Find locally owned Veracruz All Natural in the South Austin neighborhood

LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC IN AUSTIN
PAGE 14

EXPLORE THE CITY ON A BUDGET
PAGE 20

EXPERIENCE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
PAGE 58
Voted one of the Top Three Dining Experiences in Austin

HULA HUT
AUSTIN, TX

ALOHA Y’ALL!

Voted one of the Top Three Dining Experiences in Austin

FIVE MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN
3825 Lake Austin Blvd
Austin, TX 78703
hulahut.com · (512) 476-4852

Bring us this coupon and get a FREE QUESO
one per visit
After a $150 million expansion and reimagination, Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa redefines luxury. With four championship golf courses, a multi-tiered poolscape, incomparable views of the Texas Hill Country and more, the resort offers unparalleled experiences just 20 minutes from downtown Austin. The possibilities are endless at this brand-new, upscale resort.
EXPERIENCE AUSTIN AT A HIGHER LEVEL

Austin's Premier Hop On/Hop Off or Single Loop Tour
Climate Controlled Bottom Deck

Visit DoubleDeckerAustin.com
or call 512-596-2925
For locations, times, and to book your tour.
Connect With Us
GET SOCIAL

Stay on top of Austin’s ever-changing scene anytime, anywhere — online, on your phone or on a tablet.

On the Web
Explore visitaustin.org to discover what locals and other visitors love about Austin. Find hotel deals, book tours and listen to music by local musicians. Receive vacation inspiration and must-hit happenings from Austin by signing up for our monthly eNewsletter at visitaustin.org.

Written and curated by Visit Austin, our informative blog shares the things that visitors rave about and locals can’t get enough of. Read about Austin’s best tours, delicious brunch spots, day trips, outdoorsy to-dos, festivals, Spotify playlists and tons of other Live Music Capital of the World® staff picks. Find it at visitaustin.org/austin-insider-blog.

Austin Field Guides
This collection of guides is a resource for anyone interested in the African-American, Hispanic and Latino, LGBTQ and Asian American Pacific Islander influence on the Austin experience. Learn more at visitaustin.org/lgbtq and visitaustin.org/cultural-heritage.

Visit Austin Sticker Pack
Austin is filled with must-dos, must-eats and must-sees, and these stickers highlight the very best. With options for food, fun and even bats, this constantly expanding sticker pack includes everything you need for when you visit Austin. Download the free Visit Austin sticker pack in the iMessage App Store or the Google Play store.

Big Deals
Get discounts at local shops, restaurants and attractions with Austin Insider Deals. For details, go to visitaustin.org/deals.

Twitter
@VisitAustinTX @MusicAustin

Facebook
visitaustintexas

Instagram
@VisitAustinTX @MusicAustin

Pinterest
visitaustintx

YouTube
visitaustintx

---

On the Cover
Veracruz All Natural at Radio Coffee & Beer. Photo by Marisa Muldoon.

On the Web
Explore visitaustin.org to discover what locals and other visitors love about Austin. Find hotel deals, book tours and listen to music by local musicians. Receive vacation inspiration and must-hit happenings from Austin by signing up for our monthly eNewsletter at visitaustin.org.

Written and curated by Visit Austin, our informative blog shares the things that visitors rave about and locals can’t get enough of. Read about Austin’s best tours, delicious brunch spots, day trips, outdoorsy to-dos, festivals, Spotify playlists and tons of other Live Music Capital of the World® staff picks. Find it at visitaustin.org/austin-insider-blog.

Austin Field Guides
This collection of guides is a resource for anyone interested in the African-American, Hispanic and Latino, LGBTQ and Asian American Pacific Islander influence on the Austin experience. Learn more at visitaustin.org/lgbtq and visitaustin.org/cultural-heritage.

Visit Austin Sticker Pack
Austin is filled with must-dos, must-eats and must-sees, and these stickers highlight the very best. With options for food, fun and even bats, this constantly expanding sticker pack includes everything you need for when you visit Austin. Download the free Visit Austin sticker pack in the iMessage App Store or the Google Play store.

Big Deals
Get discounts at local shops, restaurants and attractions with Austin Insider Deals. For details, go to visitaustin.org/deals.

Twitter
@VisitAustinTX @MusicAustin

Facebook
visitaustintexas

Instagram
@VisitAustinTX @MusicAustin

Pinterest
visitaustintx

YouTube
visitaustintx

---

On the Cover
Veracruz All Natural at Radio Coffee & Beer. Photo by Marisa Muldoon.
AUSTIN’S PLAYGROUND
FOR SOPHISTICATION

Enjoy exquisite dining, a pampering spa and state-of-the-art event spaces while being only steps away from the city’s famed music scene, celebrated cuisine, expansive convention center and diverse artistic lifestyle.

BOOK YOUR STAY NOW

Fairmont.com/austin | 512 600 2000 | 101 Red River Street  Austin, TX 78701
**On Our Radar**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Austin is on year round, with exciting events that celebrate everything from live music and the arts to local culinary creations and seasonal holiday fun.

### JANUARY

**FREE WEEK**
Red River Cultural District, freeweek.do512.com
Hundreds of local bands participate in this week of free live music that encompasses venues all over downtown.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING FESTIVAL**
Huston-Tillotson University, mlkcelebration.com
March from The University of Texas at Austin to Huston-Tillotson University to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy.

### FEBRUARY

**AUSTIN FASHION WEEK**
Various Locations, fashionweekaustin.com
Showcase of fashion designers, photographers, hair stylists, makeup artists and models from around the state of Texas.

**AUSTIN MARATHON & HALF MARATHON**
Downtown Austin, youraustinmarathon.com
Nearly 20,000 participants, 40 bands and a course through Austin’s scenic neighborhoods make this race a must-hit for everyone.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
Various Locations, visitaustin.org/black-austin
Events around town, including film screenings and ceremonies, celebrate people and moments in Austin’s African-American history.

**CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO**
Emo’s, sambaparty.com
Celebrate one of the biggest Brazilian Carnaval celebrations outside Brazil. Experience authentic Brasileiro-style samba, costumes and wild abandon.

### OUTSIDER FESTIVAL
Various Locations, outsiderfest.org
This multidisciplinary art festival brings together Austin’s LGBTQ community and showcases film, performance art, music, visual arts and more.

### MARCH

**ABC KITE FEST**
Zilker Park, abckitefest.org
The nation’s oldest kite festival features hundreds of kites in the air, kite-flying contests, food, games and more.

**AUSTIN URBAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**
Auditorium Shores, urbanmusicfestival.com
Some 15,000+ fans converge on Auditorium Shores for this festival celebrating R&B, neo-soul and hip-hop music.

**CLYDE LITTLEFIELD TEXAS RELAYS**
The University of Texas at Austin, texassports.com
This premier track and field event brings together top athletes at various levels from around the world.

**RODEO AUSTIN**
Rodeo Austin, rodeoaustin.com
One of the state’s premier rodeos features ProRodeo events, a family-friendly fair, daily concerts and more at Rodeo Austin.

### APRIL

**ART CITY AUSTIN**
Republic Square, artallianceaustin.org
Nearly 200 national artists, local restaurants, two music stages and art activities make this one of the city’s favorite festivals.

**AUSTIN FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL**
Auditorium Shores, austinfoodandwinefestival.com
Join top chefs, sommeliers and winemakers from across Austin and the nation for a three-day epicurean adventure unlike any other.

**AUSTIN REGGAE FEST**
Auditorium Shores, austinreggaefest.com
Reggae Fest features three days of reggae, along with more than 50 vendors selling food, plus arts and crafts.

**CAP10K**
Congress Avenue to Auditorium Shores, cap10k.com
Texas’ largest 10K race, and one of the nation’s top runs, draws some 10,000 serious and not-so-serious runners.

For more Austin events, go to visitaustin.org/events.
FUSEBOX FESTIVAL
Various Locations, fuseboxfestival.com
This hybrid arts festival champions adventurous works of art in theater, dance, film, music, literature, visual and culinary arts.

MOONTOWER COMEDY FESTIVAL
Paramount Theatre & Other Locations, moontowercomedyfestival.com
Moontower Comedy Festival, presented by the Paramount Theatre, brings the funniest comics to Austin.

MOTOGP™ GRAND PRIX OF THE AMERICAS
Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com
MotoGP™ joins the roster of racing events at the COTA track with a three-day series.

OLD SETTLER’S MUSIC FESTIVAL
Tilmon, oldsettlersmusicfest.org
Central Texas’ signature music event features Grammy-winning Americana, arts and crafts, camping, food and libations.

MAY
CINELAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Various Locations, cinelasamericas.org
Catch screenings of contemporary films and videos from Latin America (North, Central, South America and the Caribbean) and the Iberian Peninsula.

AUSTIN ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
Various Locations, aaaafilmfest.com
This festival promotes Asian and Asian-American cultures and experiences through media arts, showcasing cinema and the creativity of Asian-American artists.

BLUES ON THE GREEN
Zilker Park, acl-radio.com
Pack a blanket and the family and make your way to Zilker Park for this summertime tradition. Held monthly from May to August, Austin’s largest free concert series welcomes performances by top local bands.

MAY
AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL
Fiesta Gardens, austinchronicle.com/hot-sauce
One of the world’s largest hot sauce festivals attracts as many as 10,000 spectators each year.

AUSTIN PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL
Fiesta Gardens & Downtown Austin, austinpride.org
Don’t miss the festival and parade down Congress Avenue during the largest annual LGBTQ advocacy and fundraising event in Central Texas.

JUNE
AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK FESTIVAL
George Washington Carver Museum, aabookfest.com
This free annual literary event showcases new works by and about African-Americans.

ATX TELEVISION FESTIVAL
Downtown Austin, atxfestival.com
The first festival devoted to television features premieres of new series, current hits and cult favorites.

JULY
H-E-B AUSTIN SYMPHONY JULY 4TH CONCERT & FIREWORKS
Auditorium Shores, austinsymphony.org
The Austin Symphony hosts an annual concert of patriotic music culminating in a spectacular fireworks display over Lady Bird Lake.

ZILKER SUMMER MUSICAL
Zilker Hillside Theater, zilker.org
Pack a picnic and come enjoy the free summer musical at Zilker Park, Thursdays through Sundays, beginning around sunset.

JULY
WILLIE NELSON’S 4TH OF JULY PICNIC
Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com
This annual event features a star-studded lineup, headlined by Nelson himself, and a fireworks display at the end of the night.

AUGUST
AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL
Fiesta Gardens, austinchronicle.com/hot-sauce
One of the world’s largest hot sauce festivals attracts as many as 10,000 spectators each year.

AUSTIN PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL
Fiesta Gardens & Downtown Austin, austinpride.org
Don’t miss the festival and parade down Congress Avenue during the largest annual LGBTQ advocacy and fundraising event in Central Texas.

BAT FEST
Congress Avenue Bridge, roadwayevents.com
Enjoy live music, children’s activities, a costume contest and more in celebration of Austin’s Congress Avenue bats.
AUSTIN FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL
Various Locations, capcitybff.com
Recognizing black filmmakers, the Capital City Black Film Festival provides a stage for burgeoning talent in the heart of Austin.

OUT OF BOUNDS COMEDY FESTIVAL
Various Locations, outofboundscomedy.com
Comedians from around the country head to Austin for this festival showcasing the best in improv, sketch and stand-up.

SEPTEMBER
ALL GENDERS, LIFESTYLES AND IDENTITIES FILM FESTIVAL (AGLIFF)
Various Locations, aagliff.org
The oldest and largest LGBTQ film fest in the Southwest is also the largest LGBTQ cultural event in Austin.

AUSTIN MUSEUM DAY
Various Locations, austinmuseums.org
Organized by the Austin Museum Partnership, this day features free exhibitions and activities at participating Austin-area museums and cultural sites.

FANTASTIC FEST
Various Locations, fantasticfest.com
The largest genre film festival in the U.S. specializes in horror, fantasy, sci-fi, action and more from around the world.

OKTOBERFEST
Scholz Garten, austoberfest.com
Oktoberfest celebrates German heritage with beer, sausage, live music and bowling at the oldest continuously operating tavern in Texas.

PECAN STREET FESTIVAL (FALL)
Historic Sixth Street, pecanstreetfestival.org
Musicians, food vendors, artists and crafters turn Sixth Street (historically called Pecan Street) into a lively fall street fair.

TEXAS CRAFT BREWERS FESTIVAL
Fiesta Gardens, texascraftbrewersfestival.org
This annual event displays the thriving Texas beer community and invites spectators to try the best of local craft beer.

WATERLOO MUSIC FESTIVAL
Carson Creek Ranch, waterloofest.com
This independent festival celebrates Austin music culture with a weekend of nationally and locally renowned jam bands.

CHUY’S CHRISTMAS PARADE
Congress Avenue, chuyparade.com
A procession of giant balloons, marching bands, vintage cars, celebrities and floats usher in the season of giving.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR
Various Locations, east.bigmedium.org
More than 70 Eastside studios open their doors for the public’s viewing and purchasing pleasure.

FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX
Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com
Three days of F1 racing, camping, live music events and more, including headlining performances by international acts.

LEVITATION
Red River Cultural District, levitation-austin.com
Enjoy four days of live music in downtown Austin, including psychedelic light shows.

DECEMBER
ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Palmer Events Center, armadillobazaar.com
Shades of old Austin are reflected with eclectic gifts and local entertainment from more than 160 artists and merchants.

AUSTIN MUSIC VIDEO FESTIVAL
Various Locations, amvfest.com
AMVFest celebrates Austin’s long-standing music video heritage, with screenings, awards, parties, panels and workshops around town.

AUSTIN’S NEW YEAR
Auditorium Shores, austintexas.gov
This family-friendly event celebrates the New Year with visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers and other festive performances.

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG & DOWNTOWN STROLL
Auditorium Shores, downtownaustin.com
Join hundreds of carolers in front of the Capitol as the tree is lit, plus enjoy live music, art and shopping.
Pick Your

PERFECT WEEKEND

We’ve created exciting two-day itineraries for families, history buffs and outdoor enthusiasts. Take your pick or mix and match.

In town for the weekend? We’ve got great ideas for must-dos, whether you’re a visiting family, history lover or outdoor adventurer.

FAMILIES

Fuel up for the day with breakfast at The Omelettry, known for its cheesy omelettes. Then, play it smart at the Thinkery, Austin’s interactive children’s museum located in the Mueller neighborhood. And be sure to stop by the playground across the street. Have lunch at Torchy’s Tacos, where creative tacos include a fried avocado version. In the afternoon, watch the colorful peacocks that strut around the beautiful gardens of Mayfield Park. Or, board the amphibious Austin Duck Adventures vehicle at the Austin Visitor Center and zoom off on a sightseeing tour of the city before splashing into Lake Austin. For dinner, grab a cheeseburger at Hat Creek Burger Company, outfitted with a whimsical play yard for the kids.

Start your second day with a pancake special like the salted caramel-chocolate flavor at Kerbey Lane Cafe. Then, take a ride around Zilker Park aboard the Zilker Zephyr miniature train and blow off steam at the park’s playground. Head to story time at BookPeople, the largest independent bookstore in Texas, or the modern Austin Central Library, with reading porches overlooking Lady Bird Lake. Treat the kids to a true Austin dining experience at food truck park The Picnic, where they’ll love the crunchy chicken tenders from The Mighty Cone. Spend the afternoon putting around the nostalgic Peter Pan Mini Golf or dive into the historic Deep Eddy Pool. For dinner, post up on the patio at Shady Grove and fill up on comfort foods like truckstop meatloaf.

HISTORY BUFFS

Stay at the restored Driskill Hotel, built in 1886 by cattle baron Jesse Driskill as a frontier showplace. Order the Texas-shaped pecan waffle for breakfast at the hotel’s 1886 Café & Bakery. Then, join a guided downtown walking tour led by a local expert from the Austin Visitor Center. Or, immerse yourself in Lone Star State history at the Texas State Capitol, which offers free tours. Have lunch at Texas Chili Parlor and order yours Texas-style (without beans). Next, head to Zilker Park and

University of Texas
stroll around the lush UMLAUF Sculpture Garden and Museum. Or, visit the Harry Ransom Center on The University of Texas at Austin campus and view cultural archives like the first photograph and the Gutenberg Bible. For dinner, try the wienschnitzel at Scholz Garden (founded in 1866). Toast the night with drinks at the historic Cloak Room, a basement speakeasy.

Begin day two with huevos rancheros at Cisco’s, a family-run diner open since 1950. Next, see the final resting place of notable citizens at the Texas State Cemetery. Then, spend time at the inspiring LBJ Presidential Library. For lunch, order the King Combo sandwich at Avenue B Grocery & Market, Austin’s oldest grocery store. In the afternoon, explore The University of Texas at Austin campus, home to an impressive collection of museums that include the Blanton Museum of Art. Also, check out the nearby Bullock Texas State History Museum. Dine on grilled steak at The Original Hoffbrau Steakhouse and end your evening with a craft cocktail at the Roosevelt Room.

OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Stop in at Mozart’s Coffee Roasters on Lake Austin for pastries and a house-roasted cup of joe. Then, hike along the Barton Creek Greenbelt, passing scenic cliffs. For lunch, order the Happy Taco, filled with shredded chicken and sautéed mushrooms, at the original Tacodeli on Spyglass Drive. Afterwards, get out on the water at Lady Bird Lake, where you can rent stand-up paddleboards from the Texas Rowing Center or kayaks from the Rowing Dock. Plan to make happy hour at Alta’s Cafe and enjoy a glass of wine on the patio overlooking Lady Bird Lake. From April through October, snag a spot on the Bat Bridge to see swarms of Mexican free-tailed bats fly out into the sunset sky from beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge. Then, head to the beachy patio at Perla’s to indulge in upscale seafood. After dinner, listen to live music in the Oak Garden at Güero’s Taco Bar.

Gear up for your second day with an organic fruit smoothie from JuiceLand. Then, take off to Emma Long Metropolitan Park on the shores of Lake Austin, where you can hike the Turkey Creek Trail or pedal a mountain bike path. For lunch, try the Texas-style fare at Jack Allen’s Kitchen 360, such as the slow-braised beef barbacoa enchiladas. Afterwards, hit up the Austin Bouldering Project, the world’s largest bouldering gym. Cool down next door at Austin Eastciders and Friends & Allies Brewing, a cidery and brewery that share a patio. Have dinner at The Brewer’s Table, known for its lagers and wood-fired dishes like the smoked rabbit carnitas.

Find more itinerary ideas and plan your perfect Austin stay at visitaustin.org/itinerary-ideas.
**LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD®**

From rooftops and poolsides to nightclubs and restaurant patios, you’re always on a musical journey in Austin.

Whether it’s an up-and-coming indie act or a legendary rock group, musicians who come to Austin know they’ll be playing to discerning and dynamic crowds. Here are some of the best places to join in and see live music of all stripes.

**THE BIGGER, THE BETTER**

We love our local acts, but Austin also plays host to shows by some of the biggest names in the music biz. Often, their shows are preceded by a taping at ACL Live at The Moody Theater. Named for the long-running Austin City Limits television music series filmed here, this venue is one of the best in the city, if not the entire country. Continuing the tradition of ticketed events and exclusive tapings, ACL Live hosts artists of every genre. Its smaller venue, 3TEN ACL Live, provides a high-quality venue for legacy bands and more intimate acts, as well as themed dance parties. Nearby is the historic Paramount Theatre, established in 1915. This staple of Austin’s performing arts scene packs its calendar with everything from singer-songwriters to comedians and theatrical performances. With a scenic view of the lake and skyline, the Long Center showcases world-class touring dance companies, renowned musicians and annual Austin events. During the summer, the Long Center hosts free Concerts in the Park, with the Austin Symphony performing on its lawn. As one of the area’s largest arena-style venues, Frank Erwin Center serves many purposes. It is home to The University of Texas at Austin men’s and women’s basketball games, and is the premier venue for large public and private events. High-caliber artists like Fleetwood Mac, Lady Gaga and Madonna have been featured. Located on a hilltop just a short drive away, the One World Theatre can be counted on for more personal performances by iconic acts in a picturesque setting. Located at Circuit of The Americas™, the Austin360 Amphitheater presents popular and contemporary concerts throughout the year.

**I LOVE ROCK ‘N’ ROLL**

Austin isn’t afraid to rock and we show it nightly at venues around town. Grab a cold one at the iconic Mohawk music venue in the Red River Cultural District. This multi-tiered bar featuring both an indoor and an outdoor stage hosts bands throughout the week and has seen the likes of Iggy Pop, The Black Keys and Spoon. Just across the street, Stubb’s Bar-B-Q is much more than a restaurant. Its rustic outdoor amphitheater is always jamming, and the indoor stage hosts artists long before they hit the big time. Find everything from EDM to full-blown outdoor rock concerts at Empire Control Room & Garage, a bar that has emerged as an edgy downtown live music staple. Head to Austin’s East Side for a show at the Historic Scoot Inn, recently renovated and with a bigger, better sound system for everything from brass to banjos. Or if you’re looking for something a little grungier, Hotel Vegas and Volstead Lounge often join forces for underground rock shows and up-and-coming
local bands. Once a down-and-dirty live music venue, Emo’s has cleaned up and grown into a popular venue for cutting-edge indie acts.

EVERYBODY GETS THE BLUES

Before Austin was rock and before it was indie, it was home to some serious blues. The famous Antone’s is one of the can’t-miss spots when you’re visiting Austin. Here you can hear music every night and there’s not a bad seat in the house. Blue Monday is a weekly affair at Antone’s, with a rotating cast of blues players. Pop into the on-site Big Henry’s record store and discover vinyl treasures. The soulful Skylark Lounge may be a bit off the beaten path, but the moody ambiance, eclectic patio and close-up shows keep the place packed every night. Every Monday, King Bee hosts a blues jam with various artists, and serves up both craft cocktails and homemade pizza. With red leather banquettes and a dance floor, the live music at C-Boy’s Heart & Soul will transport you to another era. The club features funk, disco and soul bands, with some Americana thrown in for good measure. The no-frills Sahara Lounge has a hopping dance floor on Friday Ladies Nights, frequent concerts and Africa-themed nights.

1 If you’re into music, chances are you’ve heard of SXSW®. Promising music discovery at its most excellent, bands both known and unknown from all over the world play in nearly every venue in the city in March.

2 Hip-hop, dance and rap headline the bill at Austin’s JMBLYA, an all-day May festival that’s newly emerging on Austin’s festival scene.

3 Also in May, the Hot Luck Festival combines live music with chef-driven food experiences.

4 For two weekends in October, the Austin City Limits Music Festival takes over Zilker Park with big-name bands, food trucks, craft beer and fest fashion.

5 LEVITATION brings all musical stylings, from punk to metal to psych, to a variety of the city’s clubs in November.
JAZZ IT UP

Austin has a small but mighty jazz scene. The Elephant Room is everything a jazz cave should be — a dark, exposed-brick basement where the real spotlight is on the musicians; sip a martini and snap those fingers. Relative newcomer Parker Jazz Club brings a modern approach, featuring sultry singers and jazz combos, along with a grand wine selection. Although Monks Jazz Club doesn’t have its own brick-and-mortar, they pop-up in unique spaces around the city with an intimate listening room vibe.

KEEPIN’ IT WEIRD

Austin often defies labels, and so do these music venues. Find everything from tribute bands to theme nights to LGBTQ-focused concerts at the wacky and wonderful Cheer Up Charlie’s. The regular Middle School Dance Parties and Neon Rainbows country nights are especially popular. Stay Gold channels the ’70s with sparkly gold lounge chairs and music that spans all genres, from old school DJs to yacht rock. The legendary Continental Club on South Congress has been hosting live music for 60 years. This iconic stage hosts a proverbial musical roulette, and it’s often the site of surprise celebrity performances. The circus is in town all year round at the Carousel Lounge, a colorful carnival-themed establishment.

LISTEN IN

Located in the middle of The University of Texas at Austin campus, Cactus Cafe is one of Austin’s quintessential musical traditions. The small venue has hosted the Dixie Chicks, Brandi Carlile, Jerry Jeff Walker and countless other notable musicians before they were famous. A true musical gem, The Saxon Pub has been memorialized in many artists’ live recording sessions. Its low-key vibe and regular appearances by some of Austin’s greats make it a frequent destination for locals.

GONE COUNTRY

This may be Austin, but it’s still Texas, and that means Texas two-stepping. Don your boots and take a turn around the floor at The White Horse, with live music seven nights a week. Head up north to the Little Longhorn Saloon, the self-proclaimed best little beer joint in Texas, to see true honky-tonk acts. Mean Eyed Cat may have a smaller dance floor, but you can catch the Band in Black, a Johnny Cash cover band, on the regular. Recently featured on the cover of George Strait’s latest album, the Broken Spoke is an absolute must on your tour of classic country-and-western venues.
SIGN UP for AUSTIN E-NEWS

Stay in the loop on all things Austin, including exciting upcoming events and great trip ideas, with our free eNewsletter delivered monthly right to your inbox. visitaustin.org/enewsletter
Much like the live music scene, Austin takes eating and drinking very seriously. While visiting, you should too.

Austin’s culinary and cocktail scene has exploded over the past couple of years, allowing visitors to delight in a diversity of cuisines and experiences.

EATS

If you’re feeling fancy, make a reservation at Otoko, where the fish is flown in directly from Tokyo and put together in unexpected ways by punk rock sushi chef Yoshi Okai. Austin boasts an abundance of James Beard nominations, including those for the chefs at Olamaie (cooking modern Southern cuisine in a beautifully restored bungalow) and Emmer & Rye, which also got a nod from Bon Appétit for its seasonally influenced farm-to-table American fare. Another recent nominee is Yuyo, a colorful Peruvian restaurant in the heart of Austin serving creative cocktails and fresh ceviche. If you prefer French-inspired cuisine, Hopfields has a huge range of craft beer and French signatures like steak frites. Of course, Tex-Mex and barbecue are Austin staples, and Valentina’s Tex Mex BBQ achieves a perfect balance between both. For some Tex, try the pulled pork and sliced brisket. For a bit of Mex, smoked carnitas and cerveza beef fajitas are the winners. For true connoisseurs of Neapolitan pizza, Bufalina is your best bet. Their simple approach to pies is swoon-worthy, and with two locations you may even be able to skip the line. Lin Asian Bar + Dim Sum is the spot for soup dumplings and thoughtful dim sum. You may be surprised to find Evangeline Cafe tucked into a strip mall, but it’s true Cajun through and through, with gumbo, jambalaya and swamp rock most nights of the week. Gabriela’s Downtown patio is the place to enjoy Michoacan-inspired family recipes, plus margaritas and cocktails with fresh-squeezed juices. For a casual and classy dining experience, turn to Austin’s original Texas French Bread. It has the air of a European

FOOD TRUCK FEASTS In Austin, you could eat every meal from a food truck. BREAKFAST: Start your morning off with migas and a giant agua fresca from Veracruz All Natural. LUNCH: At noontime, try Micklethwait Craft Meats, where everything is made in-house. DINNER: In the evening, head to Dee Dee for Northern Thai street food like larb moo (spicy minced pork with roasted Thai chili powder). DESSERT: Dessert churros are a must, and the Churro Co. gets creative with a slew of tasty toppings. LATE NIGHT: For wee hours cravings, dig into the Southern Louisiana-inspired Cajun stylings of Baton Creole.
bistro, employing a simple approach to food by using ingredients sourced from local farms and house-baked goods. On the East Side, Launderette’s menu is eclectic and whimsical, guided by flavor, texture and color rather than any one specific influence.

**DRINKS**

Austin is always looking for a way to level up, and the cocktail, craft beer, cider and wine scenes epitomize that. Head to Bar Peached for draft cocktails and local craft beers, ciders and meads, along with Asian-Southern snacks. Pinthouse Pizza’s three Austin locations are always packed with beer lovers, and they’re especially recognized for their Electric Jellyfish IPA. Take a walk on the wild side with Domo Alley Gato, a funky East Austin patio bar focused on highballs and Japanese curry. Small Victory may be both small and easy to overlook, but their creative and craft cocktail selection is the stuff of legend. For an updated dive bar replete with Schlitz signs, Frazier’s Long and Low isn’t afraid to serve both Lone Star Beer and high-quality cocktails alongside their corn dogs and fried pickles. Aviary’s wine program is both respected and accessible, with wine groupings named after 1970s celebs. Drop by Whisler’s for their stellar old fashioned and spicy food from the Thai-Kun food truck, along with the semi-secret upstairs mezcal bar, Mezcalería Tobalá. If you want to go straight to the source, Austin Beerworks is one of the city’s most high-profile breweries, with easy-sippin’ beer for all preferences. Craft Pride features 50+ Texas-only taps and offers Via 313’s Detroit-style pizza for late-night noshing.

Head to the Texas Hill Country for an afternoon spent imbibing local spirits. Make a stop in Dripping Springs at the sprawling Deep Eddy Vodka. This distillery is kid- and dog-friendly, with outdoor games, benches and live music. Nearby is Treaty Oak Distillery & Brewery, named for a 500-year-old tree in Austin. Take the afternoon to tour the ranch and eat at the on-site Alice’s Restaurant. For cider fans, Argus Cider is just down the road. They specialize in dry, effervescent ciders and have a tasting room that’s open on the weekends. Also located in Dripping Springs, Family Business Beer Co. is a great family-friendly spot for food trucks, live music and craft beer. They also have a happy hour and do a Sunday jazz brunch with “spreemosas” and sangria. Make time for a tasting at William Chris Vineyards, arguably one of the pre-eminent wineries in Texas, set on a historic farm in Hye. For something a little closer to town, the Texas Reds and Whites Tasting Room features wines made from 100% Texas-grown grapes, along with cheese plates and snacks.

**TOP ATX-MEX**

If you leave Austin without tasting our superior Mexican food, you haven’t done your trip justice. 1 Sit outside at the colorful Licha’s Cantina and enjoy their $5 happy hour and Interior Mexican dishes. 2 Dip into a bowl of Bob Armstrong queso at Matt’s El Rancho. 3 Satisfy your need for sizzlin’ with fajitas at Maudie’s. 4 A frozen Chilanga margarita will soften the day on El Alma’s rooftop. 5 The James Beard-nominated Suerte will give you a new appreciation for masa.

Go to visitaustin.org/corazon for more delicious ideas.
AUSTIN ON A BUDGET

20 Free & Cheap Things to Do

Stretch your travel dollars with everything from free outdoor attractions and live music shows to affordable museums and food truck eats.

1. Looking for a true Austin experience? Make your first stop the Austin Visitor Center and get insider tips on the best Austin has to offer, hop on a tour, shop local items, or just hang out and let us plan your itinerary.

2. Bike or jog along the 10-mile Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake, which skims the shoreline and boasts picturesque views of Austin’s skyline.

3. View a stunning collection of modern art at The Contemporary Austin at the downtown Jones Center and get free same-day entry to The Contemporary Austin-Laguna Gloria, a Mediterranean-style villa with an outdoor sculpture park on the shores of Lake Austin.

4. Zip around town with an electric bike rental from MOD Bikes. Do some sightseeing on your own or explore using one of their themed routes.

5. Try two-stepping at Broken Spoke, an old-fashioned honky-tonk known for its chicken-fried steak and free dinner show, with live bands Tuesday through Saturday from 6-8 p.m.

6. Pack a picnic and amble over to Zilker Park, a 360-acre oasis in the heart of the city that’s home to Zilker Botanical Garden, UMLAUF Sculpture Garden and Museum, Zilker Hillside Theater and Barton Springs Pool, a spring-fed swimming spot that’s also great for people watching.

7. Explore more than 40 Austin institutions for free during the annual Austin Museum Day, held in late September. Join in guided tours and hands-on activities at museums that showcase art, culture, history, music, nature, science and more.

8. Hike or bike along the Barton Creek Greenbelt to reach Gus Fruh, a swimming hole known for its famed Urban Assault limestone rock wall that’s a favorite of climbers. Explore further to discover the hidden Twin Falls and Sculpture Falls areas.

9. Eating at a food truck park is an Austin must. Post up at The Picnic, offering plenty of shaded picnic tables and a variety of food trucks, including Hey Cupcake! and Coat & Thai.

10. Line up on the Bat Bridge to witness a staggering 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats fly into the sky from beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge, nightly from spring through fall. You can also get a great view from the Statesman Bat Observation Center or the deck of a sightseeing boat cruising Lady Bird Lake.
11 Little Longhorn Saloon is a staple of Austin’s honky-tonk country music scene, and is proud of never charging a cover. It’s also known for its six-days-a-week happy hour, with $1.50 Lone Star beers.

12 The free Elisabet Ney Museum is housed in what was once the German-born sculptress’ home and studio. The museum displays the largest collection in the world of Ney’s work, including portrait sculptures of notable 19th-century Texans.

13 With a soft spot for Texas musicians, Austin’s Waterloo Records frequently presents free in-store performances by emerging local musicians. Afterwards, spend some time flipping through the shop’s extensive selection of vinyl.

14 Take a hike up the stone steps of Mount Bonnell and get a panoramic view of the Austin area. This Lake Austin landmark has been a popular tourist destination since the 1850s.

15 Visit the free Brush Square Museums that include the Susanna Dickinson Museum (the only Anglo adult survivor of the Battle of the Alamo) and the O. Henry Museum, former residence of the famed short story writer.

16 Be sure to stop at the original flagship Whole Foods Market, where you’ll find restaurants, a beer and wine bar, a food truck, and free rooftop live music and events.

17 The huge Deep Eddy Pool is the state’s oldest pool. Catch Splash Party Movie Nights in the summer, when family-friendly films are projected on an inflatable screen poolside.

18 The free Zilker Summer Musical has been a fan favorite for 61 seasons. The selected musical runs from early July through mid-August, Thursday through Sunday nights. Grab a blanket and spread out under the stars at the Zilker Hillside Theater.

19 Try the tacos (rolled with handmade tortillas) and hand-shaken margaritas at Güero’s Taco Bar on South Congress, where its Oak Garden stage hosts free live music Wednesday through Sunday nights.

20 Stop in at the historic Texas Capitol Visitors Center and get a Lone Star State history lesson during a free guided tour of the handsome pink granite Texas Capitol, built in the late 1800s.

AMAZING MURALS Austin’s iconic murals are truly Insta-worthy. The colorful Greetings from Austin postcard is a must-shoot on South First Street in South Austin. Hi, How Are You features a big-eyed bullfrog named Jeremiah, originally drawn by outsider folk artist Daniel Johnston, near The University of Texas at Austin campus. The wildly popular I love you so much selfie magnet is painted on the wall of Jo’s Coffee on South Congress Avenue (expect a wait to take a snap). And the whimsical bread-and-butter-inspired You’re My Butter Half, perfect for posing sweethearts, is found in East Austin.
FOUR SEASONS IN AUSTIN

We’ve rounded up some of the best seasonal experiences in Austin, where the fun includes celebrating the holidays Texas-style, searching for spring wildflowers, cooling off in a summertime swimming hole and picking pumpkins at a fall farm.

WINTER

Austin is all about the holidays in wintertime. Marvel at the glittering lights displays at the Austin Trail of Lights in Zilker Park or Winter Wonderland at The Circuit. Head to the Whole Foods Market flagship store for Ice Skating on the Plaza. Find enchantment at Ballet Austin’s annual performance of The Nutcracker. Celebrate Austin’s New Year with midnight fireworks and kid-friendly things to do.

Dining alfresco is de rigueur in Austin, and wintertime is no exception. Snuggle up on the heated patios at Grizzelda’s (Tex-Mex cuisine) and Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill (American fare). Or nosh on ranch-style bar food around the cozy fire pit at Contigo.

Chilly days are perfect for indoor art adventures. At the Blanton Museum of Art, explore Ellsworth Kelly: Austin, a stone building with brilliantly colored windows. View a stunning collection of modern art at The Contemporary Austin or browse Mexican and Latin American artworks at the Mexic-Arte Museum.

SPRING

See spectacular blooms at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Or, make a day trip to Burnet, the Bluebonnet Capital of Texas, for the giant bluebonnet statue and April Bluebonnet Festival.

Get out on the water at Lady Bird Lake, where you can rent stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and canoes from the Rowing Dock and Zilker Park Boat Rentals. Or, take a guided tour with Austin Kayak Tours or Congress Avenue Kayaks.

Pups are welcome at Red Bud Isle, a popular leash-free park on Lady Bird Lake. Then, bring your furry friend to Yard Bar, a combination bar/restaurant complete with a dog park. Grab a craft brew for yourself and a biscuit for your buddy at Hops & Grain Brewing, where spent grains are used to make dog treats.

Catch a free live concert beneath the strung lights and sprawling pecan tree at Shady Grove. Every Thursday night from early April through mid-September, Austin City Limits Radio presents Unplugged at the Grove, featuring local musicians.

SUMMER

Beat the heat at one of Austin’s favorite swimming holes. Barton Springs Pool (open year round) in Zilker Park is the perfect urban spot for a refreshing dip and grassy hillside sunning. In the nearby Texas Hill Country, cool off under a 50-foot waterfall at Hamilton Pool.
Preserve or swim in an artesian spring at Jacob’s Well Natural Area (be sure to make reservations in advance for both).

Lake Travis is Austin’s largest lake, making it a busy boating destination. Take a pulse-pounding tour with Lake Travis Zipline Adventures to soar above the water and past limestone canyons.

Join the largest Independence Day celebration in Texas with the H-E-B Austin Symphony July 4th Concert & Fireworks at Auditorium Shores. The evening includes rousing patriotic music and a grand finale fireworks display over Lady Bird Lake.

Don’t miss the sunset show at the Bat Bridge, when more than one million Mexican free-tailed bats fly out from beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge (March–October). Austin celebrates its unofficial mascots every August with Bat Fest.

FALL

Head on down to the farm for some old-fashioned harvest fun. Explore a corn maze at Barton Hill Farms, pick out a pumpkin at Sweet Berry Farm or venture onto the Haunted Halloween Trails at historic Pioneer Farms.

Celebrate Central Texas’ German heritage at area Oktoberfest events. In Austin, raise a stein of beer and a bratwurst at AustOberfest. Fredericksburg’s Oktoberfest features authentic German music and cuisine just an hour from Austin. For Bavarian-style entertainment and food, join Wurstfest in New Braunfels.

Hundreds of makers, crafters and artists take over Austin’s Sixth Street Historic District in September for the annual Fall Pecan Street Festival. Peruse handmade wares and artwork while listening to live music and noshing on delicious local eats.

It’s easy to get in the team spirit when you’re in the middle of Texas Longhorn country. Join fellow fans in tailgating at one of the parking lots outside Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium before cheering on the beloved University of Texas at Austin football team.
EXPLORE AUSTIN’S DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS, WHERE YOU’LL FIND EVERYTHING FROM TRENDY SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS TO COOL LIVE MUSIC VENUES, RENOWNED MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES, AND SCENIC OUTDOOR DESTINATIONS.

1 DOWNTOWN (page 26)
2 RAINEY STREET (page 32)
3 RED RIVER CULTURAL DISTRICT (page 34)
4 SIXTH STREET (page 36)
5 WEST SIXTH STREET (page 40)
6 CENTRAL AUSTIN (page 42)
7 EAST AUSTIN (page 46)
8 NORTH AUSTIN (page 48)
9 SOUTH AUSTIN (page 50)
10 SOUTH CONGRESS (page 53)
11 WEST AUSTIN & BEYOND (page 56)

Find an additional map at the back of the guide or visit us online to view and download free maps at visitaustin.org/maps.

visitaustin.org
SING LOUD

Texas Original Dueling Piano Bar
Est. 1992

Voted #1 Nightlife Attraction by:
tripadvisor

Having This Much Fun Should Be Illegal!

421 E. 6th Street ★ Austin, Texas ★ 512.472.PETE (7383) ★ Open 7 Days A Week

www.petesduelingpianobar.com

Austin, TX ★ Addison, TX ★ Fort Worth, TX ★ Houston, TX ★ Chicago - Rosemont, IL
DOWNTOWN
(WAREHOUSE, CONGRESS AVENUE AND SECOND STREET)

Downtown Austin is continuously abuzz with fantastic live music, bustling restaurants, busy bars and fabulous shopping on every block.

DINING & NIGHTLIFE

Eating and drinking your way through Downtown is entirely too easy. Infinitely walkable and lively, Downtown is the place to go to feel the energy of the city. For modern Italian, find not-your-mama’s meatballs at Red Ash, where you can see the custom wood-burning grill firing away. If you’d prefer pan-Asian, She’s Not Here will have you swimming in crab butter temaki and chicken karaage. Pêché is fantastic for early and late-night eats, with craft cocktails and a happy hour menu early or all evening (depending on the day). La Condesa is definitely the spot for Interior Mexico-inspired dishes. If you’re looking for variety in one place, you’ll discover it at Fareground, a modern food hall. Diners can find wine, beer and cocktails, plus everything from authentic ramen to Israeli street food. Dance off your day with a tribute band at Speakeasy, and meander up to their rooftop for great views and a cigar. The romantically lit open-air courtyard at She’s Not Here is fantastic for early and late-night eats, with craft cocktails and a happy hour menu early or all evening (depending on the day).

LGBTQ HOT SPOTS IN THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Fourth Street is the hub of some of Austin’s best LGBTQ bars. Stop in at Sellers Underground for drag queens, dancing and the weekly risque quiz show. Rain starts out early as a low-key lounge but gets wilder as the night progresses. Highland Lounge’s dance floor is always hopping, and they frequently have theme nights. And, be sure to check Oilcan Harry’s calendar for sporting and special events.

Find more ideas at visitaustin.org/lgbtq.
SO MUCH AUSTIN, SO LITTLE TIME.

AUSTIN + HILL COUNTRY TOUR

- 30 miles, 50+ points of interest in 90 minutes
- Extra-large windows for premium views
- Weather ready: Rain, shine or 105°
- Private-custom tours available

512.659.9478 | ATOURSAUSTIN.COM

UNCLE JULIO’S
MEXICAN
from Scratch

Corner of 3rd & San Jacinto
Austin, TX 78701
512.815.2100
Private Dining Available
www.unclejulios.com

MAY THAI
AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE

One block west of Austin Convention Center between 2nd & 3rd St.
Mon-Thurs: 11 AM - 10 PM | Fri-Sat: 11 AM - midnight | Sun: noon - 10 PM
Lunch specials served every day. Gluten-free and vegetarian choices available.

MaiThaiAustin.com | 207 San Jacinto Blvd. | 512.482.8244
Cedar Street Courtyard is a delightful spot to have a drink or see a singer-songwriter. For some of the best local music, head to Antone’s, Austin’s home of the blues, for a show almost every night of the week. Or, slip into a red velvet booth and listen to live jazz and soul with a craft cocktail in hand at The Roosevelt Room.

SHOPPING

Shop ‘til you drop in the 2ND Street District. Pick up some local Austin flair from Austin Rocks!, gorgeous local jewelry from Eliza Page, fun and funky items for the kids at Toy Joy, and local furnishings and curated gifts from Hacienda. Guys can grab duds from League of Rebels Menswear and a pair of cool kicks at Sneaker Politics. Stop by the Austin Visitor Center for great city tips and Austin-themed souvenirs like T-shirts and books to take back home.
YOU HAVEN’T SEEN AUSTIN TILL YOU’VE SEEN AUSTIN.

Come experience the luminous stained-glass windows and elegant limestone arches of Austin, the monumental last work by artist Ellsworth Kelly. A new, must-see Texas landmark, Austin is a cornerstone of the Blanton Museum of Art’s permanent collection and is open during regular museum hours. Plan your visit and watch behind-the-scenes videos about Austin at KellyattheBlanton.org.

Capital Cruises

• Dinner Cruises
• Catered Events
• Boat Rentals
• Now offering Donut Boats!

Located Downtown on Lady Bird Lake
www.capitalcruises.com
(512) 480-9264

INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS BAT WATCHING EXCURSIONS
as seen in Newsweek and on American Journal
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Make some room for art in your day. Exhibits at the The Contemporary Austin are always provocative, and the Mexic-Arte Museum does an outstanding job of showcasing Mexican and Latin American artists and history. Pro tip: be sure to snap a photo with one of the revolving murals painted on the side of the museum. If you’re into theater, you’d be remiss if you didn’t catch one of the high-caliber shows at the iconic Paramount Theatre.

Check the schedule and get tickets for a big-name show or enter the giveaway to experience an Austin City Limits taping at ACL Live at The Moody Theater.

OUTDOORS

Austin is one of the fittest cities in the nation, and you can certainly see that on display as you hike, bike or stroll the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail. With more than 10 miles of trails, you can choose your own distance. A good bet is to walk around the lake and people watch the power walkers. Take the opportunity to try out a stand-up paddleboard, kayak or paddleboat and get out on the gleaming waters of Lady Bird Lake.

🌟 HIDDEN GEMS

Grab a cup of joe and some laughs at The Hideout Theatre or sip a frosty brew at Mort Subite, a Belgian-focused beer bar.
THE MOST FAMOUS BAR ON THE PLANET

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY - THURSDAY 5PM - 2AM  •  FRIDAY - SUNDAY NOON - 2AM

501A EAST 6TH ST | 512.236.8459 | COYOTEUGLYSALOON.COM/AUSTIN
RAINEY STREET

Walk around and choose your own adventure on this popular street known for its bungalow-style bars, funky food trailers, teeming restaurants and pup-friendly patios.

DINING

Rainey Street has range — it’s truly a place where everyone can find something they like. Eat New American cuisine with pinkies up at the Bon Appétit-lauded Emmer & Rye, with James Beard-nominated chefs cooking in the kitchen. In addition to regular dinner service, they do a take on dim sum that allows you to pick additional items a la carte. Find Himalayan and Nepalese food (hello fried dumplings!) at Monk’s Momo food truck. El Naranjo is a tucked-away spot for Interior Mexican food, delicious drinks and a daily changing mole offering. Right outside draft wine bar The Drafting Room you’ll find the charming outdoor L’Estelle cafe, specializing in French fusion with a Texas twist. The newly expanded Banger’s Sausage House & Beer Garden has house-made sausages, 100+ craft beers on tap and regular live music for both dinner and brunch. They’re also the only restaurant in town to do regular pig roasts. A nice way to start or end your evening is with a cocktail at Geraldine’s at Hotel Half Step.
New businesses are always popping up on Rainey Street, including Anthem, a “Texanian” restaurant recognized by USA Today, and Little Brother Bar, serving coffee and cocktails.
Around Town

RED RIVER CULTURAL DISTRICT

In Red River’s eclectic music venues you’ll find musical stylings ranging from underground punk to mainstream rock and alternative indie to thrash metal.

DINING

Red River has diverse options for finding something to eat before or after a show. A long-time staple of Red River’s dining scene, Koriente offers fast-casual Asian fusion fare with an emphasis on fresh ingredients and from-scratch dishes. Everything is highly customizable to any dietary need, and they offer a separate gluten-free menu. Part-bar, part-restaurant, all-fun Pelóns Tex-Mex Restaurant is always busy. They serve several flavors of house-made margaritas and a huge selection of high-end tequilas. Make sure to grab one of their tacos or burritos while drinking a frosty marg, or hit the build-your-own Bloody Mary bar during their popular Sunday brunch. The best time to stop in at Hoboken Pie is after the bars have closed, when the people watching is outstanding and New Jersey-style foldable pizza slices hit the spot.

LGBTQ SPACES

Mix and mingle with a primarily LGBTQ crowd on Tuesdays at Barbarella during Tuezgayz, or make new friends at Cheer Up Charlies any night of the week.
**HIDDEN GEMS** For a low-key night, step into the beautifully retro Swan Dive for a craft cocktail, then belly up to Arlo’s food truck and order their famous vegan bac’n cheezeburger.

**LIVE MUSIC**

Red River Cultural District’s music scene is incredibly diverse. Venues in the area cater to every musical taste, and are often the first places to hear musicians before they make it big. The iconic Stubb’s Bar-B-Q hosts a popular Sunday gospel brunch on the indoor stage and is also home to an outdoor, standing-room-only amphitheater with multiple bars and a rustic vibe. It’s a regular stop for national touring acts and has also seen the likes of legends like Stevie Ray Vaughan and Willie Nelson. Their intimate indoor stage attracts up-and-coming, stripped-down musicians. Hop across the street to encounter another double-staged venue at the Mohawk. This is a music lover’s go-to, showcasing musical acts such as Grupo Fantasma, The Band of Heathens and Shooter Jennings, along with events like BYOVinyl Happy Hour. If you see a show at the inside stage, prepare to be up-close and personal. Find mostly punk and indie rock at Barracuda, where bands play to a packed house and patrons can escape to a no-frills backyard for drinks and fresh air. You never know what you’ll find at Empire Control Room & Garage.

A dance party? A DJ set? An emo puppet band? Spin the wheel and come here to check out something new. For alternative events head to Elysium Nightclub, which has been hosting drag shows and dance parties for nearly 20 years. With all of these venues on one street, it only makes sense that there would be a **Free Week**. During the first week of January, Red River venues feature all-day music lineups, and the shows are completely free.
Sixth Street is a hive of professional activity by day and a wild bar scene at night, with live music pouring out of every door.

**DINING**

Sixth Street will surprise you with its culinary diversity. Find some of the best hamburgers in town at the dark, divey Casino El Camino. Order one of their creations from the walk-up window and get a stiff drink while you’re at it. Tex-Mex hot spot Iron Cactus is a great place for a cold (and strong) margarita on a warm summer day. On Sundays, diners pack the restaurant for its affordable brunch buffet. Ping-pong and picnic benches are part of the attraction at Easy Tiger, a German-influenced bake shop and beer garden. They bake breads and pastries daily, and their baguette is among the best in the city. For a snack, try the pretzel with beer cheese or homemade beef jerky. You’ll want to plan ahead to eat at Daruma Ramen, an intimate restaurant making some of the most authentic ramen in town, with veggie options for the vegetarian in your life. For an upscale dinner, try local favorite Parkside for seafood and New American cuisine. Don’t miss Martini Mondays or oyster specials on Wednesdays.

**HIDDEN GEMS** Take your lover to Chez Nous for a romantic prix fixe meal, before sliding back the secret bookcase for a cocktail at Firehouse Lounge & Hostel.
Located in the heart of Austin’s Historic Entertainment District on Sixth Street, Maggie Mae’s has been an iconic institution since 1978. Drink, laugh and play in this sprawling space, where seven bars and three stages provide live music and entertainment every night of the week. Take in breathtaking views of Austin’s skyline from the open-air rooftop deck, or enjoy classic Gibson guitars, craft cocktails and a rock ‘n’ roll vibe in the Gibson Lounge. It’s an unforgettable experience you’ll only get in Austin.

323 E 6th St., Austin, TX 78701
MaggieMaesAustin.com
NIGHTLIFE

There’s always a party on Sixth Street, but that’s especially true from Thursday through Saturday. During the weekend, Sixth Street is blocked off to allow for next-level bar hopping. A local favorite is Maggie Mae’s, both for its downstairs stage and packed rooftop. They also offer weekly shows and special events, along with cheap drinks. If that’s not your scene, duck into B.D. Riley’s, an Irish pub that provides a respite in the form of craft pints, live music and sports. The historic Driskill Hotel is a must-see while you’re here — it’s the oldest operating hotel in Austin. The Driskill Bar, outfitted in Texas-chic decor, is the place to have a classic cocktail and rub elbows. You won’t get in without a reservation, but Midnight Cowboy is well worth the extra effort. This speakeasy prides itself on creative concoctions combined with the ultimate service and ambiance.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hilarious political comedy is on stage at Esther’s Follies. A couple of blocks away find reggae rhythms and good vibes at Flamingo Cantina.
Welcome to Bastrop—an original Texas town with a fresh approach to life. It all starts with a stroll down Main Street, followed by an epic outdoor adventure. Then, grab your guitar to give Porch Pickin’ a try and top it off with a mouthwatering meal. And that’s just half of it. We welcome you to make yourself at home, create your next story and enjoy our special brand of Texas hospitality.

Welcome To It All

Plan Your Trip at VisitBastrop.com
Variety is the watchword on West Sixth Street, where cocktail lovers, fierce foodies, music fans and patio people pack local bars and restaurants.

**DINING**

You can be sure you won’t leave West Sixth Street hungry. Recently featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, Holy Roller’s menu is made up of unapologetically over-the-top comfort food. For Texan-inspired grub, head to Ranch 616 for fried oysters with green goddess dipping sauce, along with their famous Ranch Water. Steak and more steak is on the menu at Hoffbrau, one of the area’s original dining establishments. For breakfast and lunch, grab a seat at Counter Cafe, where the burgers and crab cake benedict are the stuff of legends. Get your biscuit fix at Fixe before delving into the modern Southern menu, featuring items like deviled eggs with smoked trout roe. Farm-to-table and Chinese go hand-in-hand at Wu Chow, where the beverages are as creative as the food. For Italian, Italic’s contemporary design complements the restaurant’s hearty rustic fare.

**WHAT’S NEW** Just off West Sixth Street, grab an espresso and a stacked biscuit sandwich at newcomer Better Half Coffee & Cocktails. This sunny all-day eatery also has wine, beer and spirits, and is a hit with coffee snobs. Experience draft cocktails and Asian-inspired comfort food like confit duck foldies at Bar Peached. Your night will only get better at Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, an open icehouse with a friendly feel and a bar specializing in high-end whiskies.
Around Town: West Sixth Street

(don’t miss the Sunday brunch). 24 Diner is open all hours of the day and features a simple approach: modern diner food made with local and sustainable ingredients. Try the chicken and waffles, a fan favorite. Stop and check out the clever marquee sign at El Arroyo before digging into a plate of blue crab- and-shrimp enchiladas.

NIGHTLIFE

Primo patio seating is part of the reason people head to West Sixth Street. You’ll have a great view of the action from Key Bar, where you’ll find excellent daily happy hours and popsicle margaritas. Rustic Tap boasts 20 draft beers and a laid-back feel, along with bar games and a large outside amphitheater. Star Bar is the spot for stacked Bloody Marys, sports and some of the spiciest chicken this side of Nashville. Off of Fifth Street you’ll find Mean Eyed Cat, where every inch is covered in Johnny Cash memorabilia. Make sure to catch the Johnny Cash cover band. For a craft cocktail, head to Garage, an underground bar located in an actual parking garage. Their cocktail menu is ever-changing and geared towards those who know their spirits.

SHOPPING

It may seem odd to tell visitors to head to a grocery store, but you’ll understand once you step foot in the Whole Foods Market flagship. This is where people in Austin gather to work and catch some rays on the deck, dine at in-store restaurants and drink at Bar Lamar, the wine and craft beer bar in the back of the store. Austin’s original Waterloo Records is renowned for its in-store performances and extensive vinyl collection. It’s definitely one of the coolest record stores in the city. Buy a book and coffee or attend an author event at BookPeople, a giant independent bookstore with a cult following. For fitness and active junkies, local active lifestyle store Outdoor Voices stocks the latest trends in athletic wear.
Around Town

CENTRAL AUSTIN

Eat, drink, shop and learn your way around Central Austin, home to The University of Texas at Austin, as well as many restaurants, bars, boutiques and museums.

DINING

There’s so much food to choose from in Central Austin that it’s hard to narrow down! Carnivores crave Stiles Switch BBQ’s Texas-style ‘cue and cold craft beers. Movie fanatics should check out Top Notch burgers, featured in the film Dazed and Confused. You’ll be transported back to the ’70s by its drive-in ordering system and retro signage. Texas French Bread nails the simplicity of a European bistro and has a great wine list, to boot. Decadent dishes and decor characterize Fonda San Miguel, an upscale Mexican restaurant known for its Sunday brunch and tasty margaritas. Take a walk on the lighter side with Komé, serving an extensive menu of contemporary Japanese and sushi dishes in a casual atmosphere. Picnik caters to health-conscious patrons in an airy cafe that’s gluten-free, corn-free, peanut-free and soy-free. For something incredibly inventive, try the dishes at Barley Swine, the brainchild of James Beard Award finalist Bryce Gilmore.

NIGHTLIFE

Live music and cheap drinks are part of the charm at Hole In The Wall. This gritty campus staple hosts musicians regularly, and is a hangout for original Austinites. On the other end of the spectrum, Antonelli’s Cheese Shop offers artisanal cheeses, cured meats, bread and sundries, plus wine and craft beers. Their Cheese House next door hosts one-of-a-kind classes and events weekly. Night Owl is a solid spot for watching sports and hanging out with neighborhood folks. Catch a game and sample one of their in-house infused liquors. For an entirely different kind of game (board games!), Vigilante is the spot. At this combination game house and gastropub, you can roll solo or bring a group to take advantage of the massive game library and tasty noshes. If it’s Sunday, you’d better be at the Little Longhorn Saloon for Chicken Sh*t Bingo. Yes, it’s exactly what it sounds like. On other days of the week, take a two-step lesson at this iconic honky-tonk and enjoy regular live music.

WHAT’S NEW Check out the shops at The Linc before making a stop at Easy Tiger for a freshly baked pastry, or Home Slice for an enormous pizza pie.
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Motown: The Sound of Young America
Open through January 26, 2020

Lady Bird: Beyond the Wildflowers
Opening Spring 2020

MEET THE
CIVIL RIGHTS PRESIDENT

AT THE

www.LBJLIBRARY.org
2313 RED RIVER STREET - AUSTIN

• 188 Residential Suites with Juliet Balconies
• 5,152+ sq. ft. of Meeting and Outdoor Event Spaces
• Located in Downtown’s Innovation District

AustinSuites.DoubleTree.Com
PRO TIPS Drink like a local with a Bloody Mary at Lala’s Little Nugget, where it’s Christmas all year round. Or, BYOB to the circus-themed Carousel Lounge.

ARTS

Home of the Texas Longhorns, The University of Texas at Austin is centrally located within the city. Stroll through the campus, pop into some of the historic buildings and behold the famous clock tower. One of the country’s pre-eminent research libraries, the Harry Ransom Center houses a collection of the world’s most significant literature, film and photography. The LBJ Presidential Library & Museum chronicles the life and times of Lyndon B. Johnson, along with ancillary exhibits. The Neill-Cochran House Museum is a glimpse into Austin’s early history, housed in a beautifully preserved Antebellum home. For film geeks, the Austin Film Society Cinema is a two-screen art house theater (with a full bar and concessions) that shows first-run films, along with restorations, documentaries and independent premieres. The Blanton Museum of Art houses 18,000 permanent works, along with art-centric events and guest collections.

SHOPPING

Our thrift scene is fun and funky, and there’s no better place to start than Room Service Vintage, home to a collection of housewares, jewelry, clothing and miscellany. Just down the road, Blue Velvet has an eclectic selection of clothes and accessories that are affordable and fabulous. Monkies Vintage and Thrift is geared toward students with a more casual and contemporary-looking collection. For gifts, there’s no cuter spot than Atown, a boutique selling locally made goods and apparel. If you time it right, they also serve fresh cookies.
Take Route 20 to the Airport

- Service every 15 minutes on Route 20
- Travels to Downtown, UT & beyond
- Buy your pass on the CapMetro App
- Single Trip only $1.25

Austin’s getting bigger, so we’re getting better.
Around Town

EAST AUSTIN

You can tell by the clever cuisine, cool bars and hip culture that many of the most inventive businesses have made their way to East Austin.

DINING

East Austin is a foodie’s dream. Go for the giant chicken-fried steak and finger-lickin’ comfort food at Hoover’s Cooking. The breezy patio at Hank’s is a popular gathering spot for friends. Tons of outdoor seating, cocktails on draft, a great happy hour and good food makes it an easy place to while away the hours. There may be a line, but don’t let that stop you from going to Juan in a Million. They’re famous for their enormous Don Juan taco, which is large enough to feed three people. You can also find tacos at Lazarus Brewing Company, along with house-roasted coffee and several kinds of beer on tap. Sample Asian fare at Old Thousand, a modern Chinese spot with an R&B feel known for their dan dan noodles. Kemuri Tatsu-ya takes the izakaya concept and gives it a Texas twist. Sour Duck Market is great for baked goods, big burgers and patio drinks. They also host a Farmers Market every Wednesday. Cool bar The Cavalier is purposely divey, and has a hilarious drag queen brunch.

For something a little nicer, stop into Launderette for innovative New American cuisine and fabulous desserts.

NIGHTLIFE

Blues and soul are on the ticket at the Skylark Lounge, a gritty bar with an eclectic back patio and live blues or soul every night of the week. The Butterfly Bar at The Vortex is equally funky, with a large deck, string lights and an excellent happy hour. Catch a theater performance while you’re there, or get something from Patrizi’s, the on-site Italian food truck. Duck into Alamo Drafthouse’s Mueller location for one of the most comfy gourmet movie-watching experiences around. One of Austin’s most-lauded movie theaters, they have a full menu and bar, plus a strict no-talking policy. For retro vibes, sit awhile at Stay Gold, an intimate venue with a retro lounge feel. You’ll be transported to 1970s

SOUL OF AUSTIN  Both Six Square and the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center are dedicated to the celebration, preservation, history and interpretation of the African-American experience in Austin. Patrons can even do genealogy research at the museum. Sahara Lounge hosts Africa Night, featuring the best local African and Caribbean bands. This event always turns into a high-energy dance party, plus there’s free food!

Go to visitaustin.org/soul for more ideas.
Palm Springs while having a drink at Kitty Cohen’s. Make sure to check out the flamingo frenzy in the bathroom. The White Horse is where you’ll get your two-step on with bluegrass, country and Americana bands. Nearby, The Grackle is known for its regular crowd of whiskey-drinking pool sharks. Bar-hop your way down 12th and Chicon Streets, stopping in at some of Austin’s coolest little dives like Full Circle, Dozen Street or Rio Rita for music and inexpensive beverages. On a nice day, Lustre Pearl East is a good spot to play yard games, hang out with friends and enjoy bar food.

SHOPPING
Your visit wouldn’t be complete without picking up some only-in-Austin souvenirs! Discover Resistencia Bookstore, a shop dedicated to the development of emerging Latin writers. Check the calendar for special events and author meet-and-greets. Vibrant art fills every wall at Corocoro, an art and accessories shop selling fair trade South American items. Find handmade home goods and esoterica at Take Heart, including tarot cards, pottery, jewelry and works by local artists. Buy a signature vintage piece at Charm School Vintage, which specializes in the unique. Or, stock your closet with classic staples from Altitudes.

ENTERTAINMENT
Explore the Thinkery, a children’s museum that’s all about hands-on learning. Don’t miss the regular adult-themed nights, complete with cocktails. For a night under the stars, catch a flick at the Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In, where you’ll find throwback flicks, cult classics and double features.

PRO TIPS Forget standing in long lines for barbecue and head to Quickie Pickie, where the wait is typically shorter for la Barbecue. Grab a beer inside and prepare yourself for some seriously good meat. Figure out the code for Milonga Room, a sexy speakeasy just below street level with a hidden entrance and incredible ambiance. Skip the late-night slice and dine on steak frites instead at Justine’s, an intimate French bistro that’s open late.
North Austin has a unique scene all its own, home to fantastic food, hustling bars and all-day entertainment.

**DINING**

North Austin is a go-to for families and groups who are looking for bigger restaurants, more parking and options for all tastes. You’ll find Southwestern flair at Z’Tejas, known for its margaritas and outdoor patio with a stellar view. Austin is obsessed with tacos, and Veracruz All Natural is the spot for regional Mexican food and aguas frescas. You may miss it the first time, but hidden in a strip mall you’ll discover Garbo’s, serving New England coastal cuisine. Their laid-back beachy vibe is a perfect backdrop for an afternoon spent munching on lobster rolls and sipping champagne. When you’re in Domain NORTHSIDE, turn up the heat with something spicy like the green papaya salad from Thai-Kun. At Second Bar + Kitchen, the bacon-and-bleu pizza with truffles is a must-try.

**SHOPPING**

North Austin is a shopping mecca, with two major outdoor lifestyle malls. The first is The Arboretum.

**WHAT’S NEW** North Austin encompasses a lot of area, so there’s always something new popping up. NG Cafe makes some of the freshest and best bánh mì in the city. They’re famous for their breads and delectable Thai dishes. Try New Sitara Indian Cuisine for authentic Indian specialties in a warm and inviting atmosphere. For innovative comfort food, Austin’s original Moonshine Grill has opened a North Austin location where you can get the same delicious Sunday brunch without the wait.
where you can buy fancy olive oils at Austin-owned Con’ Olio, taste artisanal cheeses at Austin Cheese Company or shop bigger box stores like Sephora and Pottery Barn. Nearby, The Domain and Domain NORTHSIDE is a walkable mixed-use development with hotels, restaurants, bars and a ton of shops representing both local and well-known brands. Here’s where you’ll find high-end items at Nordstrom, fast-fashion at Frye, books at Texas’ first Amazon Books bookstore and organizers at Erin Condren. Discerning buyers should stop in at local store Raven + Lily for accessories made by artists from all over the world. Or, find a signature piece by jewelry designer Nina Berenato.

**NIGHTLIFE**

If you’re in search of a frosty beverage, you’ll find a number of places to choose from in the Rock Rose corridor. For a high-energy DJ experience check out 77 Degrees, a Miami-style rooftop with craft cocktails. You can settle down with pub grub and a pint at Jack & Ginger’s, an Irish bar with 80+ beers on tap and an extensive selection of Irish whiskeys. For a hidden gem, wine aficionados will enjoy the extensive list at Il Baretto. This neighborhood corner spot also offers half-price bottles of wine on Sundays and Mondays.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Take a swing at TopGolf, a multi-story social golf experience that serves food and drinks. Try your hand at Austin’s original Highland Lanes, a vintage spot for bowling. While you’re there, make sure to try the legendary cheese enchiladas at Lebowski’s Grill. For all of the adventure without the danger, iFLY Indoor Skydiving is a one-of-a-kind skydiving simulator. Grown-ups and kids alike love Pinballz. Their two locations in North Austin offer Texas’ largest selection of classic pinball and video games, plus the original location on Burnet Road is BYOB.
**Around Town**

**SOUTH AUSTIN**

You can thank South Austin for the city’s hippie flair and funky vibe. Here is where you’ll stumble upon Austin originals on every corner.

**DINING**

Plan an entire day around exploring South Austin if you want to discover what makes the city unique. You won’t find anything funkier than Maria’s Taco Xpress, with its colorful decor, live music, Drag Queen Bingo and Hippie Church on Sundays. For Southern elegance, you’ll find Mattie’s restaurant housed in a lovingly restored historic mansion. Come here for Sunday brunch, jazz happy hours and colorful peacocks. Two Austin powerhouse chefs — Tyson Cole of Uchi and Uchiko and Aaron Franklin of Franklin Barbecue — came together to open Loro, an Asian smokehouse that combines Texan and Asian flavors. Classic Italian is on the menu at Juliet Italian Kitchen, and their outdoor patio is a good place to sip an Aperol spritz and listen to a smooth jazz trio. For dessert, Lick Honest Ice Creams makes creative flavors with local and sustainable ingredients.

**WHAT’S NEW**

The cool factor of St. Elmo has been upped with the addition of St. Elmo Public Market, featuring new restaurants from both Olamaie and Salt & Time. Carpenters Hall is a fun neighborhood spot to grab a meal any time of the day. For a drink in the evening, Nicolaza’s specializes in craft cocktails and has a gastropub-style trailer outside.
NIGHTLIFE
Austin locals love The Saxon Pub, and with good reason: the nightly music selections are always top notch. Bob Schneider’s shows on Mondays are a special treat. Stop by Austin Beer Garden Brewing Company for craft beer and special events. Mosey on over to Still Austin Whiskey Co., a local grain-to-glass distillery, if you’re seeking something a bit stronger. Catch your favorite sports team at Lavaca Street Bar and choose from more than 20 revolving beers on tap. When the evening is nice, both Moontower Saloon and Cosmic Coffee & Beer Garden have expansive outside areas with seating, fire pits and live music.

SHOPPING
Spend a day popping in and out of boutiques and shops on South First for lovely accessories, cool clothes and souvenirs. Treasure shoppers will especially love Bloomers and Frocks, a store specializing in eye-catching vintage clothing. Pick up a piece of art for your wall from a local artist at Austin Art Garage or stop in at the recently relocated Uncommon Objects, a curated collection of antiques and “transcendent junk.” To prove you were here, snap pics of cool neon signs at Roadhouse Relics and strike a pose in front of the Greetings from Austin mural.

ENTERTAINMENT
Performing arts fans and families will find a wide variety of shows at the Long Center and ZACH Theatre. Both theaters host touring and local acts that include dance, musical theater, dramatic plays, concerts and signature Austin events by the Austin Symphony and Ballet Austin.

OUTDOORS
Austin’s crown jewel is the historic Zilker Park. This enormous green space sits just south of downtown and is always busy with hikers, walkers, readers, frisbee players, dogs, families, friends and festivals like the Austin City Limits Music Festival. Nearby, check out Zilker Botanical Garden, which displays an array of native and exotic plants, as well as the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden and Museum. Bring your swimsuit, because Barton Springs Pool is an absolute must. The naturally spring-fed pool is three acres in size, and its grassy banks are the perfect spot to read, nap or people watch.

PRO TIPS Find late-night gastropub noshes and frozen beverages at Little Darlin’. On Fridays and Saturdays, District Kitchen + Cocktails does a reverse happy hour from 10 p.m. until midnight.
South Congress is immersive, fabulous and fun. Whether you’re looking for a bite to eat, a cold drink or some live tunes, SoCo has something for you.

**DINING**

South Congress is a vibrant part of the city. On a sunny day, South Congress Avenue is packed with patio drinkers, shoppers and gawkers. Jo’s Coffee should be your first stop of the day for a turbo iced coffee. With added caffeine, it’s just the thing to prep you for a doozy of a day. While you’re there, ask a stranger to take your picture in front of the I love you so much mural. People line up for cold treats at Amy’s Ice Creams on hot days. And you’ll also find a queue at Hopdoddy, home of the juiciest burgers in the city. Their menu also includes gluten-free buns and vegetarian burgers. Café No Sé serves contemporary New American cuisine with a California twist in beautiful, bright environs. Perla’s is famous for its enormous outside deck and coastal seafood. For something a little off the main strip, head to Habana SoCo for fried empanadas and dangerously delicious mojitos.

**HIDDEN GEMS** Sing your heart out at Ego’s, an underground karaoke bar. Or, wander into the upstairs Jade Room at C-Boy’s Heart & Soul, a secret GI-themed bar with a retro jukebox.
NIGHTLIFE

Live music is what Austin is known for, and spots like The Continental Club, Continental Gallery and C-Boy’s Heart & Soul are all major players. The original Continental Club presents all kinds of musical styles, while the Gallery hosts jazz and singer-songwriters in an intimate setting. Down the street, C-Boy’s features soul, bluegrass and funk, plus a disco ball. Sit under the giant tree in the Oak Garden at Güero’s Taco Bar and listen to a local musician croon while sipping a margarita. Nearby, Hotel San José serves up savory micheladas and frosé, plus a cool patio for lounging. If you’re lucky enough to be here during the first week of the month, stores and restaurants stay open extra late on First Thursday, a street-wide event.

SHOPPING

Bring your shopping bags, because there’s no way you’re leaving South Congress without buying something. Unconventional costume shop Lucy in Disguise with Diamonds is always a fun stop for vamping and photo snapping. It’s much larger than it looks, and they sell accessories, makeup and everything sequined. Gag gift shop Monkey See, Monkey Do specializes in novelty items and offbeat souvenirs with pithy sayings. Next door, Big Top Candy Shop has everything for a sweet tooth, plus an old school soda fountain. If you’re feeling truly Texan, grab a pair of leather boots at either Allens Boots or Heritage Boots. For something more fashion-forward, Maya Star showcases both local and independent labels. Find a gift with distinctively Latin American flair at Tesoros Trading Company, or shop Parts & Labour for Texas-made art and crafts.

WHAT’S NEW

Sit on the colorful and chic outdoor patio at Joann’s Fine Foods, a modern Tex-Mex diner. Or, snap an Instagram pic inside local jeweler Kendra Scott’s gorgeous new flagship store, which features a colorful cafe.
Experience the New Aiden® by Best Western® Austin City Hotel

Whether traveling to Austin for work or vacation, stay at Aiden by Best Western® Austin City Hotel to explore the city’s most vibrant districts. The hotel is conveniently located close to downtown and the Austin Convention Center, South Congress District, Rainey Street, Lady Bird Lake, Sixth Street and the South-Central Waterfront District.

Aiden by Best Western® Austin City Hotel provides the necessities for today’s connected business and leisure traveler.

• Free Wi-Fi
• Complimentary Hot Breakfast
• On-site Restaurant and Lounge, Opal Divine’s Austin Grill & Bar
• Free Parking
• Outdoor Pool and Hot Tub

2200 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78704 | 512.444.0561 | Book now at AustinCityHotel.com

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.

JUST OUTSIDE OF DOWNTOWN

JUST INSIDE OF WILD

Daily Garden Tours | Outdoor Play Areas
Nature Trails | Café & Gift Store

LADY BIRD JOHNSON
WILDFLOWER CENTER

WILDFLOWER.ORG
Around Town
WEST AUSTIN & BEYOND

Head to West Austin for long scenic drives, sunny lakeside days, nature walks and a slowed-down pace.

DINING

Hula Hut is situated on Lake Austin, serving Hawaiian-Polynesian fusion dishes like fajitas with pineapple. It’s a lovely spot to watch the sunset with a tropical drink in hand. Opt into the all-you-care-to-eat barbecue at The County Line on the Lake for stage-five meat sweats. You can also relax on the creek-side deck and feed the turtles. The Beer Plant offers an all-vegan menu that satisfies even the pickiest of eaters. Enjoy a glass of wine, cocktail or craft beer, along with a Chicago Italian “beef” sandwich or some hot and crispy fried “chicken.” Worth the drive, Texas Street Grill’s culinary creations are elegant and seasonally inspired. For stunning Lake Travis sunsets, The Oasis can’t be beat. This multi-storied complex is also home to Oasis Brewing Company, shops and stunning lakeside views. If you’re lucky enough to be there on a Sunday, catch a performance from The Brew, an upbeat salsa band.

WHAT’S NEW if you’re looking for a bagel and schmear, you’ll find ‘em at Biderman’s Deli. Sway puts a modern twist on Thai, pairing creative dishes with curated cocktails. Smothered pork chops and smoked meats grace the menu at The Switch. While Oz Tap House, a family-friendly beer garden, offers farm-to-table market fare. Or treat yourself to some luxe pampering at the newly expanded Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

Make it a day of sitting and sipping at the award-winning Jester King Brewery, a family-friendly complex with an on-site pizza restaurant and lots of experimental craft beers. Though it’s only open on Fridays and Saturdays, plan a special trip to Strange Land Brewery for their wide variety of seasonal beers. For non-drinkers, they also specialize in kombuchas. Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen is an ideal spot to enjoy a flight of wine and a bite to share with friends before heading to a concert at One World Theatre, an intimate listening room-style venue that attracts world-class musicians. On the opposite end of the spectrum is the historic Dry Creek Cafe & Boat Dock. This dive bar is an Austin original, where the likes of Willie Nelson used to toss back a few.

**OUTDOORS**

Any day out on the water is a good day, and Austin is fortunate to have tons of options. Both Lake Austin and Lake Travis are close enough to spend an afternoon boating in a rental watercraft. Or, make a splash at the huge Deep Eddy Pool, the state’s oldest public swimming pool. Stay a little closer to land with your four-footed friend at Red Bud Isle, an off-leash dog park where plenty of puppies splash and swim around. Hike Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve, a park with 227 acres to explore. It’s open from sunrise to sunset and is totally free (with donations accepted). You’ll want to check the rules before heading out to Hippie Hollow, a clothing-optional park. For less risqué views, explore Bee Cave Sculpture Park, which showcases both permanent and rotating sculptures.

**HIDDEN GEM** Tranquil Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park is a secret family-friendly spot that boasts Hill Country views, a fishing dock, shady trails, barbecue pits and beautiful sunsets.
15

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TOWNS WORTH A STOP

Sip your way along a wine or beer trail, explore the great outdoors, tour historic landmarks, and shop and sip on charming small town Main Streets.

1. DRIPPING SPRINGS
Sample your way through the Distillery District, which boasts wineries, breweries and distilleries. Cool off under a 50-foot waterfall in the azure waters of Hamilton Pool Preserve (advance reservation required). Learn about the history of Dripping Springs at Dr. Pound Historical Farmstead Museum, established by one of the area’s founding families.

2. DRIFTWOOD
Savor the brisket at The Salt Lick BBQ and sip a glass of wine at neighboring Salt Lick Cellars. Set off on the Driftwood Wine Trail and sample award-winning wines at six different wineries. Discover sotol, an earthy Texas spirit, at Desert Door Distillery. Drink in the sweeping ranch views at Vista Brewing. Stop by Hays City Store & Ice House for comfort food and 50+ beers on tap.

3. LAKEWAY
Families love Lakeway Resort and Spa, perched above the shimmering waters of Lake Travis. Lake Austin Spa Resort, located on the shore of Lake Austin, was named the #1 resort in Texas by Condé Nast Traveler in 2018. Nearby Miraval Austin is a destination resort hidden among 220 hilly acres, offering luxe spa treatments, gourmet cuisine and equine experiences.
Drive a short 30 minutes from Austin and you’ll discover Georgetown, Texas where happy hours turn into happy days. Warmly known as The Most Beautiful Town Square in Texas, the City is the perfect place for a daytripper or a weekender to shop, dine and unwind. Plan a toast-worthy time, today.
4. JOHNSON CITY
Tour the LBJ Ranch and see the 36th president’s childhood home and Texas White House at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Hike the trails and check out the rushing twin falls at Pedernales Falls State Park. Get up close to more than 700 wild animals and stay the night in a Safari Cabin at Exotic Resort Zoo. Experiment with more than 50 interactive exhibits at the Science Mill, housed in an actual refurbished feed mill.

5. LUCKENBACH
Pick up a T-shirt or shot glass at the legendary Luckenbach Texas General Store, a combination souvenir shop/saloon housed in an 1800s trading post. Be sure to catch a country-western concert and take a twirl on the dance floor at Luckenbach Dance Hall.

6. FREDERICKSBURG
Hike to the top of the 425-foot pink granite dome at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Hit Fredericksburg Wine Road 290 and make stops at 19 unique wineries. Tour a replica battlefield at the National Museum of the Pacific War. Shop in the chic boutique and dine on New American cuisine at Vaudeville. Stroll trails lined with colorful wildflowers and sample Texas foods at Wildseed Farms.

7. BOERNE
Browse boutiques and dine at locally owned restaurants along the Hill Country Mile in the heart of downtown Boerne. Kick back at The Dodging Duck Brewhaus (offering gold medal-winning brews) and the family-friendly Random, featuring 80+ craft beers and cider on tap, plus live music. Take an evening flashlight tour through the underground Cascade Caverns.

8. SAN MARCOS
Grab a tube and float down the spring-fed San Marcos River that winds right through the center of town. Explore a cave, hop a train through a wildlife park and take a spin on the carnival rides at Wonder World Park. Snag a designer deal at two huge outlet malls: San Marcos Premium Outlets and Tanger Outlets.
9. NEW BRAUNFELS
Ride a tidal wave or brave a six-stories-tall water coaster at Schlitterbahn Waterpark. Raise a glass at 18 distinctive breweries on the Hill Country Craft Beer Trail. Grab an inner tube and join fellow floaters riding the currents of the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers that pass through New Braunfels.

10. GRUENE
The entire town of Gruene is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Browse shops housed in 19th century brick storefronts in the Gruene Historic District. See live music seven nights a week at Gruene Hall, Texas’ oldest dance hall, where stars like Willie Nelson and Garth Brooks have performed.

San Marcos, TX is a groove. An experience. Where you can dip a paddle, day or night, in the spring-fed San Marcos River. The river is a constant 72 degrees so you can play, tube, kayak and stand-up paddle all year long. With this many memories in the making, you’ll definitely want to stay a while. Plan your travels at VisitSMTX.com.
Whether you’re paddling out in a canoe or hunting for artisanal handicrafts, there’s always somewhere unique to shop or water to paddle in Bastrop County. Come stay a weekend with us and get away without having to go far away.

EXPLORE OUR FRIENDLY NATURE.   EXPLOREBASTROPCOUNTY.COM

*Please don’t clean your paintbrush in the lake.
1. **Hill Country Jazz Festival, San Marcos (February)**
Listen to the sweet sounds of jazz on the beautiful campus of Texas State University.

2. **Old Settler’s Music Festival, Tilmon (April)**
Held just southeast of Lockhart, this acclaimed fest showcases the best of modern Americana music and features late-night sets for camping attendees.

3. **Boerne Bierfest, Boerne (April)**
Try sips from more than 25 Hill Country craft brewers and compete in goofy contests like the keg toss.

4. **Hill Country Food Truck Festival, Luckenbach (June)**
Tempting food trucks, local wines and live Texas music add up to a perfect summer day.

5. **Dripping With Taste Wine & Food Festival, Dripping Springs (September)**
Sample an assortment of Texas wines, beers and spirits, along with gourmet foods.

6. **Gruene Music & Wine Festival + Craft Beer Event, Gruene (October)**
Join in this four-day celebration of Americana music, as well as Lone Star State wineries and breweries.

7. **UTOPIAfest, Burnet (November)**
Head to Reveille Peak Ranch for this family-friendly festival that features two stages of music, fun workshops and outdoor adventures.

8. **Lights Spectacular, Johnson City (late November to early January)**
Dazzling lights transform this sleepy town into a glitzy holiday destination filled with family fun.

9. **Christkindlmarkt, New Braunfels (December)**
Find artisan gifts at this open-air Christmas market that also offers holiday music and foods.
The Texas Hill Country voted a Top 10 “Best Wine Region”
— USA Today 10Best readers, August 2018

we’ll toast to that

over 40 wineries & tasting rooms | Hill Country cuisine | live Texas music
museums & historic sites | German heritage | sophisticated shopping | golf
eclectic art galleries | festivals & events | cycling | peaches & wildflowers

Fredericksburg
THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
Texas Heart. German Soul.

Just 75 miles west of Austin
VisitFredericksburgTX.com | 866 997 3600
Music is the heartbeat of a city.
Discover Austin: Flying 5 times a week from Frankfurt.

Say yes to the world
GETTING AROUND AUSTIN

From flying in to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to traveling around the city, there are lots of transportation options to make your visit easy and affordable.

TRAVELING TO AUSTIN

AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
» ABIA offers nonstop service from 70+ domestic destinations
» Nonstop service from Mexico, London, Toronto, Frankfurt and more
» Live music greets travelers upon arrival
» Downtown Austin is 7.5 miles from the airport via SuperShuttle van service for about $16; Capital Metro Airport Flyer for $1.75; taxi for about $30; as well as various rideshare options

GREYHOUND BUS
» Daily routes
» Passenger drop-off at the Greyhound station on IH-35 near Koenig Lane

BY CAR
» 1.5 hours from San Antonio
» 3 hours from Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston

AUSTIN TRANSPORT TIPS

TAXI/RIDE-HAIL SERVICES
» Austin is tapped into the latest tech-based transit
» Visit visitaustin.org/transportation for more information

CAPITAL METRO BUS LINE
» More than 3,000 bus stops and 53 routes
» Download the CapMetro app for comprehensive maps and details, or visit capmetro.org

METRORAIL
» MetroRail connects the city of Leander to downtown Austin
» Service 5 days a week, until 1:30 a.m.
» 9 stations on the 32-mile line
» Fares cost between $1.75–$3.50 per trip
» Learn more at capmetro.org

RENT A BIKE OR SCOOTER
» Several bike shops, and dockless bike and scooter rental companies, offer hourly and day rentals
» Download maps and routes from austintexas.gov/page/austin-cycling-101
» Austin B-cycle provides more than 50 bike-share stations throughout downtown 24 hours a day — austin.bcycle.com

PEDICAB
» A few different Austin companies operate pedicabs
» All drivers are licensed by the City of Austin Ground Transportation Department
» Rates vary — be sure to ask your driver about the price per rider or per trip

TAKE A TOUR

See Austin on a guided tour. Local experts will show you around the Capitol area, Downtown, cultural and musical heritage sites, and more. Popular tour companies include Austin Detours, AO Tours Austin, Austin Duck Adventures, Double Decker Austin, Gliding Revolution Segway Tours and Twisted Texas Tours. Custom-designed tours are available. Call 866-GO-AUSTIN, stop in at the Austin Visitor Center (602 E. Fourth St.) for details, or book a tour at visitaustin.org/plan-a-trip/book-a-tour.
Immerse Yourself in Historic Austin

Oakwood Cemetery Chapel

Mayfield Park & Nature Preserve

Zilker Botanical Garden

AustinTexas.gov/HistoricATX Parks

Experience some of Austin’s most iconic and historic sites. See the stunning rehabilitation of the Oakwood Chapel or walk scenic trails and visit peacocks at Mayfield Park & Nature Preserve; then take a trip to Zilker Botanical Garden and visit mementos from Austin’s past. Plan your trip today!