

A scenic view of the Austin skyline across a body of water, framed by large trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and green. The sky is a soft, hazy blue.

Austin

FALL GUIDE

A local's guide to Fall in Austin

DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE

WELCOME

What fall *looks like* here

Every year I get the same question around this time: what is there to do here once fall settles in? The honest answer is everything you've been skipping since June. Sometime in October the air finally breaks, the patios fill back up, and Austin stops feeling like something to survive. This is the season people moved here for.

This is the list I send to friends. Steal all of it.

If we haven't met yet, I'm Kathleen. I moved to Austin in 2021, and I've been showing people what I love about living here ever since.

FALL HERE MEANS

Morning air under 80° for the first time since May

Burnt orange everywhere and football on every screen

Patios at golden hour that nobody wants to leave



Make the most of *the season*

Every year the season sneaks up the same way: one month you're still in summer mode, the next you're outside every weekend, and then suddenly it's the holidays.

September

HAPPENING:
Bat Fest — September 5
Evening

WORTH EATING:
Suerte
East Austin

GET OUTSIDE:
Barton Creek Greenbelt

October

HAPPENING:
ACL Music Festival
Oct 2–4 & 9–11 | All day

WORTH EATING:
Odd Duck
South Lamar

GET OUTSIDE:
Lady Bird Lake:
kayak or paddleboard

November

HAPPENING:
Texas Book Festival
Nov 14–15 | Free

WORTH EATING:
Kitsu Nori
South Lamar

GET OUTSIDE:
McKinney Falls State Park



Slow mornings

The best mornings here don't have a plan.
Coffee first, then wherever the rest of the day goes.



COFFEE

Jo's Coffee

great latte, the mural's there, nobody's rushing you

BREAKFAST

Joe's Bakery

Tex-Mex since 1962, flour tortillas made fresh that morning

BAKERY

Épicerie

a little French café in a converted house, the croissant sandwich is worth the drive

QUIET SPOT

Cenote

a bungalow patio on a slow street, you'll stay longer than you planned

Outside

The whole point of this season is ending up outside for longer than you meant to.



TRAIL OR WALK

Barton Creek Greenbelt

miles of trail that end at a swimming hole, go early

LOOKOUT

Mount Bonnell

short climb, big view, worth every step

PARK

Zilker Park

kite weather, open fields, the skyline's right there

BEST PATIO

Radio Coffee & Beer

big shady lot, good coffee, dogs everywhere, zero pretense

With the kids

Weekends go easier when you already know where you're going.
These are the reliable ones.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Barton Springs Pool

fed by natural springs, 68 degrees year round,
kids love it

PARK

McKinney Falls State Park

easy trails, creek swimming, feels like you
actually left the city

TREAT STOP

Amy's Ice Creams

Austin original since 1984, Belgian chocolate is
the move

DOG FRIENDLY

Radio Coffee & Beer

sprawling outdoor space, kids and dogs
welcome, nobody minds the chaos

After dark

Evenings get better this time of year.
Here is where I'd spend one if I had it free.



DINNER

Uchi

Japanese farmhouse vibes, the daily special is always the answer

DESSERT

Amy's Ice Creams

The late-night line is part of it, Belgian chocolate, always

DRINKS

Whisler's

Mezcal bar on East 6th, low light, always the right vibe

LIVE MUSIC

Stubb's Amphitheater

Outdoor shows under the stars, best fall lineup in the city

When people visit

When someone is in town for a weekend, this is the short list I actually hand them.



FIRST STOP

South Congress Avenue

shops, food trucks, the vibe, it explains Austin faster than anything

THE VIEW

Mount Bonnell

best overlook in the city, bring someone who's never been

THE ONE MEAL

Franklin Barbecue

yes, the line is real, yes it's still worth it, get there early

ONLY HERE

Barton Springs Pool

spring-fed, city-owned, completely Austin, nothing else like it

EVERY YEAR

Traditions

The things locals look forward to every season.

ACL Music Festival

Zilker Park becomes a music city for two October weekends

Hill Country drive

amber and red for miles, everyone makes the drive at least once

Longhorns football

game days at DKR Memorial Stadium, burnt orange everywhere

Halloween on 6th Street

the whole street shuts down, Austin does it bigger than you'd expect

Barton Springs season shift

68 degrees year round, locals jump in the moment the air cools

Round Top Antiques Fair

the tiny town fills up with dealers and design lovers twice a year

Texas Book Festival

authors on the Capitol grounds, two days, free and open to all

Fredericksburg wine run

a cool weekend in wine country, the timing finally makes sense



DON'T MISS THESE

The *Fall* bucket list

- ☐ Watch the bats leave from Congress Ave Bridge
- ☐ Get to Franklin Barbecue before they sell out
- ☐ Catch a Longhorns home game at DKR Stadium
- ☐ Jump in Barton Springs when the air finally cools
- ☐ Drive through the Hill Country for the color
- ☐ Grab a breakfast taco from Joe's Bakery
- ☐ Walk the Barton Creek Greenbelt at golden hour
- ☐ See a show at Stubb's Amphitheater
- ☐ Spend a weekend at the Round Top Antiques Fair
- ☐ Make it to ACL Fest, even for one day
- ☐ Order the daily special at Uchi
- ☐ Browse the Texas Book Festival on the Capitol grounds
- ☐ Carve a pumpkin and leave it out (it'll survive)
- ☐ Take someone new to Mount Bonnell
- ☐ Hit Fredericksburg for a wine country weekend
- ☐ Halloween night on 6th Street
- ☐ End the night with Amy's Belgian chocolate



Ten Things, *One Weekend*

☐ Clear the gutters

☐ Flush the water heater

☐ Fresh smoke detector batteries

☐ Clean the dryer vent

☐ Reverse the ceiling fans

☐ Swap the HVAC filter

☐ Check the weather stripping

☐ Shut off the outdoor faucet

☐ Walk the roof line

☐ Test the garage door sensors

WHO I'D CALL

The four numbers I give out most. Save them before you need them.

PAINTER

Maestro

512.422.2901

LANDSCAPER

Francisco (FT Landscaping)

512.888.2682

HANDYMAN

Jose Martinez

512.789.0474

HVAC

Josh (Enhanced HVAC)

469.766.8371



Need a different vendor referral or recommendation?
I've spent years building relationships with local businesses I'd genuinely recommend to family. Send me a message and I'll connect you.

Weekend trips

Fredericksburg

DRIVE TIME

1.5 hours

KNOWN FOR

wine country, German heritage, fall is when it's quieter and better

WORTH THE STOP

Luckenbach Texas, for the dancehall and nothing else

New Braunfels

DRIVE TIME

45 minutes

KNOWN FOR

the Comal River, Gruene Hall, the oldest dance hall in Texas

WORTH THE STOP

Gruene Hall on a Sunday afternoon, cold beer and live music

Round Top

DRIVE TIME

1.5 hours

KNOWN FOR

the antiques fair, a tiny town that fills up twice a year

WORTH THE STOP

Royers Café, pie that people plan road trips around





Hey there, I'm Kathleen

AUSTIN LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

I love sharing about all the things that make Austin special. I hope you learned something new in this guide!

If you're looking for more local recs—check out my Instagram or send me a message, I'd love to hear from you!

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Let's talk

Thinking about a move before the year turns?
Start here.

[SCHEDULE A CALL](#)