estate remains as distant and unknowable to me as the lost city of Atlantis or the Texas Panhandle: Far away and a little scary.

You'd think I would be up for settling down. After all, I am the same kid who pledged never to leave San Antonio. Of course, I broke that promise and left for college in Houston. But I always loved knowing this elusive idea of "home" waited for me, just in case.

I have developed the same connection to the apartment where I now live, and I am sad to leave it. Within its walls, the usual suspect list of events unfolded over the last 3½ years: love, lust, sadness, elation and some great parties.

I do not feel prepared to do this. I am disorganized in my packing, and the dust bunnies under my bed have started their own briar patch.

But what move would be complete without utter chaos and confusion? Sure, you may end up throwing your dirty sheets and clean pairs of underwear into the same cardboard box at 3 in the morning. That's what a move is all about — throwing out everything you don't need. It's about detonating your old life. BOOM. Now you have no choice but to start a new one.

Moves are sometimes the best way to force a change without getting married or having a baby. And yet a move could get you closer to where and who you want to be.

So Wolfe was right. You can't go home again. But you can make new ones.

So take only what you can carry, turn in your key and put the other key in your car ignition.



KARLA HELD | 210SA CONTRIBUTOR

Kayaking allows you to navigate rivers such as the Frio River on something more challenging than inner tube.

# Change course in a kayak

**L**ooking to get on the river but need more of a challenge than passively sitting in an inner tube with a prune-skinned butt?

Leave tubing to the novice crowd and get those arm muscles in gear for an afternoon of kayaking.

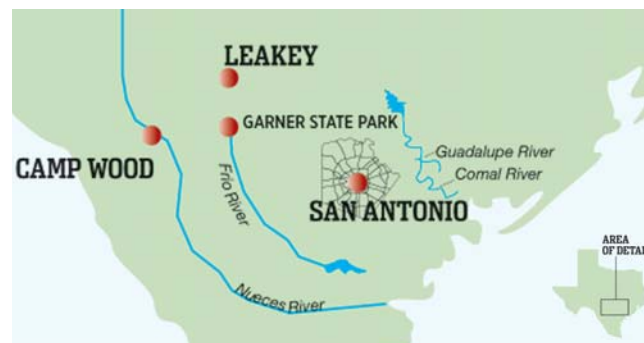
"Tubing is way too slow," New Braunfels native Dave Sanders said. "Once you get through the rapid, you're done, the fun's over. . . . With kayaking, you go through the rapids and can come back for more. You can practice surfing the waves or even a roll if you are so ambitious. Even if you crash and burn and fall out of your kayak, you're still getting wet and having a good time."

Kayaking is a good way to cure boredom on the river. If you do get bored, just pick up the pace, and you'll get to the bar that much quicker. You'll even have time to stop along the way for a picnic or a rope-swinging session.

Many outfitters that rent tubes rent kayaks as well.

Outfitters aren't limited to the Guadalupe or Comal Rivers. Some popular rivers to kayak are found farther afield than the good ol' Guad.

If you head west on FM 337 in Real County, the most



### OTHER LINKS

- » **FOR KAYAK INSTRUCTION:** [KayakInstruction.org](http://KayakInstruction.org) in San Marcos
- » **FOR MORE INFORMATION** about Texas rivers and accommodations: Texas Hill Country River Region, [thcrr.com](http://thcrr.com)
- » **FOR A WEALTH OF INFORMATION** about rivers in Texas and beyond: Southwest Paddlers, [southwestpaddler.com](http://southwestpaddler.com)

sparingly populated area of the Hill Country, you'll find a jewel of a river with a limestone bottom — the Frio.

Consider camping at Garner State Park, which is Texas' oldest and most-visited state park.

If you continue through winding curves on FM 337 from Leakey to Camp Wood, you can enjoy the sparkling azure waters of one of the best-kept secrets of the Hill Country — the Nueces River. It's a great river for beginner kayakers, and the rapids don't go above Class I on a

normal day. (Rapids are rated from Class I to Class V).

The Medina River is a mere 45 minutes north of San Antonio and yet another clean, spring-fed river perfect for kayaking. The San Marcos and Upper Guadalupe Rivers also are great rivers to explore on kayak and enjoy clean waters.

Next time you find yourself on the river, consider asking about kayaking options while the rest of the herd sticks with the status quo.

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### THE RUNDOWN

#### KAYAK RENTAL

One-person kayaks generally cost about \$20-\$30 for the day. Two-person kayaks generally cost \$30-\$40 per day. Shuttle services cost \$2-\$15, depending on the outfitter.

#### NUECES RIVER

» Marilyn and Tom Stoner's Clear Creek Outfitters on the Nueces River is a great place to start. They are located 40 miles north of Uvalde in Camp Wood. They rent kayaks and all the gear and provide shuttles and expert advice. (830) 597-6400;

[toms@hilconet.com](mailto:toms@hilconet.com); [kayakthenueces.com](http://kayakthenueces.com)

» Chalk Bluff Park. You also can camp here. [chalkbluff.com](http://chalkbluff.com)

#### FRIO RIVER

» Happy Hollow, [onthefrio.com](http://onthefrio.com). Contact super-friendly and helpful couple Jerry and Melissa Bates at (830) 232-5266; [happyhollow@hctc.net](mailto:happyhollow@hctc.net) for more information.

» Frio River Star Rentals, [leakeystar.com](http://leakeystar.com)

#### UPPER GUADALUPE — CLOSE TO SAN ANTONIO

» The closest outfitter to San Antonio is the Guadalupe Canoe Livery, U.S. 281 at Guadalupe River Bridge, [guadalupecanoe.com](http://guadalupecanoe.com)

#### SPRING BRANCH AREA

» Wendall Lyons is a conscientious outfitter located in the Spring Branch Area north of San Antonio. Camping also is an option. [bigfootcanoes.com](http://bigfootcanoes.com); (830) 885-7106

#### LOCAL KAYAK ORGANIZATIONS:

» One great resource in the San Antonio area is the Alamo City Rivermen, [alamocityrivermen.org](http://alamocityrivermen.org).

» Saturday Paddlers meet in San Antonio for breakfast every Saturday and then head out to a river. Contact coordinator Joline Moore, [riverjomo@aol.com](mailto:riverjomo@aol.com).