

THE HOLIDAY GUIDE

The 2026 *Austin* Holiday Guide

Can’t-miss events, eats, and festivities for the 2026 holiday season

KATHLEEN MAGAT, REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

THE TABLE

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

My go-to spots when friends are in town for the holidays, from the coffee I grab before work to where I'd meet you for a nightcap.







RESTAURANTS

Escuela
Big Slick
Tancho Sushi

COFFEE

Mozart's Coffee Roasters
Epoch Coffee
Cenote

DRINKS

Jester King Brewery
Lala's Little Nugget
The Driskill Bar

TREATS

Gourdough's Big. Fat. Donuts.
Lick Honest Ice Creams
Quack's 43rd Street Bakery

SHOP LOCAL

Holiday Shopping

I do most of my holiday shopping right here in Austin. The gifts feel more thoughtful, and the money stays in our community. These are the shops I keep going back to every year.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
Sat, Nov 28

ARMADILLO BAZAAR
Dec 12 – 21

LATE SHOPPING NIGHTS
SoCo · Thu, Dec 3

FOR THE HOST
Antonelli's Cheese Shop
Texas cheese gift box · Hyde Park

FOR THE FOODIE
Asahi Imports
Japanese snacks and pantry finds · Brentwood

FOR THE KIDS
Toy Joy
Quirky toys and games · Brentwood

FOR THE HOMEBODY
take heart
Candles, bath salts, ceramics · East Austin

FOR THE STOCKINGS
Big Top Candy Shop
Rare and retro candy · South Congress

FOR THE ONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING
Uncommon Objects
One-of-a-kind vintage finds · South Austin



SPEND AN AFTERNOON IN
South Congress Avenue
Hit Big Top Candy Shop, Allens Boots and the Music Lane shops. Park in the Music Lane garage, then warm up with a latte at Jo's Coffee.

ON THE CALENDAR

Events & Festivities

Grab your calendar. These are the holiday events we plan our whole December around, and the good ones sell out early.

CONCERTS & SHOWS

The Nutcracker
Dec 4 – 23 · Long Center

Handel's Messiah
Tue, Dec 1 · Hyde Park Church

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah
Sun, Dec 6 · St. Matthew's Episcopal

A Christmas Carol
Nov 18 – Dec 27 · Zach Theatre

On a Winter's Eve: Gloria
Sat, Dec 19 · NW Hills United Methodist

FESTIVALS & MARKETS

Zilker Tree Lighting
Sun, Nov 29 · Zilker Park

Downtown Holiday Stroll
Sat, Dec 5 · Congress Ave

Austin Trail of Lights
Dec 10 – 23 · Zilker Park

Blue Genie Art Bazaar
Nov 13 – Dec 24 · Airport Blvd

Christmas on Mercer
Date TBA (early Dec) · Dripping Springs



BEST OF AUSTIN

The *Holiday* bucket list

- [ ] Try a seasonal drink at Mozart's
- [ ] Pick up cookies from Quack's
- [ ] Catch The Nutcracker at the Long Center
- [ ] Take in the lights on 37th Street
- [ ] Go ice skating at the Ice Rodeo
- [ ] Shop the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar
- [ ] Try a seasonal brew at Jester King
- [ ] Go holiday shopping on South Congress
- [ ] Walk the Trail of Lights at Zilker
- [ ] Sing along at the Downtown Holiday Stroll
- [ ] Spin under the Zilker Holiday Tree
- [ ] Sit by the fire at The Driskill
- [ ] Wine tasting in Dripping Springs
- [ ] Volunteer at Central Texas Food Bank
- [ ] Bake holiday cookies
- [ ] Toast the season at Lala's Little Nugget



PART ONE

Adventures in Austin

When the weekend is wide open and you want to feel festive without planning much, these are my easy go-tos.







WINTER FUN

Ice skating at the Four Seasons Ice Rodeo · A seasonal drink at Mozart's Coffee Roasters · A winter walk around Lady Bird Lake

LIGHTS, DECOR & DISPLAYS

37th Street Lights · Pemberton Heights · Zilker Holiday Tree · Congress Avenue

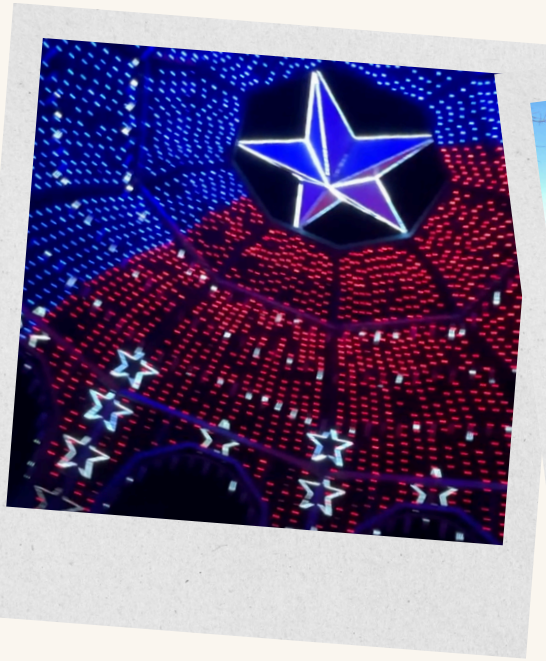
MARKETS & MAKERS

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar · Blue Genie Art Bazaar · SFC Farmers' Market Downtown

PART TWO

Adventures in Austin

For family days: the spots kids beg to go back to, the best backdrops for your holiday card, and a few that welcome the dog too.







FOR THE KIDS

Trail of Lights at Zilker Park · The Nutcracker at the Long Center · Holiday Sing-Along on Congress Avenue

FESTIVE PHOTO OPPS

The Driskill Hotel lobby · The Texas Capitol tree · Photos with Santa at Barton Creek Square

FOR THE PETS

Pet Photos with Santa at Barton Creek Square · Toy and blanket drive for Austin Pets Alive! · Home for the Holidays adoptions at Austin Animal Center

JUST OPENED

New + Coming Soon

Every time I'm out with clients, someone asks what's new in town.
Here's what opened this year and what's coming soon.

Alteño	Fire-driven Jalisco cooking · Rainey Street
Kappo Kappo	French-Japanese tasting menu · Downtown
Restaurant François	French-American dining room · Downtown
Kiin Di	Thai truck's first restaurant · South Lamar
Umarell	Casual Italian, house-made pastas · Hyde Park
Big Top Hyde Park	SoCo candy shop's second spot · Hyde Park
Poeta	Italian, now in East Austin Hotel · East Sixth
Shola	Indian-Texan smokehouse · Govalle (Coming soon)
ChowChow	Southern comfort food · Manor Rd (Coming soon)
Café Fleurs de Nuit	Justine's café at the Blanton · UT (Coming soon)

TAKE A TRIP

Local Stays & Getaways

Need a cozy place to put up visiting family, or craving a quick weekend away yourself? These are the spots I recommend.

GETAWAYS



1 HR BY CAR

Johnson City

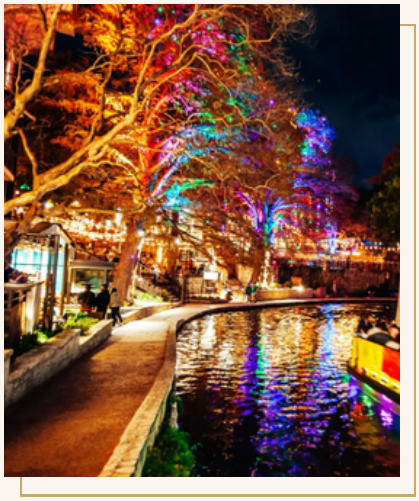
Tiny Hill Country town glowing with millions of holiday lights



2.5 HRS BY PLANE

Breckenridge, CO

Real snow, ski runs and 250,000 lights on Main Street



1.5 HRS BY CAR

San Antonio

River Walk glowing with 100,000 lights through early January

LOCAL STAYS

- Brava House B&B
- Hotel San José
- Commodore Perry Estate
- Strickland Arms B&B
- The Driskill

Book early. Holiday weekends fill up fast.

FROM ME TO YOU



Wishing You *Happy Holidays*

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season making memories and enjoying great company.

I'm so glad I could share a few of my favorite holiday happenings in Austin with you!

Kathleen

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Have questions about real estate in Austin?

You don't have to be ready to buy or sell to reach out. Curious what your home is worth? Send me a message or schedule a call.

SCHEDULE A CALL