

VISIT *Austin*

LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD®

A woman with curly hair is singing into a microphone. She is wearing a colorful, patterned top and large, ornate earrings. The background is dark with some light spots, suggesting a stage or concert setting. A circular graphic with a white background and an orange border is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

THE
ULTIMATE
FIELD GUIDE TO
THE SOUL OF
Austin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to Austin 3
East Austin 4
Six Square (Austin’s Black Cultural District) 5
Huston-Tillotson University 7

INSIDER TIPS

Music 10
Arts & Culture 11
Food 12
Comedy 14
Dance 15
Outdoors 16
2 Days in Austin 18

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

Downtown 22
East 24
Rainey Street 25
Red River 26
Sixth Street 27
South Congress 28
The Domain 29
Events 30
Transportation 36
Directory 38

WELCOME TO AUSTIN

On behalf of Visit Austin and the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce (GABC), welcome to the Live Music Capital of the World®! This Field Guide to the Soul of Austin provides an overview of the city, plus plenty of signposts to help you get your cultural bearings. In the following pages, you'll find a sampling of the must do, see and experience Austin hits. Let this insider's advice point you in the right direction for history and culture, as well as where to go for an amazing meal, a relaxing afternoon or a hot night out.

On behalf of the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, welcome to Austin. This guide includes just a sampling of our members' businesses, but it won't take long for you to see what makes Austin one of the top 15 cities where African Americans achieve economic success, and where Black firms exceed Texas and U.S. averages in retail sales. We invite you to experience Austin's history, unique culture and of course some of the local businesses featured in these pages. While you're in town, interact with us via #IAMBLACKAUSTIN™, an ongoing interactive campaign highlighting the multidimensional expression of Black life in Austin.



TAM HAWKINS *President & CEO,*
GREATER AUSTIN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Welcome! At Visit Austin, we invite you to experience Austin like a local — stroll through our vibrant entertainment districts, catch a show at one of more than 250 live music venues or immerse yourself in the rich history of Black cultural district. If we can be of assistance during your stay, please stop by the Austin Visitor Center, engage with us on Twitter using #trueaustin or just tap a friendly Austinite on the shoulder. We're happy you're here and wish you an enjoyable stay.



TOM NOONAN *President & CEO,*
VISIT AUSTIN

For more information, visit us at [visitaustin.org](https://www.visitaustin.org) and [austinbcc.org](https://www.austinbcc.org).

EAST AUSTIN

You can see the heart of East Austin in the African American and Latino cultures that intertwine block by block. Entities like **Six Square**, **Spirit of the East Side** and **Hermanos de East Austin** are dedicated to preserving the history and culture of this area of the city.

The East Side is home to the **George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural and Genealogy Center**, which boasts a genealogy center, meeting and performance spaces and a namesake branch of the public library. **Downs Mabson Field**, once home of the Austin Black Senators. The **Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (MYEC)** is where locals and visitors alike bring the family for bowling, roller-skating, karaoke, games, birthday parties, concerts and more. MYEC has strong ties to the East Side; it came together as a symbol of peaceful activism to offer local kids safe, wholesome entertainment options. (Kids just see it for the fun!)

This is where people gather at **Rosewood Park** to commemorate Juneteenth, and it's home to MLK Day celebrations at Austin's Historically Black College and University (HBCU), **Huston-Tillotson University**.

And sure, east of I-35 one can find the hottest chefs and the most sought-after mixologists, but dig a little deeper for a richer taste of history and culture. Because it's where, after 40+ years, you'll still find brothers Freddie and Eddie Roland of **Roland's Soul Food and Fish** dishing out home-style cooking. It's where you go when you want to find old-school curanderas **The Green and White Grocery** or some honest-to-goodness good Texas Cooking at **Hoover's**.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

NEFERTITI JACKMON

Six Square

Nefertiti Jackmon is the executive director for Six Square and works to preserve and celebrate the historic legacy of the African American community that lived and thrived in Central East Austin. Take a tour of the district and learn of the history of the people, places and stories that have contributed to the cultural diversity of Austin.



HISTORICAL SITES

SEE PAGE 39 FOR ADDRESSES

- 01 Six Square office
- 02 Dedrick-Hamilton House
- 03 Carver Museum
- 04 Victory Grill
- 05 Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce office + African American Heritage Facility
- 06 Downs Mabson Field
- 07 Huston-Tillotson University
- 08 MYEC
- 09 Texas State Cemetery
- 10 Texas Music Museum

SIX SQUARE

As one of the largest cultural districts in the country, **Six Square** takes its name from the literal boundary (of approximately six square miles) designated for the district and creates a positive and welcoming environment while actively crafting the district's important future. Stop by the Six Square office to take a tour of the East Side.

Six Square is home to numerous sites of national, regional and local historic significance and celebrates African American culture year-round with art exhibits, performances, festivals and other engaging community events.



Photo by Kevin Muñoz

Texas State Cemetery

Founded in 1851, the **Texas State Cemetery** is the final resting place of Texas' most notable sons and daughters, including Stephen F. Austin and Barbara Jordan.

Oakwood Cemetery

Originally called City Cemetery in 1839, this is the oldest of five public cemeteries in Austin. The first reported burial was that of an enslaved person in 1839. The 40-acre cemetery's 23,000 burials — reflective of Austin's diverse population with two Jewish sections and the burials of colonial pioneers and five governors — are managed by the city and it continues to receive burials.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

HARRISON EPPRIGHT

Austin Visitor Center

Harrison Eppright, a native Austinite (save for the 10 months he lived in Nacogdoches, Texas), is the manager of Visitor Services and tour ambassador for Visit Austin. Harrison suggests all visitors take a tour of the Texas State Capitol as it links Austin's history and identity — past, present and future.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

Austin is proud to be a university-centered city. Our institutions of higher learning bring thousands of hungry minds to the city each school year. HBCU Huston-Tillotson University opened in 1875 as the very first institution of higher learning in Austin.

It began as two schools, Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College, until merging in 1952. Notable alumni include **Alex Porter, Azie Taylor Morton, James A. Harris, Dr. Herman Barnett, Gill Askey, Dr. June H. Brewer, Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes** and **Volma Overton**, among many distinguished others, and perhaps most famously, **Jackie Robinson**, who coached basketball here in 1944–45.



Photo by Kevin Muñoz

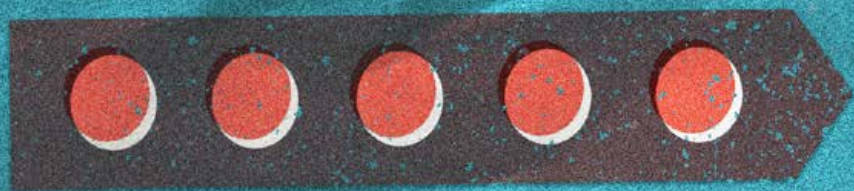


Photo provided by HBCU Battle of the Brains

**INSIDER
SPOTLIGHT**

**O
COM
DANCE**

MUSIC
ARTS
FOOD
OUTDOORS
MEDY



Austin is the soul of Texas, and we earn the title of Live Music Capital of the World® by showcasing bands seven nights a week in more than 250 live music venues across the city. We are home to world-class festivals such as **Austin City Limits Music Festival**, **South by Southwest®**, **Carnaval Brasileiro**, **Urban Music Festival** and **Austin Reggae Festival**, where we deliver the best in music, dance and food. Many of our legendary live music venues were made famous by hosting legends like **Ray Charles** and **B.B. King**. Today, local talents such as **Gary Clark, Jr.**, **Bavu Blakes** and **Ephraim Owens** perform regularly, and we're introducing visitors to the next generation of artists such as **Charlie Belle**, **The Peterson Brothers**, **Tameca Jones**, **Tree G**, **Chay CEO**, **Mama Duke**, **Serafina** and **Ray Prim**.



*Insider tip: The Live Music Capital of the World® has come up with a way to tip musicians in a frequently cashless society. Download **TipCow** (tipcow.me) where you can swipe to show financial appreciation for a good time.*



Photo by Dave Mead



Photo by Arlyn Studios

INSIDER SPOTLIGHT ARTS & CULTURE

Art connoisseurs have a full itinerary all their own. Home to world-class museums and galleries, Austin's burgeoning creative scene is home to visual artists such as **Chaka Mpeanaji**, **Kel Brown** and **Beth Consetta Rubel**.

The **Carver Museum** collects, preserves and exhibits African American historical and cultural material. Pride of place is the core exhibit on Juneteenth, with a permanent exhibit on Austin African American families. It's a fantastic place for the kiddos, with a children's exhibit on African American scientists and inventors. Its four galleries, dance studio, theater and genealogy center come together to offer a truly immersive experience.

The **Dedrick-Hamilton House** was owned by Thomas Dedrick, one of the first freed slaves in Travis County, and his relative James Hamilton was the last person to reside there. The home, built around 1880, was in one of the earliest African American communities in East Austin. The fully restored historic house now serves as an African American Visitors Center and retail shop. The Dedrick-Hamilton House also houses the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Arts & Cultural Resources. The Dedrick-Hamilton House is currently managed by the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, which is located at the African American Cultural Heritage facility.

The Contemporary, one museum with two sites, showcases contemporary art and culture. Both its Laguna Gloria and Downtown locations are gorgeously curated homes to international, immersive modern art.

Ballet Afrique was started in 2008 by China Smith, as a cultural center for the African American contemporary dance arts. Now home to a dance academy, a professional dance company, a youth dance ensemble and community dance classes, Ballet Afrique is a bedrock of cultural expression through movement.

We're also home to enough filmmakers' studios and film schools to earn the nickname "Third Coast." Be sure to check out the **Capital City Black Film Festival** in August. You can also see a show year-round at **Spectrum Theatre Company**.

*Insider tip: Keep newcomers **Fum Fum Ko** and **B.B. Araya** on your radars!*

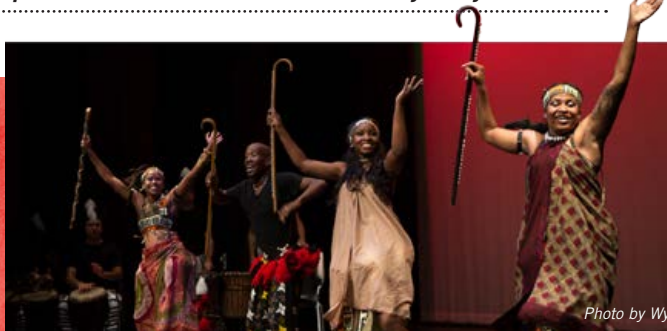


Photo by Wyatt Brands

INSIDER SPOTLIGHT FOOD

BARBECUE

In Texas, barbecue is as ubiquitous as sunshine and football. We're home to **Franklin Barbecue**, a joint so world-famous that **President Obama** considered it a must-try on his stop through town. While he was able to skip the hours-long wait, no one else can, so be prepared to stay a while. The “swear it’s worth it” waiting is considered part of the experience, and there’s no shortage of cold beer to make that line bearable.



Photo by Eric Ellis

East Side's **Sam's BBQ**, serving Austin's original hot sausage and home of the “You Don't Need Teeth to Eat My Beef,” is a mainstay among locals. They've been at their base at 12th and Chicon since the 1940s, and in this quickly changing part of town, they're a stronghold of East Austin's past.

Insider tip: Sam's BBQ is open until 3 a.m. on the weekends!

Detroit-based **Dirty Gloves Midwest BBQ** found a home in Austin and drummed up a big fan base faster than it took to smoke those ribs. They have shrimp and catfish on their menu, along with all the Southern sides you could ask for.

La Barbecue and **Micklethwait Craft Meats** are also heavy hitters here in town.

TEX-MEX

Where to find Austin's most authentic Tex-Mex breakfast, lunch and dinner? The East Side, of course. On Cesar Chavez, **Juan in a Million** is famous for their breakfast tacos. Visit **Mi Madre's** on Manor Road for your chips and salsa fix. On East Seventh Street, **Joe's Bakery & Coffee Shop** is a family business that got its start in 1935 with a small restaurant that doubled as their home. Serving up traditional style of pan Mexicano (pan dulce) from the start, and in the '60s, expanding into a full-service restaurant, Joe's has been a staple of the community ever since. Their diner-style breakfast (chicharrón platters, barbacoa tacos, migas) is served all day, and their lunch will never leave you hungry.

Insider tip: Locals swear their menudo is the best around (but save some room for their pink cake!).

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

REGINA ESTRADA

Joe's Bakery & Coffee Shop

"I always tell people Austin is unlike any other city in Texas, and I am proud to represent Austin's unique personality. At Joe's Bakery, we are a melting pot of diversity, culture, music, history and, most importantly, people. I firmly believe when you walk through our doors, you are getting a real glimpse of Austin. The history is on our walls, and the love and laughter make you feel at home."

FOOD TRUCKS

The food truck scene in Austin is on another level. Black-owned **Three Chicks Soul Food**, **The Grub House** (don't miss their firecracker fries!), **Krab Kingz Seafood**, and **Emojis Grilled Cheese** are all solid choices. Hit up **Wild Magnolias** for New Orleans-style catfish and their crowd-favorite peach tea.



Photo by Lars Frazer

Originally starting out as a food truck, **Chi'Lantro BBQ** has multiple locations around town, including South Shore along **Lady Bird Lake** and serves up delicious Korean-Mexican fusion. They are best known for their kimchi fries, but you can't go wrong with anything on their menu.



Photo by Tyler Malone

CRAFT BEER

Austin is a heavy hitter on the craft beer scene. Taste your way around the beer menus at the many breweries, pubs and restaurants. Our brewmasters and bar staffs are well-versed and can steer you in the right direction, so don't be shy and ask questions. **Craftbeeraustin.com** is a great online source for the latest suds news and tasting events.

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/HALAL

As much as Austin loves our barbecue, we have many options when it comes to vegetarian, vegan, halal and paleo. **Counter Café**, **Mr. Natural**, **Casa de Luz** and **Bouldin Creek Café** don't skimp on big flavors. **Picnik** is Austin's premier paleo stop. They pride themselves on allergy awareness and are known for their grass-fed butter coffee.

For certified halal, **The Halal Corner**, **Halal Bros** and **Shawarma Point** are all local favorites. Heavily lauded **Kababeque** has food trucks on The University of Texas campus and at The Domain.

INSIDER SPOTLIGHT **COMEDY**

Austin's comedy scene has exploded over the past decade, and there's something to see every night of the week. All-Black improv troupes, **Sugar, Water, Purple** and **Damn, Gina!**, are guaranteed to bring the LOLs at **ColdTowne Theater**. Blogger, actress and ridiculously hilarious comedian **Nathalie Holmes** commands the stage at Downtown's darling sketch and satire comedy club, **Esther's Follies**.



Photo by Moontower Comedy Fest

Home of the Funniest Person in Austin competition, **Cap City Comedy Club** brings in national headliners alongside a steady roster of up-and-coming standups. Austin's five families of improv — **Merlin Works**, **ColdTowne Theater**, **The Hideout**, **The Institution** and **The New Movement** — hold comedy court at their respective comedy venues. Each spring, the **Moontower Comedy Festival** showcases the best we've got, alongside the best in the nation.

INSIDER SPOTLIGHT **DANCE**

Once a month, **The Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex** has **Grown Folks Step and Roll** adult skate and old-school hip-hop dance party. **Body Rock ATX** holds court once a month at **Empire Control Room**, and the **Sahara Lounge** hosts **Ladies Night: Funk, Soul, Hip-hop Dance Parties** on third Thursdays.



Photo by Stephen Rudd

On the DJ scene, keep an ear out for **DJ Kay Cali**, **DJ I Wanna Be Her**, **Cold Lampin' Crew**, **DJ Hella Yella**, **DJ Mr. Dig** and **DJ Mel**. And do what you can to catch award-winning hip-hop duo **Riders Against the Storm** while you're out.

Insider tip: Follow these influencer DJs for tweets and snaps on the latest around town.



EAR CANDY & CHILL



EAR CANDY + BARBECUE

The original **Stubb's Bar-B-Q**, founded in 1968, quickly became a stage for musicians like **Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Robert Cray** and **Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown**. Its musical legacy continues to live on through two stages of live music and a revolving roster of national and local acts. Don't miss their **Sunday Gospel Brunch**, with live Gospel music and a world-renowned buffet, featuring such items as: Southern-style grits, migas, fried catfish and their famous barbecue brisket, complete with a bespoke Bloody Mary bar.

EAR CANDY

Originally on the Chitlin' Circuit, the **Victory Grill** hosted acts such as **B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland, W.C. Clark, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Ike & Tina Turner, James Brown, Etta James, Billie Holiday, Chuck Berry** and **Janis Joplin**. Today, you can still catch live music at this legendary juke joint, as well as African American film screenings.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

TJE AUSTIN

Musician

Tje, a singer/songwriter, was on the first season of "The Voice," and today he can be seen playing at local venues all over the city.

Tje suggests checking out pastry shops like **Gourdough's** and **Sugar Mama's**.

"I am proud to be part of the ever-evolving machine of artists in Austin that help it truly be the Live Music Capital of the World®. People come to Austin because they know we have great barbecue and even better music."

INSIDER SPOTLIGHT OUTDOORS

Austin gets more than 300 days of sunshine a year, and you can soak up every bit of it. Lace up your trainers and hit our trails with the Austin chapter of **Black Girls Run**. Looking for a group outing? Let the Austin Chapter of **Outdoor Afro** show you around. Don't be surprised if you run into Olympic Gold Medalist **Sanya Richards-Ross** at **Lady Bird Lake** — we're proud to call her an Austinite!

We're spoiled for choice when it comes to outdoor recreation, sights and dining — whether you're planning a day out on the lake or if you just feel like kicking back on a patio with a craft cocktail — there's something to discover around every corner here.

RUN, WALK OR RIDE THE HIKE-AND-BIKE TRAIL

Ten miles of lush canopy crown **Lady Bird Lake** in the heart of Downtown, making it perfect for a shaded relaxing stroll or invigorating run. Or pick up a bike rental and take in the downtown skyline on wheels. The **Boardwalk** connects the trail over the lake, allowing for easy trail exploration. Pack binoculars for the abundant bird watching.

HOT DAYS, COLD WATER

It's not an exaggeration that **Barton Springs Pool** is a literal oasis, with its clear aquamarine waters allowing for clear viewing of the native plants and fish. The constant 68-degree water attracts both recreational and endurance swimmers year-round. The surrounding green hills make for perfect lounging and people watching. Do some laps in **Deep Eddy Pool**, the state's oldest public swimming pool.



GET YOUR HIKE OR BIKE ON

Another example of what sets Austin apart from the rest of Texas? **The Barton Creek Greenbelt** defies the expected Texas terrain with more than seven miles of hiking, biking, swimming, boating, and waterskiing. **Walnut Creek Trail** is Austin's first Urban Trail, and **Walter E. Long Park** is great for fishing, picnics and family gatherings.



2 DAYS IN AUSTIN

DAY ONE

MORNING

Get your caffeine fix at **Caffé Medici** before spending the morning exploring the **Texas Capitol** grounds and nearby historic sites. While at the Capitol grounds look for the **African American History Memorial**, a two-sided panorama depicting over 400 years of the black experience in Texas. Walk over to Baylor and 11th to explore **HOPE Outdoor Gallery**, an outdoor paint park designed and developed with the help of contemporary artist **Shepard Fairey**. The only paint park of its kind in the nation, this park brings muralists, street artists and community groups together to showcase positivity through graffiti. Got can skills? Grab a paint pass and get to creating.

AFTERNOON

For lunch, nothing but a juicy two-fisted burger and truffle fries from **Hopdoddy Burger Bar**, a light and savory avocado toast at **Cafe No Sé** or a slice of margarita pizza from **Home Slice** will do. Snap a pic at the iconic “I love you so much” mural, then stroll South Congress with a coffee from **Jo’s** and pop in to **South Congress Books**, **Lucy in Disguise**, **Triple Z Threadz**, **Big Top Candy Shop** and all spots in between. Then take in some Texas culture at the **Bullock Texas State History Museum**. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the exhibits in this three-story Downtown treasure, with its High Noon talks and IMAX theater. You can also visit the **Mexic-Arte Museum**, **Harry Ransom Center** or the **Blanton Museum of Art**. If you’ve worked up an appetite after all the history and art, head to **Hillside Farmacy** for their mac & cheese or beer battered fish & chips.



Photo by Blanton Museum of Art

EVENING

Take a sunset cruise or rent a canoe to watch the millions of Mexican free-tailed bats under the Congress Avenue bridge take flight (April through October, roughly). Head over to the East Side for dinner at **Casa Colombia** or dine outdoors at **Justine’s Brasserie**, where the atmosphere battles the food and cocktails for winning your heart and belly. Afterward, **Whisler’s** has cocktails to match its cool interior, and take in a play at **Vortex**. Or head back Downtown for jazz at **Elephant Room**.

Insider tip: Take some time to visit **Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum’s Civil Rights exhibit**.

DAY TWO

MORNING

Rent a **Rocket Electrics** bike and cruise over to the **East Side**. Hit up local legend **Joe's Bakery** for a Tex-Mex breakfast, or try a nice buttery croissant from **Blue Dahlia**. Then head over to the **You're my Butter Half** mural and take a selfie with your better half. While east, visit the **Carver Museum** and take a tour **Six Square**, Austin's Black Cultural District. Feeling some food-truck love? Check out the bacon, pimento cheese and fried egg on brioche at **Paperboy**, and **Mr. Natural** has all your vegan/vegetarian needs covered.



Photo by George Washington Carver Museum

AFTERNOON

Meet up with your tour guide from the nationally lauded **Austin Eats Food Tour**. Their highly rated "Best of Austin" food truck tour is a foodie's paradise. With a roster of 80 local restaurants and food trucks they rotate through, you can rest assured that you'll get a proper sampling of the best of the best, bite by bite. Good weather? Grab your swimsuit and enjoy a splash in **Barton Springs**, and bring a kite and let the kids spend the afternoon at **Zilker Park**. Shopping beckons? Head north to **The Domain** for stores like **W3LL PEOPLE** and **STAG Provisions for Men**.



Photo by Visit Austin

EVENING

Spice things up with dinner at **Nasha India**. For a more laid-back vibe, try **Fresa's Chicken Al Carbon** for tacos and margaritas on their tree-lined patio. Check out live comedy at **Esther's Follies**, **Cap City** or any one of the five families of improv theaters across town for some gut-busting laughs. Make your way to East or West Sixth Street for evening cocktails, then the Red River district for live music.

Insider tip: Here on a Sunday? Don't miss Sunday Funday at The Domain's Rock Rose and NORTHSIDE!



ENTERTA

DISTE





INMENT

RICTS



DOWNTOWN

VIBE

From the **Texas State Capitol** to **Lady Bird Lake**, Austin's downtown will surprise you. The daytime mix of government, banks and shops quickly change over into a vibrant entertainment district at night. In addition to retail therapy, the arts scene is alive with galleries and museums at nearly every corner. Our award-winning food and cocktail scene is as eclectic and varied as the people who visit.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

ROBERT WATSON

Hilton Austin

Robert Watson began his career in the hospitality industry when he was only 12 years old, checking hats at the then Fairmont Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was inspired by his father, who had a 30-year career at Tulsa's historic Mayo Hotel. Robert is now the general manager of Hilton Austin, a AAA Four Diamond 800-room hotel.

DON'T MISS THESE DISTRICTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

SECOND STREET

Spanning the length of Second Street between Congress Avenue and San Antonio Street, this area is home to local and national brands, ranging from beauty, body to restaurants and overnight respites. Grab your reusable tote (we're a plastic-bag-free city) and your wallet, and dive into the mix.

WAREHOUSE

Many of this area's high-end bars and restaurants are housed in funky, renovated warehouses, and this district is commonly referred to as Sixth Street's older cousin. Here you'll find a scene that draws a diverse crowd thanks to its range of live music, eateries, bars and unique shops.

WEST SIXTH STREET

Heavily dotted with antiques and art galleries for the perusing, but tempered with records, books, beauty and upscale retail, West Sixth Street is a place to stay and play.

FLAVORS

Foodies savor mouth-watering plates at restaurants like **Red Ash Italia**, **La Condesa** and **Wu Chow**. Night owls can soak up unparalleled views of the city from the rooftop of **Hangar Lounge** or dance the night away at LGBTQ favorites **Highland Lounge** and **Oilcan Harry's**. On Congress Avenue, you'll find **Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que**, with smoked brisket and ribs served up at this fully stocked drink stop.

SOUNDS

Music lovers can watch local bands jam out every night in the Roaring '20s–inspired music lounge at **Speakeasy**. At **Antone's**, **Miss Lavelle White** performs most Sundays. For jazz fans, **Elephant Room** has you covered with shows every night. Located across from **Austin City Hall**, **3TEN** is the 350-seat sister venue to **ACL Live at Moody Theater** and hosts cozy, intimate performances.

*Insider tip: Find the secret bars **Midnight Cowboy** and **Red Room** for cocktails and bragging rights.*

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

LAGINA HARRIS

Oilcan Harry's

"I love the friendships that I've made. I've met people from all around the country and around the world. Just recently some guys from another country on holiday came and had a list of things to do and 'visiting Gina' was on it! That type of stuff blows my mind and it is really humbling."



Photo by Geoff Duncan

EAST

VIBE

Whether you're looking for breakfast tacos, the perfect selfie at **You're My Butter Half** mural or just in the mood to take in some of Austin's historic culture **East Austin** has you covered.

FLAVORS

El Chile Café y Cantina is the place for fresh Tex-Mex flavors with an Austin twist. If you can't get enough of their salsa, they've bottled it to go! Looking for a great food truck? **Abo Yousef** is a must try for Mediterranean food.

Hoover's Cooking is the place to go to find Austin's favorite Texas-home-cooking chef, **Hoover Alexander**. He got his start at **The Nighthawk**, a restaurant well-lauded for breaking racial barriers, then opened his own farm-to-table spot on **Manor Road** 15 years ago, down the road from his childhood home.

A vegetarian's dream, and true to Austin's locavore reputation, **Eastside Café** gives new meaning to comfort food with seasonal vegetables and herbs harvested from the garden on its property.

Looking for a low-key place to kick back? Visit **Butterfly Bar's** outdoor patio area for a cocktail, a snack and a visit from the bar's friendly cat, Radius.

SOUNDS

DJs reign supreme at **Stay Gold**, **The Eastern** and **Brixton**. Looking for live music? **The Historic Scoot Inn** and **The White Horse** have you covered. And lastly, don't miss the historic **Victory Grill!**



RAINEY STREET

VIBE

Rainey Street has transformed its tucked-away bungalow houses into a walkable bar neighborhood. Be sure to check out the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center** and take in some art and music.

FLAVORS

The plethora of inexpensive gourmet sausages at **Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden** range from traditional to vegetarian to exotic (think alligator boudin and curry wurst). Try them with over 100 craft brews on tap on tree-shaded beer garden. Out late? Try the original chicken lollipop wings at **Tommy Want Wingy**, located on the patio of **Lustre Pearl**.



Photo by Geoff Duncan

SOUNDS

Be sure to check out **Geraldine's** inside of **Hotel Van Zandt**. They offer live music every night of the week, with one of Austin's favorites, **Tje Austin**, playing weekly.

RED RIVER

VIBE



This historic district of venues, bars and dance clubs comes alive when the sun goes down. Hip-hop nights at **Empire Control Room**, **Grits-n-Gravy** Thursday dance nights at LGBTQ-mainstay (and consistently award-winning) **Barbarella**, and **Rock n' Roll Karaoke Mondays** at **Beerland** all make for truly epic nights out. Come back and repent on Sunday with the make-your-own Bloody Mary bar at **Stubb's Gospel Brunch**.

FLAVORS

Grab a Jersey-style folding slice at **Hoboken Pie** as you walk **Red River** and fuel up for the night. Or come in late night — they serve their hand-tossed, stone-baked awesomeness 'til 2:30 a.m. Check out **Pelon's Tex-Mex Restaurant** for hatch chili queso and agave nectar margaritas.

SOUNDS

The Mohawk is all about raw talent and emerging bands. Come here for music and multilevel views of the stage, stay to be properly weirded out by events, like the **Annual Quesoff**, (where locals compete with their queso concoctions) spelling bees and even beard-growing face-offs. Looking for music outside? **Stubb's**, an Austin institution, offers an outdoor stage that's built for bring-the-house-down performers.



Photo by Denise Chambers

SIXTH STREET

VIBE

A mainstay for the college kids, check out **Plush** and **Barcelona** for their hip-hop nights. **The Parish** is well-known for being an intimate live-music mecca. **Voodoo Doughnut** is an absolute must — but bring cash, they don't take cards.



Photo by Dustin Downing

FLAVORS

Easy Tiger Bake Shop & Beer Garden features artisan bread (including baguettes, croissants, pretzels), locally roasted coffee, house-made meats (sausages, corned beef, pastrami), a full bar and more than 30 local and boutique draft beers.

For a massive selection of oysters, **Parkside's** raw bar is your best bet. This quiet haven on bustling **Sixth Street** has you covered with selections ranging from the sea to the shore. (Locals rave about their fried egg sandwich!)

SOUNDS

From local hopefuls to big-name touring artists, **Sixth Street** is one of Austin's main areas to check out live music. **Maggie Mae's** boasts several types of entertainment, including a sports bar, complete with big screens for the game; an authentic English pub suited for conversation; a New Orleans-style courtyard; the rooftop beneath the stars with a 27-foot movie screen; and three different stages outfitted for live music.

SOUTH CONGRESS

VIBE

This vibrant neighborhood south of **Lady Bird Lake** is an absolute must-stroll for visitors and a popular hangout for locals. **South Congress** is where the laid-back spirit of Austin shines. Walk these blocks surrounded by eclectic boutiques, hotels and some of the best people watching in town.

FLAVORS

Refuel with a stop at **South Congress Café**. You can't go wrong at brunch with migas, made-from-scratch tortillas topped with eggs, black beans and chipotle hot sauce. Try the tacos al pastor and a hand-shaken margarita at **Güero's Taco Bar**, an Austin landmark for more than two decades. In the mood for seafood? Lobster rolls and oysters are fan favorites at **Perla's**. For food on the run, grab an unforgettable twist-on-traditional cupcake at **Hey Cupcake!**

SOUNDS

Make it your mission to stop by **The Continental Club**. A renowned Austin institution since 1957, the club showcases musical acts from famed Texas artists to up-and-comers. **The Continental Club Gallery**, upstairs, offers a fusion of revolving art displays, mellow jazz and craft cocktails.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

BJORN TAYLOR

Watertrade at South Congress Hotel

Robert Bjorn Taylor is a bartender at Watertrade, a pre-destination for cocktails before dining at Otoko. "Our take is very distinctive. We always express our love for food and drink genuinely always unafraid to go out of the boundaries of what's expected."

THE DOMAIN

VIBE

We really do take advantage of the perpetual sunshine here, and **The Domain** is a must visit. With stores to accommodate any budget, this outdoor shopping venue has more than 100 stores, there's the perfect something for everyone. Hotels, clothing, home décor and entertainment areas like **Rock Rose** and **NORTHSIDE** make this area a giant outdoor eating, playing and staying oasis.

FLAVORS

Stop in to the brick and mortar location of this famed East Austin food truck **Thai Kun**, headed by Executive Chef **Thai Changthong**. They offer delicious, inventive Thai food options including flavorful satays, refreshing papaya salads and a fantastic cocktail list.

Fully embracing its namesake, **St. Genevieve**, the patron saint of good times, **Rock Rose's** an upscale lounge in the Rock Rose area is made for gathering around good food and libations. Stop by for brunch or happy-hour, and try a few of the delicious plates. Offering a unique tapas and cocktail menu, **77 Degrees Rooftop's** expansive three-story rooftop bar is the perfectly posh place to unwind during your visit, with sleek white furniture, suspended swings, breezy cabanas and open spaces that are perfect for mingling and making new friends. Check out their other two concepts on-site — Irish pub **Jack & Ginger's** and dance club **Rose Room**.

The Dogwood keeps it casual and incorporates classic Southern hospitality into the service as well as the menu. Enjoy live music or dance the night away with a DJ. The spacious patios and unbeatable views give this spot a community-centric atmosphere that's great for large gatherings.



Photo by Aloft Austin at the Domain

EVENTS

JANUARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING FESTIVAL

Huston-Tillotson University, mlkcelebration.com

Join the march from The University of Texas to the Capitol to Huston-Tillotson University to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

TASTE OF BLACK AUSTIN

Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, www.discoverblackaustin.com

Austin's favorite Black chefs gather for this culinary event that explores the narrative of economic development through the historical context of food.

FEBRUARY

AUSTIN MARATHON & HALF MARATHON

Downtown Austin, youraustinmarathon.com

Live music from more than 40 local bands and a course that winds through Austin's most scenic neighborhoods make this popular 13.1- and 26.2-mile race a must-hit for runners and spectators.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO

Palmer Events Center, sambaparty.com

Austin's Carnival is one of the biggest Brazilian Carnival celebrations outside Brazil. Brasileiro style samba, costumes and wild abandon can all be seen in the heart of Texas.

MARCH

SXSW® MUSIC, FILM AND INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE AND FESTIVALS

Austin Convention Center and more than 50 venues, sxsw.com

Noted filmmakers, musicians and multimedia artists from around the world converge to showcase music, film and interactive media during this internationally recognized event.

AUSTIN AREA JAZZ FEST CONCERT SERIES

Various locations, austinareajazzfestival.com

This concert series is held during Texas Relays weekend and features a fantastic roster of local and regional artists.

WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS — DELL MATCH PLAY

Austin Country Club, worldgolfchampionships.com

The world's top golfers head to Austin's historic lakeside country club to compete at this championship event.

AUSTIN URBAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Auditorium Shores, urbanmusicfest.com

More than 15,000 music revelers annually converge on Auditorium Shores to enjoy Austin's only music festival focused on R&B, neo-soul and hip-hop music. The festival has consistently provided a venue for local performers as well as presented top national R&B acts that provide family-friendly entertainment.

CLYDE LITTLEFIELD TEXAS RELAYS

Mike A. Myers Stadium, texassports.com

The premier track and field event brings together the best high school, college and professional athletes from Texas, the U.S. and the world.

APRIL

AUSTIN REGGAE FEST

Auditorium Shores, austinreggaefest.com

A fundraiser for the Capital Area Food Bank, Reggae Fest features three days of reggae, world and dub talent, along with more than 50 vendors selling food and arts and crafts.

CAPITOL 10K

Congress Avenue to Auditorium Shores, cap10k.com

Texas' largest 10K race and one of the nation's top runs draws more than 20,000 serious and not-so-serious participants.

ART CITY AUSTIN

Palmer Events Center, artallianceaustin.org

Nearly 200 national artists, top local restaurants, two music stages and hands-on art activities make this one of the city's favorite festivals.

AUSTIN FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

Auditorium Shores, austinfoodandwinefestival.com

The Austin Food + Wine Festival, produced by C3 Presents, will welcome top chefs from across the nation.

MAY

KGSR BLUES ON THE GREEN

Zilker Park, kgsr.com/bluesonthegreen

Once a month during the summer, Zilker Park is filled with thousands of people, blankets and lawn chairs, families and music lovers.

PECAN STREET FESTIVAL

Sixth Street, pecanstreetfestival.org

A free, family event, the Pecan Street Festival is the oldest and largest art festival in Central Texas. Musicians, food vendors, artists and craftspeople turn Sixth Street — historically called Pecan Street — into a lively street fair where there's something for people of all ages.

JAZZ BLUES SOUL

Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, austinareajazzfestival.com

Held on Memorial Day weekend, Jazz Blues Soul benefits the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Texas.

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce, austinbcc.org

Food Truck Friday rolls onto the grounds next to the African American Cultural Heritage Facility and gives African American chefs a chance to stand out in Austin's booming food-truck culture.

JUNE

ATX TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Downtown Austin, atxfestival.com

ATX Television Festival is the first festival devoted to television's history and future. It offers access to the industry's leading professionals with cast and creator Q&A's and panels focusing on innovation in both production and content delivery.

CENTRAL TEXAS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

MLK Boulevard and other locations, juneteenthcentraltexas.com

Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day" or "Emancipation Day," is the oldest-known African American celebration commemorating the end of slavery for slaves in Texas.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS BIKER RALLY

Travis County Exposition Center and Congress Avenue, rot rally.com

The state's largest motorcycle gathering attracts thousands of bikers for rides, a parade and music.

AUSTIN AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK FESTIVAL

Carver Museum and Library, aabookfest.com

An annual event that promotes literature and arts by and about African Americans. It is free and open to the public.

JULY

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS & SYMPHONY

Auditorium Shores, austinsymphony.org

The Austin Symphony hosts an annual concert of patriotic music culminating in a spectacular firework display over Lady Bird Lake.

AUGUST

AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, austinchronicle.com

If you wanna beat the heat this summer, then you gotta eat the heat! Join The Austin Chronicle for one of the world's largest hot sauce festivals.

AUSTIN ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, austinicecreamfestival.com

The annual Austin Ice Cream Festival is fun for the whole family. Games, activities, contests, live entertainment and, of course, ice cream will keep you cool and happy.

AUSTIN PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE

Fiesta Gardens, austinpride.org

The largest annual LGBTQ advocacy and fundraising event in Central Texas takes place during Pride Week. Enjoy two stages of live entertainment, games, food, drinks and over 100 vendor booths.

BAT FEST

Congress Avenue Bridge, roadwayevents.com

Celebrate this batty event as the world's largest urban bat colony (1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats) takes to the skies for their nightly flight. Enjoy live music, children's activities and costume contest.

CAPITAL CITY BLACK FILM FESTIVAL (CCBFF)

Austin Convention Center, capcitybff.com

CCBFF, one of the fastest-growing film festivals in the region, brings screenings, special events and exciting opportunities for people to experience the brilliant works of African American artists and filmmakers from across the globe. There's something for everyone at CCBFF, from celebrity meet-and-greets, director talkbacks and entertaining films to actor panels, parties and red carpet celebrations.

SEPTEMBER

AUSTIN AREA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Various locations, austinareajazzfestival.com

The Austin Area Jazz Festival is an outdoor celebration of music, culture, diversity and the arts in East Austin.

AUSTIN MUSEUM DAY

Various locations, austinmuseums.org

Organized by the Austin Museum Partnership, this special day features free exhibitions and activities at participating Austin-area museums and cultural sites.

PECAN STREET FESTIVAL

Sixth Street, pecanstreetfestival.org

A free, family event, the Pecan Street Festival is the oldest and largest art festival in Central Texas. Musicians, food vendors, artists and craftspeople turn Sixth Street — historically called Pecan Street — into a lively street fair where there is something for people of all ages.

TEXAS CRAFT BREWERS FESTIVAL

Fiesta Gardens, texascraftbrewersfestival.org

This is the only beer festival for and by Texas brewers.

OCTOBER

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Zilker Park, aclfestival.com

One of the country's largest celebrations of music, this two-weekend festival brings the magic of the famed public TV series Austin City Limits outside the studio and into Austin's most beloved park with more than 130 musical acts on eight stages.

BBOY CITY PRO-BREAKING TOUR

North Door, bboycity.com

This event has become a must, with dancers, emcees, DJs and graffiti writers traveling nationally and internationally to take part. Don't miss it!

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL

Paramount Theatre and various locations, austinfilmfestival.com

Recognized as one of the top film festivals in the country, this cinematic event shines the spotlight on top-billed films and indies alike.

FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

Circuit of The Americas™, circuitoftheamericas.com

Drivers compete in the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix in October. Built around a state-of-the-art 3.4-mile circuit track, Circuit of The Americas is designed for any and all classes of racing — from motor power to human power.

TEXAS MONTHLY BBQ FESTIVAL

City Terrace at The Long Center, tmbbq.com

This festival only has four rules: muster as many of Texas' best barbecue joints as possible; have them serve up their specialties, side-by-side; let smoke and sauce fly for five intoxicating hours; and finally, let the people decide who made the best goods.

NOVEMBER

SOUND ON SOUND

Sherwood Forest, soundonsoundfest.com

National touring indie rock, hip-hop, punk, electronica and metal bands converge on Austin's urban park for three days of music. There is also a comedy stage, as well as on-site screen printing, shopping and food.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR

Across East Austin, east.bigmedium.org

This self-guided tour provides the opportunity to see work by hundreds of Austin artists. For two weekends, artists, studios, exhibition spaces, pop-up shows and tons of fun art-centered events on the East Side are open and free to the public to celebrate the wide variety of art being created in Austin.

DECEMBER

TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Zilker Park, austintrailoflights.org

The Austin Trail of Lights is part of the Austin experience, lighting up the season with a celebration of community, memories and fun.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Palmer Events Center, armadillobazaar.com

Shades of old Austin are reflected at this market with eclectic gifts and local entertainment.

AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR

Auditorium Shores, austintexas.gov

This alcohol-free, family-friendly event celebrates the diversity and creativity of the city with visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers and other festive performances.

Insider tip: Visit soulciti.com for Austin's weekly curated black experience, including news, editorials and events.



Photo by Trail of Lights

GETTING AROUND AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION

“Drive friendly” is one of our state mottos, and Austin is no exception. Getting to and from the airport — and all around town — is easy. Most major rental car companies are available at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and other standard transportation options include:

CAPITAL METRO BUS LINE

Austin’s public bus system is part of a 500 square-mile Central Texas system of more than 3,000 bus stops and 53 routes. Austin is serviced by multiple local bus routes, limited stop/flyer routes, express routes and The University of Texas shuttle routes. Download the CapMetro app for comprehensive maps and details.

METRORAIL

MetroRail connects Austin on a 32-mile line that stretches all the way from the city of Leander to downtown Austin next to the Convention Center. Services run six days a week until around 7, and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

TAXI/RIDESHARE

Austin is tapped into the latest tech-based transit. Check out the current taxi and rideshare options to get on-demand rides any time of day. (visitaustin.org/rideshare)

SHUTTLES

SuperShuttle is one of the leading airport shuttle services in the U.S., serving over eight million passengers a year. For a VIP experience, try their private black car service ExecuCar. Learn more about additional shuttle, limousine and charter services here. (visitaustin.org)

RENT A BIKE

On-the-go bike rentals from Austin B-cycle are available to use at more than 40 stations located throughout the city. Also available are a number bike shops that offer hourly and daily rentals.

PEDICAB

These carts pulled by local cyclists can be found all throughout Austin. Each driver is licensed by the City of Austin Ground Transportation Department and works solely on tips, so be generous!



Photo by Austin Bergstrom International Airport

Many journeys into the African American cultural presence in Austin begin as visitors step off the plane into the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) Barbara Jordan Terminal. The life-size sculpture of the Congresswoman and scholar presiding calmly over the buzz of baggage claim sends you on your way to new adventures.

Faces of Austin



Photo by Annie Ray

ED KARGBO

Yellow Cab Austin

Ed Kargbo, president of Austin Yellow Cab, is a native Texan and has spent more than 10 years in the hospitality industry. "I'm extremely proud that Austin is very thoughtful and considerate about how we bridge the great advancements in technology and the humanity of our citizenry. We're a shining example for the world."

DIRECTORY

BARBER SHOPS/BEAUTY SALONS/HAIR ACCESSORIES

BARBER SHOPS

Agape Family Barber Shop
Hair by Nicole
Marshall's
Wooten
Williams

BEAUTY/HAIRCARE

Black Hair Unlimited
Boojee Hair Austin
T's Sharper Styles and Cuts
The Hair Clinic

DINING

RESTAURANTS

Country Boyz Fixins
Galloway Sandwich Shop
Hoover's Cooking
Hillside Farmacy
Midtown Live
Mr. Catfish
The Original New Orleans
Po-Boy and Gumbo Shop

FOOD TRUCKS

Dirty Glove Midwest BBQ
Three Chicks Soul Food
Goodies and Bits
Jean-Jean's Cajun BBQ

MUSIC VENUES

West Sixth Street:

The Parish
Pete's Dueling Piano Bar
Rattle Inn
The Belmont*

Red River:

Empire Control Room & Garage
Stubb's Waller Creek
Amphitheater & BBQ*

Mohawk
Plush

Downtown & Warehouse:

Antone's*
ACL Live at the Moody Theater*
Elephant Room
Cedar Street Courtyard*

East Austin:

Emo's East*
Victory Grill
The Volstead
The North Door
Midtown Live

South Austin/Congress:

C-Boy's Heart & Soul
The Continental Club
One-2-One Bar
Austin Beer Garden Brewing Co.

Rainey Street:

Container Bar
Geraldine's*
Blackheart Bar
Bangers Sausage House & Beer
Garden

University:

Frank Erwin Center
Spider House Café & Ballroom

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Wesley United Methodist Church
Holy Cross Catholic Church
St. James Episcopal Church

More places to worship in Austin can be found at

bcintexas.com/listing/austin

**Available for private event opportunities*

For more comprehensive lists, please visit us at **VISITAUSTIN.ORG** and **AUSTINBCC.ORG**.

ADDRESSES FROM THE SIX SQUARE MAP (PAGE 5)

- 01 Six Square Office**, 1152 San Bernard St.
- 02 Dedrick-Hamilton House**, 912 E. 11th St.
- 03 Carver Museum**, 1165 Angelina St.
- 04 Victory Grill**, 1104 E. 11th St.
- 05 Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce office + African American Heritage Facility**, 912 E. 11th St.
- 06 Downs Mabson Field**, 2816 E. 12th St.
- 07 Huston-Tillotson University**, 900 Chicon St.
- 08 Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (MYEC)**,
1156 Hargrave St.
- 09 Texas State Cemetery**, 909 Navasota St.
- 10 Texas Music Museum**, 1009 E. 11th St.

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover by Visit Austin

This brochure is a publication of Visit Austin. Contents and design ©2017, all rights reserved. Reproduction without written permission is strictly prohibited. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy of the information in this guide as of press time. However, Visit Austin assumes no responsibility for errors, changes or omissions. Visit Austin makes no endorsement, representation or warranty regarding the suitability, quality or availability of any goods or services advertised or listed in this publication.

