

A QUICK GUIDE TO AUSTIN, TEXAS



Austin is the state capital of Texas, an inland city bordering the Hill Country region. Home to the University of Texas flagship campus, Austin is known for its eclectic live-music scene centered around country, blues, and rock. Its many parks and lakes are popular for hiking, biking, swimming, and boating. South of the city, Formula One's Circuit of the Americas raceway has hosted the United States Grand Prix.

Things to do:

1. **Music Scene:** Live music is everywhere in Austin. You'll find musicians performing all over town, from the airport terminal to grocery stores. They play outdoors at seasonal live music series and world-famous festivals. Nightly, you'll find Austin musicians at clubs, coffeehouses, bars, taquerias, sporting events, and concert halls - and with hundreds of live music venues, it can be intimidating knowing where to start. Immerse yourself in the heartbeat of Austin's music scene, where live performances echo through the streets day and night. Explore music venues on South Congress Avenue and the Red River Cultural District, learn more at the Texas Music Museum, or catch a show at ACL Live at The Moody Theater. From intimate venues to iconic stages, the city pulsates with rhythm and energy, offering a unique experience for music lovers of all genres.
Recommendations: Austin is famously known as the Live Music Capital of the World, and for good reason. Start your exploration on Sixth Street, where bars and clubs line the streets, offering everything from country and blues to rock and electronic music. Don't miss iconic venues like the Continental Club and Antone's.
2. **Attractions:** Home to unique attractions and world-class museums, Texas' capital city has a soundtrack all its own. Spend a day exploring sculpture gardens and historic homes or zipline

through the Hill Country.

Recommendations: Explore the historic Texas State Capitol to learn more about the Lone Star state. Engage your curiosity at the Austin Nature & Science Center, where interactive exhibits and outdoor exploration await. Or dare to venture into the whimsical world of the Cathedral of Junk, a testament to creativity and unconventional artistry.

3. *Cultural Gems: Art, History, and Heritage* Immerse yourself in Austin's rich cultural tapestry by exploring its vibrant arts and heritage scene. Visit the Blanton Museum of Art, located on the University of Texas campus, to admire its impressive collection of modern and contemporary art, including works by renowned artists such as Andy Warhol and Vincent van Gogh. Discover the city's storied past at the Bullock Texas State History Museum, where interactive exhibits and multimedia displays chronicle the history of Texas from its earliest inhabitants to the present day. Experience the cultural diversity of Austin's neighborhoods by taking a guided tour of historic East Austin, known for its vibrant street art, eclectic shops, and diverse culinary offerings.

4. *Outdoors:* Austin is a year-round outdoor enthusiast's playground, offering everything from scenic trails to crystal-clear lakes. Whether you're a hiker, biker or boater, you're sure to find your bliss in Austin. And with nearly 300 days of sunshine each year, being active in Austin comes naturally.

Recommendations:

-Bat Watching at Lady Bird: Watch 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats fly out from under the Congress Avenue bridge at sundown from late spring through fall. Get a kayak at Zilker Park boat rentals to kayak down the Ladybird or go to Congress Avenue Bridge at sunset to watch the bats fly.

-Swimming hole at Barton Springs Pool: Within Zilker Park's 358 acres lies one of the crown jewels of Austin - In the heart of Zilker Park, minutes from downtown, lies this 200-yard swimming paradise. Barton Springs Pool features year-round, 68-degree, clear water, deep diving, and grassy hills for sunbathing. You name it, this park has it - and everyone knows it, so get there early if you can.

-Swimming at Hamilton Pool: A 40-minute drive from town takes you to another world. One of the most inviting geological phenomena of the Texas Hill Country, Hamilton Pool provides excellent hiking and trail running trails, as well as a stunning swimming hole with a 50-foot waterfall. Reservations Required!

-Climb at Mt. Bonnell: Located in Covert Park, Mount Bonnell is one of the highest points in Austin at 781 feet!

5. *Food and drink:* 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.

Recommendations:

Barbecue:

-Franklin Barbecue. Everyone knows about the long lines at Franklin Barbecue — it's been well



documented — but for many, it's worth the wait for those perfect briskets from James Beard Award-winning pitmaster Aaron Franklin in Central East Austin. It truly is one of the best barbecue restaurants in Austin.

-**Terry Black's Barbecue:** Spacious, casual stop for pit-smoked meats & housemade sides from famous 4th-generation pitmasters.

- Eater Austin award-winning food truck **Distant Relatives**, where pitmaster Damien Brockway and his team explore the African roots of smoked meats and other related dishes.

Restaurants:

-**Ramen Tatsu-ya:** Authentic ramen shops in ATX + HTX specializing in pork, chicken, and veggie broths.

-**Nori** (Sushi Vegetarian and Vegan only): An all-vegan Japanese cuisine restaurant offering a variety of signature sushi rolls, nigiri, ramen, and much more, all set in a beautiful romantic, and cozy environment.



-**Breakfast Tacos:** For the ultimate egg-filled tortillas, you can't go wrong with Veracruz All Natural's options. Otherwise, head to the no-frills truck El Primo on South First (bonus: you can place online orders for both).

Bars:

Here Nor There: While it seems like it's difficult to get into this hidden downtown bar, it actually isn't. Once in, you'll find thoughtfully put-together cocktails in a fun vibey space.

The Driskill Bar: The mezzanine lounge of historic downtown Austin hotel offers a sense of history and class with its many nooks and crannies to explore. It is the place to dress up and feel fancy with solidly classic drinks.

Beer: Beer lovers should head to the longtime brewery [Live Oak's](#) sprawling home in Del Valle. For those in the South Austin area,

[Meanwhile Brewing](#) has become a perfect beer destination.

Food Trucks:

Picnic on Barton Springs Road: Open seven days a week, The Picnic is a quirky trailer park that sports nine different food trucks throughout the year including [Cannone Cucina Italiana](#), [Yapa Artisan Empanadas](#), [Coat & Thai](#) and more. Each truck is contracted to stick around for at least a year, so visitors and guests can map out their favorite bites before stopping by or visiting from out of town. Located near Zilker Park, The Picnic is a great spot to satisfy hunger after a busy day of Austin exploring.

Arbor Food Park: Located on E.12th St., Arbor Food Park brings together several of Austin's tastiest food trailers. Locals love [Cuantos Tacos](#), [Dough Boys](#) pizzas and fajitas from [Comal ATX](#). Take your pick of vendors and find a seat beneath the shady trees and string lights at one of the many colorful picnic tables.

Ira & Bevs Food Court: South Austin is a hub for food trucks and trailers. Located at 1311 S. First St., Ira & Bevs Food Court was the long-time home to the Torchy's food truck, and now features

more rotating favorites like [Bananarchy](#), [Pig Pen BBQ](#), [The Bougie Foodie](#), [Eggman ATX](#) and more. Enjoy plentiful parking and ample picnic table seating.

6. *Shopping and Entertainment:* For those looking to indulge in some retail therapy, Austin offers a variety of shopping destinations. South Congress Avenue, known locally as SoCo, is lined with eclectic boutiques, vintage shops, and art galleries. Or head out to the outdoor mall of Domain located north of Austin.



With its rich culture, diverse cuisine, and abundance of activities, Austin offers something for everyone. Whether you're a music lover, outdoor enthusiast, foodie, or history buff, you'll find plenty of ways to experience the best of this dynamic city. So pack your bags and get ready to explore all that Austin, Texas, has to offer!