

How To Be An **AUSTINITE**

A Newcomer's Guide



Independence
Title

IndependenceTitle.com



AUSTIN FAST FACTS

Population: 961,855 (2020)

County: Travis

Mayor: Kirk Watson

Area Codes: 512 & 737

LOCAL LINGO

Austinites pride themselves on being weird. Often, the way we talk reflects it. Here's a rundown on some of the locations you should know, and a handy pronunciation guide so you can say them "different", just like us!

Burnet

Something that clearly identifies a non-Austinite is pronouncing Burnet in any way that emphasizes the "e" in the name of this major thoroughfare. Instead, make sure you pronounce it like "BURN-It."

Guadalupe

Many people moving to Austin for the first time are students coming to the University of Texas at Austin. As a result, they will spend a great deal of time on Guadalupe, the street running along the west side of campus and beyond. However, most Austinites drop the last "e" entirely from the name, creating from this originally Spanish term a uniquely Austin piece of lingo. So remember, when referring to Guadalupe, it is accepted (if not expected) to say "GUAD-a-loop." You may also hear it called "The Drag."

Koenig, Manor & Mueller

Koenig is pronounced "KAY-nig" by Austinites, Manor is "MAY-ner", and Mueller is "MILL-er."

Manchaca

Another street name that has transcended its original pronunciation is Manchaca Road. Think the A at the end of this name should be pronounced? Think again. Manchaca is pronounced by Austinites as "MAN-Shack."

Mopac

The Mopac Expressway is usually identified on street signs and road maps as Loop 1. It is always spoken of (fondly) as "MO-pac," so named for the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

SoCo

Heard of SoHo? Meet SoCo. The South Congress district is a thriving community of restaurants, shops, and food trailers. Just don't look confused if someone refers to the street as SoCo instead; this is increasingly becoming the normal Austin slang for the district. It's starting to spread out to SoLa (South Lamar) and SoFi (South First).

HOTSPOTS

Downtown

It's the party mecca for our dear city, and over the years it's expanded so much that it's been sectioned into distinct districts with very different flavors:

Sixth Street | Sixth Street is distinctly Austin. With its colorful and bustling array of bars, restaurants and entertainment venues, it's a sure bet for experiencing local characters and the vibrancy of the city.

West Sixth Street | A thoughtfully curated section of town, find everything from craft cocktails and galleries to rustic beer gardens, cult-followed grub and the flagship Whole Foods Market.

2nd Street | East of I35, a much mellower place and a mecca for hipsters, with outdoor seating, and often art and music.

Rainey Street | Here you'll find many renovated houses-turned-bars, food trucks, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Red River | Nightclub heavy, droves of concert-seekers mill the streets of Austin's Red River Cultural District, dipping into watering holes for Lone Star beers while waiting for the lights to dim and shows to begin.

Warehouse District | Many of this neighborhood's bars and restaurants are housed in renovated, antique warehouses. The gritty backdrop makes for a vibrant scene that draws a diverse crowd thanks to its range of live entertainment, restaurants, LGBTQ scene and unique shops.

South Congress

South Congress Avenue occupies a hilly and tree-filled part of Austin just south of the Colorado River. Walk along South Congress Avenue and you'll have your pick of restaurants, trendy shops, art galleries and more!

Lady Bird Lake

Although the name was changed to "Lady Bird Lake" in 2007 after the death of our beloved Austinite Lady Bird Johnson, the name Town Lake has been so ingrained in Austin's local language that many people still refer to it, or at least think of it, as Town Lake.

The Domain

The Domain in North Austin is a popular shopping and dining destination. Browse the shops by day, and check out the bars and venues by night!



RULES OF THE ROAD

Just remember that Mopac is Loop 1; Capital of Texas Hwy is Loop 360; U.S. 183 is Research Blvd., Ed Bluestein Blvd. and Old Bastrop Hwy; 2222 is Northland Dr. or Allandale Rd. or Koenig Lane. Don't try to figure it out. Just accept it. Here are some helpful tips making your way around Austin like a local:

1. The 8:00 am rush hour is from 6:30 am to 9:30 am. The 5:00 pm rush hour is from 3:30 pm to 7:15 pm. Friday's rush hour starts on Thursday morning.
2. If you actually stop at a yellow light, then you cannot be from Austin. You may only apply your brakes when the end of a yellow light and the beginning of the red light create a burnt-orange hue. This is Longhorn Country, after all.
3. If there is any moisture on the road, all traffic must immediately come to a screeching halt. Ditto for Daylight Savings Time, or a flat tire three lanes over.
4. Do not attempt to access any road during an apocalyptic event like frozen precipitation or South by Southwest.

OTHER WAYS TO TRAVEL

MetroRail

The advent of light rail is the latest attempt to lure Austinites out of their cars and is truly a giant step in that direction. These sleek trains run from Leander to downtown, with amenities including Wi-Fi and bike racks.

Car/Ride Sharing

Zipcar allows Austinites to move from downtown and UT campus areas with ease, avoiding the hassles of parking, refueling and cleaning. Uber and Lyft ridesharing services are also available throughout the city.

Biking

Austin is designated one of the nation's best bike cities, with dedicated bike lanes and trails all over the city. We also have a bike sharing program!

Pedicabs

Available mostly in the downtown entertainment districts, pedicab drivers are licensed by the city, and offer relief from limping along in high heels on the club crawl.

Micromobility

Micromobility devices may include kick scooters, bicycles or other small mobility devices that do not have a license plate. Providers include Bird, Lime, LINK, and Wheels.

TOURS

Austin Duck Adventures

austinducks.com

An amphibious tour of downtown Austin and beautiful Lady Bird Lake inside a US Coast Guard Inspected Hydra Terra Vehicles.

Haunted ATX

hauntedatx.com

Haunted ATX offers the only mobile haunted tour in Austin. Guests will visit several historic Austin landmarks that are reportedly haunted or have experienced paranormal activity.

Austin City Running Tours

cityrunningtours.com

These group running tours are 3 mile/5k led at a casual pace with designated stops along the way. Offered nearly every Saturday, these running tours range from Historic Downtown, UT Campus, and various beer/adult beverage tours!

Austin Trolley Company

austintrolley.com

Another interesting way to tour the city is aboard the elegantly restored trolleys. Ride around and enjoy the scenic Hill Country in bygone style.

Austin Biker Gang E-Bike Adventure

yourbikergang.com

You can be a part of an e-bike biker gang! Ride the open road and experience TripAdvisor's #1 Outdoor Activity in Austin, filled with facts, fun, and photos!

Austin Secret Foods Tour

secretfoodtours.com/austin

Enjoy wonderful foods created for our city including BBQ fit for an American President.

Austin Segway Tours

nationtours.com/texas/austin-segway-tours

Austin Segway Tours is the perfect way to explore the capitol of Texas. Offered 6 times daily, there are options that visit many iconic austin locations.

Double Decker Austin

doubledeckeraustin.com

Get the best views of Austin from an unobstructed upper deck of a double decker bus!

Lone Star River Boat

lonestarriverboat.com

Pick from one of Lone Star Riverboat's public tours down Lady Bird Lake with commentary by the captain.



SIGHTS & ATTRACTIONS

Live Music

Boasting two of the largest music festivals in the world (SXSW and ACL), Austinites are the authority on what's happening in the music world.

ACL Live

acl-live.com

Antone's Nightclub

antonesnightclub.com

Austin 360 Amph.

austin360amphitheater.com

The Backyard

backyardaustin.com

Continental Club

continentalclub.com

Stubbs Bar-B-Q

stubbsaustin.com

South by Southwest

South by Southwest proves why Austin is an international hotbed of innovation, with giants of the music, film, and tech industries converging in one place.

The Oasis

oasis-austin.com

Food, drinks and live music! Its tiered decks overlook Lake Travis, and there's no better place to take in the sunset!

Mexican Free-Tailed Bats

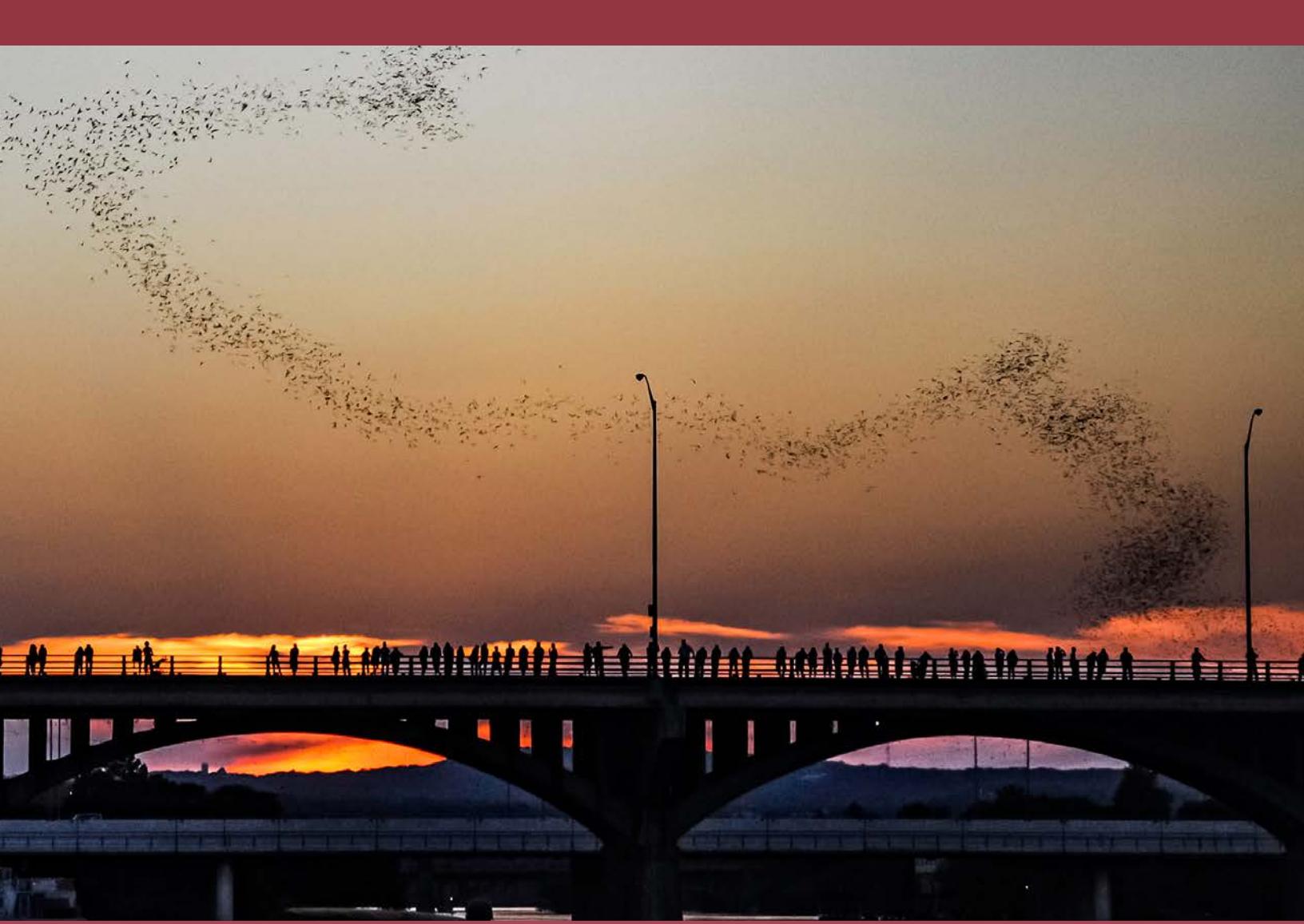
One of the most amazing sights in Austin takes place every evening from March to early November, when 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from their roosts under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.

Zilker Park

An Austin treasure, this green expanse is a popular venue for events of all kinds. There's always something going on here!

Trail of Lights

Austin's favorite holiday celebration boasts a lit tree 155 tall and 120 feet wide! With 3,309 multicolored light bulbs and topped with a 10-foot lighted double star, you can't miss this Austinite favorite come holiday season.



Austin Art Scene

Austinites have put their creativity to good use on the multitude of unique, offbeat signs, museums, and murals throughout the city, from Jeremiah the Innocent (Austin's beloved "Hi, how are you" frog), to the sweet love note of "I love you so much" on the side of Jo's Coffee.

Art On 5th
Art. Science. Gallery.
Artworks
Austin Art Garage
Big Medium
Capital Fine Art
Davis Gallery
Flatbed Press & Gallery
Gallery Shoal Creek
grayDUCK Gallery
HOPE Gallery
Link & Pin
Modern Rocks Gallery
The People's Gallery
Photo Méthode Gallery
Pump Project
Russel Collection
Stephen L. Clark Gallery
Tiny Park
Visual Arts Center
Wally Workman Gallery
Women & Their Work
Yard Dog Art Gallery

[arton5th.com](#)
[artsciencegallery.com](#)
[artworksaustin.com](#)
[austinartgarage.com](#)
[bigmedium.org](#)
[capitalfineart.com](#)
[davisgalleryaustin.com](#)
[flatbedpress.com](#)
[galleryshoalcreek.com](#)
[grayduckgallery.com](#)
[hopecampaign.org](#)
[linkpinart.com](#)
[modernrocksgallery.com](#)
[austintexas.gov](#)
[photomethode.com](#)
[pumpproject.org](#)
[russel-collection.com](#)
[artaustin.org](#)
[tinyparkgallery.com](#)
[art.utexas.edu](#)
[wallyworkmangallery.com](#)
[womenandtheirwork.org](#)
[yarddog.com](#)

Comedy

Everyone loves to laugh, but Austinites take it to another level. Here are a few Austin-only specialty comedy venues:

Esther's Follies

[esthersfollies.com](#)

A modern-day vaudeville theatre on 6th Street downtown, named after actress Esther Williams. The acts incorporate magic, juggling, singing, dancing, and sketches on current events.

New Movement Theater

[newmovementtheater.com](#)

An improv, sketch, and standup comedy theater and training center offering classes, corporate training, and shows ranging from comedy rap battles to open mic nights!

Cap City Comedy Club

[capacitycomedy.com](#)

Cap City Comedy Club is home to some of the best comedy performances an Austinite could hope for. They also offer comedy classes, improv classes, and the most hilarious version of defensive driving permitted by the state of Texas!

ColdTowne Theater

[coldtownetheater.com](#)

The tiny ColdTowne Theater is one of the most electric spaces in Austin, because the audience is practically on stage with the comedians. Here, local and touring improv, sketch, and stand-up comedians scramble to get their time in this highly coveted spotlight.



Circuit of the Americas

circuitoftheamericas.com

CoTA was first proposed in mid-2010 to be the first track in the United States purpose-built for Formula One. Austinites have embraced this enormous new venue and (of course) added a live music angle! The Austin 360 Amphitheater has become one of the largest venues in the city and sits at the base of the Observation Tower. Tours are given daily, including the view from the top!

Moonlight Towers

Austin's Moonlight Towers are the only ones left in the United States and are on the National Registry of Historic Places. One of the towers was prominently featured in the film Dazed and Confused as the site of a high-school keg party, in which the character played by famous Austinite Matthew McConaughey exclaims, "Party at the moon tower!"

Cathedral of Junk

Winner of Austin Chronicle's "Best Organized Chaos" award, the Cathedral of Junk is an Austin must for Austinites and visitors alike. Some 60 tons of discarded items are piled artfully in a suburban backyard in South Austin, towering over the home of Vince Hannemann. It's an ever-evolving shrine of the unwanted and discarded, a project that suits the attitude of free expression in Austin.

Roller Derby

Flat track or banked, Texas Rollergirls, Texas Roller Derby, and Austin Anarchy put on a great show. Rooted in the '70's, Roller Derby is a fast paced brawl that you can't take your eyes off of!

Chicken Sh*t Bingo

You can't just play this quirky (and slightly smelly) game of bingo—you have to win. Here's how it works: stop by Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon on Burnet Road on a Sunday night, line up and buy a ticket. Along with the 54 numbered squares, players can buy tickets on the line, the intersection of lines and the orange border around the board. After you've got your ticket, you just have to wait and see where the chicken, well, goes. The winning ticket-holder walks away with the cash pot!

Pennybacker Bridge

This iconic bridge over Lake Austin is informally known as "The 360 Bridge". Surrounded by the rolling hills along Loop 360, it's part of what makes the road one of the most scenic urban drives in Texas. Be sure to take the nearby trail up to the overlook, where you can take in views of the surrounding hills.

FITNESS AND NATURE

Gyms & Fitness Clubs

There are many ways to stay fit in Austin. If hitting the gym is your thing, there's no shortage of choices.

24 Hour Fitness
Anytime Fitness
Austin Simply Fit
Castle Hill Fitness
Crossfit Austin
Crossfit Central
Fit Austin
Gym One
Hyde Park Gym
Lifetime Fitness
Pure Austin Fitness
Orangetheory Fitness

24hourfitness.com
anytimefitness.com
austinsimplyfit.com
castlehillfitness.com
crossfitaustin.com
centralathlete.com
fitaustin.com
gym-one.com
hydeparkgym.com
lifetime.life
pureaustin.com
orangetheoryfitness.com

Bike Trails

Cycling is huge in Austin and there are a wealth of scenic trails.

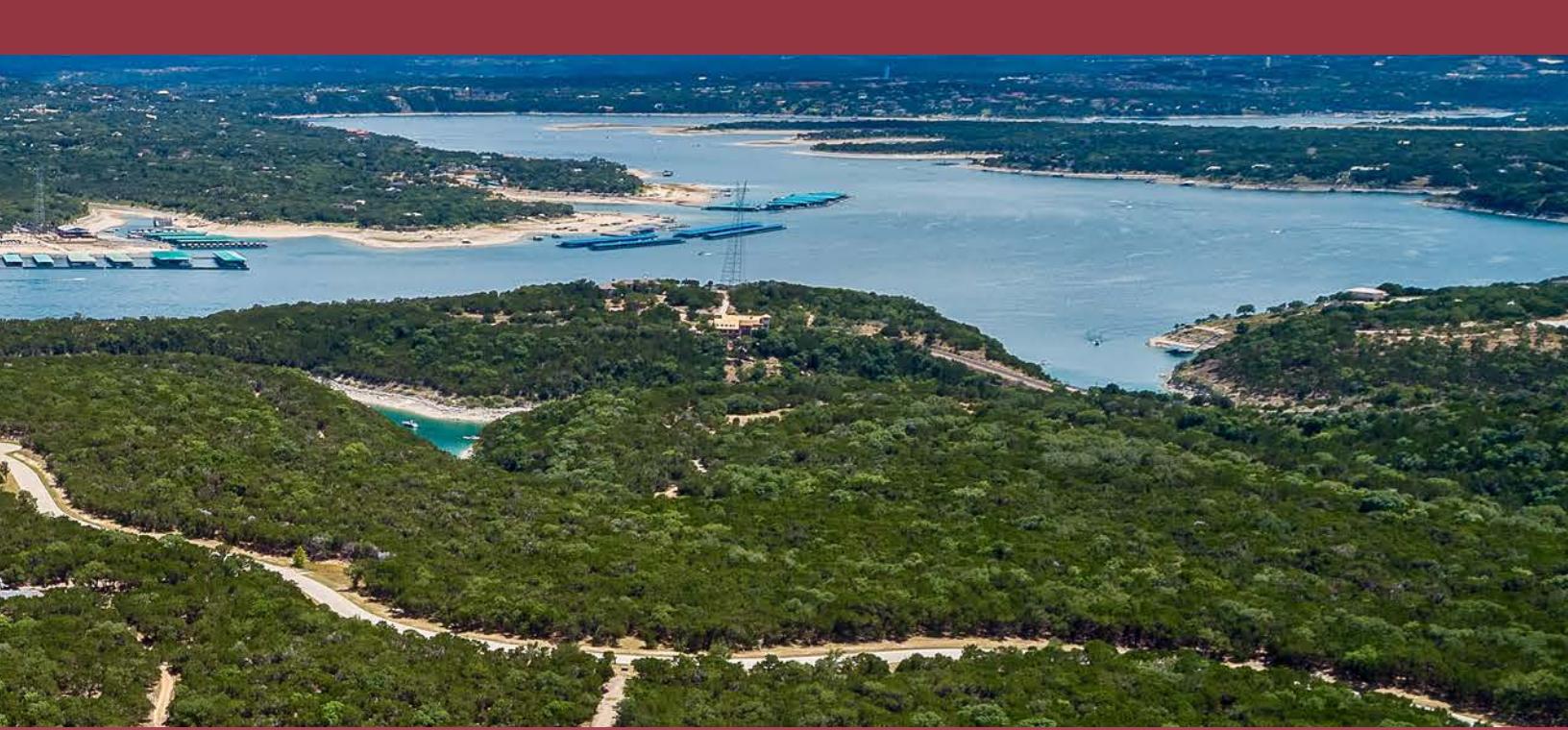
Barton Creek Greenbelt
Bull Creek District Park
Bull Creek Greenbelts
Butler Hike & Bike
Emma Long Metro Park
MetCenter Hike & Bike
Shoal Creek Greenbelt
Slaughter Creek Trail
Veloway
Walnut Creek Metro. Park

austinparks.org
austinparks.org
austinparks.org
thetrailfoundation.org
austintexas.gov
metcenter.com
austintexas.gov
austinparks.org
austintexas.gov
austintexas.gov

Dance & Yoga

Ballet Austin
Black Swan Yoga
Austin Swing Syndicate

balletaustin.org/getfit
blackswanyoga.com
austinswingsyndicate.org



SWIMMING HOLES

When summer arrives, it brings the urge to hit the water! Here in Austin, you'll find plenty of opportunities to cool off in the pools, lakes, and rivers.

Barton Creek

Barton Creek is part of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and one of the most beautiful urban natural areas in the U.S.

Barton Springs Pool

This gorgeous swimming hole is one of the top 10 tourist attractions in Austin. The spring-fed water is a consistent 68 degrees year-round.

Deep Eddy Pool

Featuring a bathhouse built during the Depression era, the historic Deep Eddy Pool is the oldest swimming pool in Texas, with its waters fed from a hand-dug well.

Hamilton Pool Preserve

Acquired by Travis County in 1985, the site has been a popular spring-fed swimming hole since the early 1900s. The pool is in a box canyon fed by a 45-foot waterfall with a sandy beach and giant boulders. Reservations required.

Sculpture Falls

Within the Barton Creek Greenbelt lies Sculpture Falls, a clear, cool, dog-friendly swimming hole.

Big Stacy Pool

This is the place to swim during cold weather, heated by a natural warm spring. It's a special favorite, particularly with lap swimmers.

PARKS & SCENERY

Austinites love nature and Austin is home to many beautiful parks.

Austin Nature and Science Center

ci.austin.tx.us/ansc

Centrally located on the western edge of Zilker Park in the Zilker Nature Preserve, it offers indoor and outdoor exhibits, plus environmental science education programs to schools and the community in and around Austin.

Emma Long Metropolitan Park

austinparks.org

Originally called City Park, it is situated on the shores of Lake Austin. Campsites are available.

Lake Travis

laketravis.com

Formed by Mansfield Dam, it winds through steep, scenic hills for 65 miles with 270 miles of shoreline. More than a mile long with 24 floodgates, the dam is one of the largest masonry structures in the world.

Mayfield Park

mayfieldpark.org

A historic cottage, gardens and nature preserve in west Austin, on a bluff overlooking Lake Austin.

McKinney Falls

tpwd.state.tx.us

Camp, hike, bike, and just enjoy nature alongside Onion Creek as it flows along the limestone landscape.

Mount Bonnell

austinparks.org

At 775 feet, Mount Bonnell is considered to be the highest point in Austin. It's a favorite for Austinites to catch stunning views of the surrounding hills.

Wild Basin

wildbasin.org

Founded in 1974, the Wild Basin preserve covers 227 acres and offers 2.5 miles of hiking trails. Bikes, pets, smoking and picnics are all prohibited within the preserve boundaries.

Zilker Botanical Garden

zilkerbotanicalgarden.org

Often called "the jewel in the heart of Austin", it contains theme gardens such as rose, herb and Japanese gardens, which are interconnected with streams, waterfalls and koi-filled ponds. Within, the Hartman Prehistoric Garden recreates local dinosaur habitats.

GOOD EATS

Food Trucks

Austin runs on food trucks, and there sure are a lot of them. There are over 1200 food trailers, according to the city's state of the food report.

Chi'lantro BBQ
East Side King
Hey Cupcake!
The Peached Tortilla
Torchy's Tacos
Veracruz All Natural
Baton Creole

chilantrobbq.com
eskaustin.com
heycupcake.com
thepeachedtortilla.com
torchystacos.com
veracruzallnatural.com
batoncreole.com

Breakfast Tacos

This Austin staple deserves a category all to its own. Breakfast tacos are an Austinite's primary food group!

Bouldin Creek Café
Fresa's Chicken al Carbon
Juan in a Million
Papalote Taco House
Tacodeli
Veracruz All Natural

bouldincreekcafe.com
fresaschicken.com
juaninamillion.com
yumpapalote.com
tacodeli.com
veracruzallnatural.com

Tex-Mex

No Texan, or Austinite, can make it a week without their beloved Tex-Mex. In Austin, you could probably eat at a new Tex-Mex restaurant every night and still never get sick of it.

Chuy's Tex-Mex
El Arroyo
Fonda San Miguel
Matt's Famous El Rancho
Maudie's
Trudy's Texas Star

chuys.com
elarroyo.com
fondasanmiguel.com
mattselrancho.com
maudies.com
trudys.com



Barbecue

Texas knows barbecue, and Austin is no exception. Getting the meat-sweats is a rite of passage here!

Black's Barbecue
Freedmen's
Franklin BBQ
Iron Works BBQ
Kerlin BBQ
La Barbecue
Lamberts
Micklethwait Craft Meats
Salt Lick BBQ
Stiles Switch
Terry Black's BBQ

blacksbbq.com
freedmensbar.com
franklinbbq.com
ironworksbbq.com
kerlinbbq.com
labarbecue.com
lambertsaustin.com
craftmeatsaustin.com
saltlickbbq.com
stilesswitchbbq.com
terryblacksbqq.com

Locally Grown ♦ Nationally Strong
Make us your personal title company!



Learn more at
IndependenceTitle.com