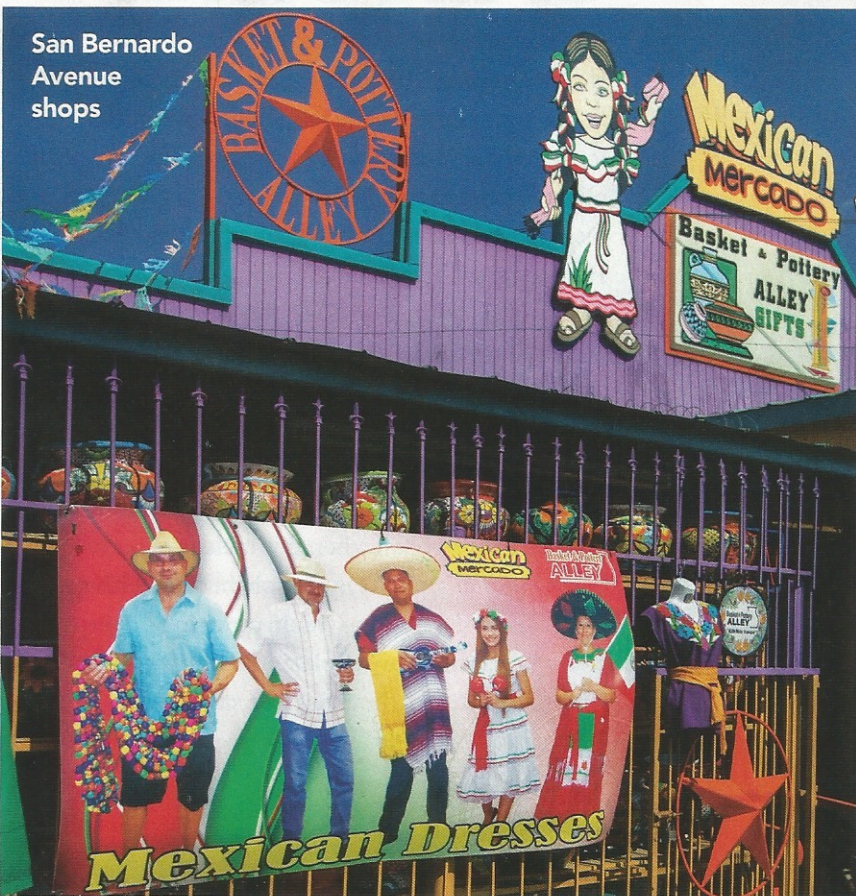


[DAY TRIP]

Laredo

Laredo is one of the nation's busiest land ports and front door for trade (particularly with Mexico), lending it an intriguing cross-cultural identity. Spanish and English are both spoken freely in shops and restaurants, and the baseball team Tecolotes de los Dos Laredos is the only Mexican League team that plays many home games in the United States. — *Cynthia J. Drake*

The Perfect Day



San Bernardo Avenue shops

9 A.M. Start your day with French toast or breakfast tacos from the Zaragoza Grill in **LA POSADA HOTEL**, located on the banks of the Rio Grande in a 1916 building. (800) 444-2099; laposada.com.

10 A.M. Just try to avoid singing "The Streets of Laredo" while taking a historical walking tour of San Agustín Plaza with **WEBB COUNTY HERITAGE FOUNDATION**. (956) 727-3480; webbheritage.org.

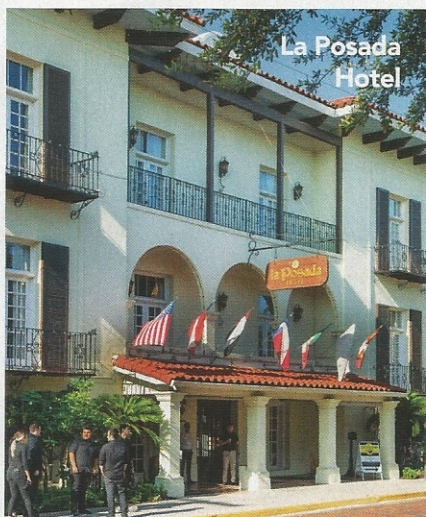
1 P.M. Ring the buzzer to enter the humble 1924 store/diner **LA INDIA PACKING COMPANY**, which is redolent of warm spices. For lunch, order the signature chicken mole and a mug of rich hot chocolate. (956) 723-3772; laindiaherbsandspices.com.

3 P.M. Browse the shops on **SAN BERNARDO AVENUE** for a huge and varied selection of imported *hecho en México* products at reasonable prices, such as talavera tiles and pottery.

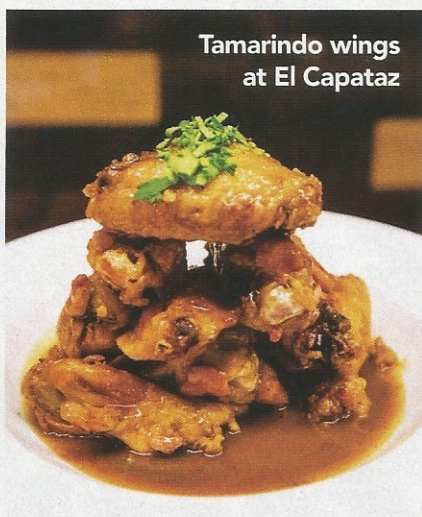
5 P.M. Stroll the plaza during **CAMINARTE**, a free art walk the first Friday of every month starting at the Laredo Center for the Arts. visitlaredo.com.

7 P.M. Laredo's food scene is churning out innovative fusion flavors for U.S. and Mexican visitors alike. **EL CAPATAZ** combines southern Mexican and other regional cuisines to create tamarindo wings and nopalito salmon. (956) 723-7400; el-capataz.com.

9 P.M. Finish your evening with a local specialty: a *michelada* from **LA LAGUNA**, featuring an eye-popping amount of candies and other fixings emerging from an oversized goblet. (956) 568-1980; lalagunamariscosandsushi.com.



La Posada Hotel



Tamarindo wings at El Capataz

Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol.