



AUSTIN'S PLAYLIST

Below is a list of select attractions in Austin. Partners of Visit Austin prefer to work directly with visiting tour operators, press and guests to set up appointments or arrange complimentary admission. A complete list of attractions with up-to-date details on location, pricing and admission may be found [online](#). As always, please feel free to email us with any questions acvb@austintexas.org.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

With so many great activities for kids, it's easy to see why the Live Music Capital of the World® might be the capital of family fun, too. From museums, outdoor activities to dining recommendations, below are just a few [highlights](#).

[Austin Nature and Science Center](#)

301 Nature Center Dr., 512-974-3888 (located in Zilker Park, parking available at 2389 Stratford Dr.)

Located inside Austin's famed Zilker Park, the ANSC is a beautiful and exciting outdoor park for children and families. Kids can see live wildlife, dig for fossils at the Dino Pit and discover hidden gems of the landscape at the Naturalist Workshop. The ANSC offers multiple programs for adults as well, such as rock climbing, caving and night canoeing. The park is free and open until 5 p.m. daily.

[Bullock Texas State History Museum](#)

1800 N. Congress Ave., 866-369-7108

Three floors of exhibits detail the peoples and events that shaped the Lone Star State. The Spirit Theatre tells the story of Texas in 3-D, while the IMAX theatre showcases specialty and mainstream films on a Texas-sized screen. Pricing includes exhibits: \$12. IMAX: \$9-13. Texas Spirit Theatre: \$7.

[The Thinkery](#)

1830 Simond Ave., 512-469-6200

The Thinkery is an engaging and interactive children's museum located in Austin's beautiful Mueller community. This new museum is designed especially for children's enrichment and the exhibitions focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and math to build creativity and knowledge. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door for \$9 (some discounted rates are available).

[Zilker Park/Barton Springs Pool](#)

2201 Barton Springs Rd., 512-867-3080

Austin's 361-acre park is home to picnic facilities, a disc golf course, a large playground for children, the Zilker Zephyr train (great for kids/families), and Barton Springs Pool, an urban oasis where swimmers plunge into 68-degree, spring-fed waters. Park: \$3 parking. Pricing \$1-4. Free picnic facilities, playground.

HISTORY & CULTURE

Austin is a city with no shortage of history or legend. As you go exploring, take note that culture isn't just found in our architecture, monuments and museums, but in every part of the city. Take a free, [guided walking tour](#) to learn more, or check out our [Historic Austin Brochure](#).

[Asian American Resource Center](#)

8401 Cameron Rd., 512-974-1700

The brand new Asian American Resource Center showcases the best of Austin's Asian American culture through education, activities and exhibits. Family friendly events like "Planet Music" are hosted regularly through the City of Austin.

[Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center \(ESB-MACC\)](#)

600 River St., 512-974-3772

The ESBMACC is Austin's premier resource for Mexican American culture and heritage. They offer multiple art exhibits and regular performance art events such as live theater and music. The exhibits are free and open to the public, but be sure to check the event calendar for upcoming shows and festivals.

[George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center](#)

1165 Angelina St., 512-974-4926

The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center is an expansive museum that is dedicated to the celebration and conservation of African-American heritage. Multiple exhibits, including a children's exhibit, cultural events and classes and a theatre are free and open to the public Monday through Saturday.

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

4801 La Crosse Ave., 512-232-0100

Founded in 1982, the center commemorates Lady Bird Johnson's contributions to the Hill Country environment and landscape, as well as introduces locals and visitors alike to native plants and flowers. Throughout the year, the center also welcomes families and gardening enthusiasts for events and educational sessions. Admission is \$7 for adults.

[LBJ Presidential Library](#)

2313 Red River St., 512-721-0220

Exhibits chronicle the political life and times of LBJ. The First Lady's Gallery highlights the legacy of Lady Bird Johnson. The collection's focus is on six decades of American history and how the Johnsons fit into those times.

[Texas State Capitol](#)

Congress Avenue and 11th Street, 512-463-5495

This sunset red edifice is the largest of America's 50 statehouses and stands 14 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol. Free guided tours depart every 15 minutes from the south lobby.

LUXURY & SPA

Relax. Unwind. Find a little "me time" at any one of [these spas](#). From downtown salons to Hill Country day spas, below are just a few of the highlights.

[AWAY Austin Spa at the W Hotel and Residences](#)

200 Lavaca St., 512-542-3626

Where the whirlwind of W winds down, AWAY means a disappearing act from the everyday into an insider scene of surprising sensations. A place to delightfully detox after the after party. AWAY is located on the fourth floor of W Austin. You don't have to be a hotel guest to take advantage of AWAY's sensational spa services. All spa guests receive complimentary valet parking at the W Austin.

[Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa](#)

875 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., 512-308-1234

This beautiful Austin-area destination resort features an 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed golf course that traverses three distinct ecosystems. The luxurious spa features the conceptual healing music of Django Reinhardt in a relaxing Hill Country setting; kids are welcome to visit the Wild Hare Youth Spa for a day of pampering as well.

[Milk + Honey](#)

100A Guadalupe St., 512-236-1115

Milk + Honey, Austin's premier urban day spa, provides a pampered retreat from everyday life. Set in a modern tranquil space, Milk + Honey offers an inviting menu of massages, facials, body treatments, mani/pedi, and waxing for both men and women that engage all senses with natural and organic ingredients. Milk + Honey is a true urban escape offering robe and slippers service in downtown Austin's bustling 2nd Street District.

[Lake Austin Spa and Resort](#)

1705 S. Quinlan Park Rd., 512-372-7300

Nestled along the shores of scenic Lake Austin in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Lake Austin Spa Resort offers guests the luxury of a world-class spa and the warmth of a best friend's lake house. The resort has received numerous awards from prestigious national travel and spa magazines since its multi-million dollar renovation and expansion in 2004. Travel + Leisure, Condé Nast Traveler, Allure, InStyle, Luxury SpaFinder, Departures, Spa Magazine, The Zagat Survey and American Airlines' Celebrated Living magazine have recently honored Lake Austin Spa Resort as one of the best in the country and in the world.

[Travaasa Austin](#)

13500 FM 2769, 512-258-7243

Travaasa Austin provides a secluded hideaway to enjoy pristine nature and unwind! Escape with daily activities such as yoga, water aerobics, hiking and much more! Beautiful outdoor dining overlooking Lake Travis.

[The Spa at Four Seasons](#)

98 San Jacinto Blvd., 512-685-8160

Designed to reflect the beauty of the Texas Hill Country, The Spa at Four Seasons boasts a relaxation lounge, eight treatment rooms, a nail salon and eucalyptus-infused steam rooms, all designed using a soothing palette of colors and nature-inspired materials such as wood floors, slates in various textures and distinctive art pieces.

ICONIC MUSIC VENUES

With more than 250 Austin establishments showcasing live music, it's hard to know where to turn. Check out our [Austin Music Guide](#), or head to a few iconic venues found below.

[Austin City Limits Live at the Moody Theater \(ACL Live\)](#)

310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd., 512-225-7999

Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater is a state-of-the-art, 2,700 + person capacity live music venue that also serves as the new home of the KLRU-TV produced PBS program “Austin City Limits,” the longest running music series in American television history. One of two dedicated live music venues in the country built to the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED rated standards of sustainability.

[The Continental Club](#)

1315 S. Congress Ave., 512-441-2444

One of the city’s favorite historic venues since 1957. After a short stint as a burlesque club, the Continental Club became a favorite performance spot of such legends as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Joe Ely, Kinky Friedman and WC Clark. Upstairs, the Continental Gallery features mellow music and jazz.

[Emo’s East](#)

2015 E. Riverside Dr., 512-693-3667

Alternative, underground, punk and indie bands have been calling this intimate venue home since 1990. With one stage inside and one in the outdoor beer garden, there's a chance to see two shows simultaneously. The walls are covered with murals, and the stool Johnny Cash perched on during his performance here is mounted on the ceiling.

[The Mohawk](#)

912 Red River St., 888-512-7469

Great indoor/outdoor venue with a large patio overlooking the main stage. This is the new hub of the Red River District; the lineup includes indie rock, electronica, metal, punk and hip hop music.

[The Saxon Pub](#)

1320 S. Lamar Blvd., 512-448-2552

One of the coolest venues in town. “Dive” atmosphere, but with great blues, rock and country acts.

[Stubb’s BBQ](#)

801 Red River St., 512-480-8341

Stubb’s combines two of Austin’s best features: live music and barbecue. Sit down for a tasty dinner, and then stick around for a local band on the indoor stage, or a touring band outdoors. The Sunday Gospel Brunch is also popular.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

There's a reason Austin is often ranked one of the fittest cities in the country. From cycling to stand-up paddle boarding, water-biking to leisurely canoe-paddling, Austin offers an abundance of [outdoor activities](#) and sports. Take a look at a few select locations below, and learn more about what our Sports Commission has to offer [here](#).

[**Austin Greenbelt**](#)

Various locations across South Austin

Barton Creek Greenbelt is an urban oasis. Its trails provide opportunity for biking, running, rock climbing, swimming and hiking.

[**Austin Golf Trail**](#)

11612 Bee Caves Rd., 512-421-2692

Texas' capital city is one of the country's premier golf destinations, and the Austin Golf Trail provides full-service concierge support in booking golf rounds at dozens of local courses, as well as booking hotel accommodations and other Austin-centric activities. The one-stop golf-shop program allows golfers to book exclusive golf packages or design their own.

[**Barton Springs Bike Rental**](#)

1707 Barton Springs Rd., 512-614-4676

Barton Springs Bike Rental offers bike tours around Austin, including the Rrruff Rider tour, Rock 'n' Ride tour, Austin in a Nut Shell tour and Peace Love & Zilker tour.

[**Circuit of The Americas™ \(CoTA\)**](#)

9201 Circuit of The Americas Blvd., 512-301-6600

COTA is the world's newest home for high performance motorsports racing. The track is the only purpose-built facility in the country designed for Formula 1 racing and is the host circuit for the United States Grand Prix from 2012-2021. The Circuit is designed to be open year-round as a premier entertainment and meeting destination. Features include expansive event space, luxury suites for VIP meetings, top-notch technology, a medical facility and training center and of course, in the Live Music Capital of the World®, a stage for live music.

[**Congress Avenue Bridge Bats**](#)

Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge

SEASONAL – April through October – Austin is home to North America's largest urban bat colony; between 750,000 and 1.5 million Mexican Free-Tailed bats. These nocturnal wonders emerge from under the Congress Avenue Bridge in search of insects. People watch from the top of the bridge, boats on Lady Bird Lake and local restaurants and hotels as the mammals roll out at dusk and shadow the Austin sky. This event has become one of the most spectacular and unusual tourist attractions. Free.

[**Congress Avenue Kayaks**](#)

74 Trinity St., 512-809-8916

This location caters to first-timer kayakers. Let the pros show you how! Congress Avenue Kayaks offers easy to paddle, kayaks and stand up paddle boards for rent by the hour or by the half-day on Lady Bird Lake, next to the Congress Avenue Bridge.

[**Lady Bird Lake/Canoe and Kayak Rentals**](#)

2100 Barton Springs Rd., 512-478-3852

Park in Zilker Park and follow signs along the fence to the canoe launch. Kayak or canoe on the clear, calm waters of Lady Bird Lake, and catch a great view of the skyline.

[Lady Bird Lake Hike & Bike Trail/Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial](#)

Downtown, from MoPac Expressway to Pleasant Valley Road

At the south end of the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, find access to the Hike & Bike Trail, which winds around Lady Bird Lake for 10 miles in the heart of downtown. It's great for a morning walk and is usually packed with locals, visitors and celebrities alike. The Stevie Ray Vaughan memorial is on the south bank of the lake, just west of the South First Street Bridge. Free.

[NLand Surf Park](#)

4836 E Hwy 71, 512-806-1900

NLand Surf Park is the only inland surfing destination in North America for surfers and wave sport enthusiasts from novices to world-class competitors. The lagoon features 11 surfing areas with four levels. The waves create one, four and perfectly tubing six foot waves every 60 seconds with a lengthy surfing experience of 35 seconds per wave. Created in conjunction with the Spanish engineering firm Wavegarden, widely regarded as a leader in wave technology, both companies are dedicated to environmental stewardship in lockstep with ocean surfing. Even in the most challenging drought conditions, the lagoon is self-sustaining with rainwater.

[Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa Golf](#)

8212 Barton Club Dr., 512-572-7369

Barton Creek Resort & Spa offers four of Texas' most famous and exceptional courses. The award-winning championship courses, designed by Tom Fazio, Arnold Palmer and Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore, reflect the natural terrain of the Hill Country. Players find themselves surrounded by verdant hills, lush vegetation and abundant wildlife. A member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, the resort encourages the preservation and enhancement of wildlife and natural resources on its courses.

PERFORMING ARTS

Austin is known for its creativity. Learn more about our local and performing arts venues [here](#).

[Bass Concert Hall Performing Arts Center](#)

2350 Robert Dedman Dr., 1-800-982-2386

Texas Performing Arts' Bass Concert Hall, situated on the University of Texas campus, is a 3,000-seat venue offering the best in music, dance, theatre, Broadway, and concert attractions.

[Cap City Comedy Club](#)

8120 Research Blvd., 512-467-2666

Cap City Comedy Club has been bringing the laughs to Austin for more than 25 years. The club offers live shows, open mic nights, and comedy classes.

[The Hideout Theatre](#)

617 Congress Ave., 512-443-3688

Home to improv comedy shows and classes every weekend. Stop by Saturdays at 10 p.m. for "Maestro" - the most exciting comedy show in Austin.

[Hyde Park Theatre](#)

511 W. 43rd St., 512-479-7530

Producing regional and world premieres of exciting alternative theatre, Hyde Park Theatre has received dozens of Critic's Table Award nominations.

[Long Center for the Performing Arts](#)

701 W. Riverside Dr., 512-457-5100

This state-of-the-art venue provides performance stages for local arts groups, including the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Lyric Opera and Ballet Austin.

[The Paramount and State Theatre](#)

713 Congress Ave., 512-472-2901

There's nothing like the thrill of a show at the historic Paramount and State Theatres with full seasons of music, comedy, classic films and family shows.

[Topfer Theatre at ZACH](#)

1510 Toomey Rd., 512-476-0541

Austin's regional independent theatre organization, ZACH Theatre opened a new, state-of-the-art stage and education facility. The space holds 420 audience members viewing a 44-foot proscenium with a trapped stage and available orchestra pit. In addition, an 8,600-square foot outdoor plaza is available for private parties.

SHOPPING

Austin has a retail scene that satiates high-end luxury needs to local, authentic cowboy boots and eclectic finds. For a full listing of local Austin shops and districts, check out our [shopping roundup](#).

[2nd Street District](#)

Second to Fourth Streets between Colorado and Guadalupe Streets

This is Austin's first downtown, pedestrian retail shopping area. Highlights include Jo's Coffee, Rae Cosmetics, Milk + Honey Spa, Eliza Page and the first ever brick and mortar Modcloth.

[Austin Bazaar](#)

2306 Howard Ln., 512-200-4877

One of the world's largest online retailers of musical instruments now has an expansive, wood-paneled showroom in north Austin. The floor is stocked with guitars – with a special wall of 100 Fender guitars playable in the store. The shop also offers a wall of products by Zildjian, Yamaha electric pianos/keyboards, and an in-house brand of wind and orchestral instruments. The store also hosts weekend fire sales of up to 70 percent, making it particularly attractive to touring artists or fans.

[The Domain](#)

11400-A Burnet Rd., 512-834-2900

In a town square atmosphere, the north Austin retail development offers 700,000-square feet of restaurants and luxury fashion, including Austin's first Neiman-Marcus, Tiffany and Co., Barney's CO-OP, Louis Vuitton and Intermix.

[Lamar and Fifth Street](#)

Intersection of Lamar Boulevard and Fifth Street

The strip of Lamar just north of Lady Bird Lake is home to Whole Foods' 80,000-square-foot flagship store as well as famed independent stores such as BookPeople and Waterloo Records. Take a stroll down Lamar and discover local storefronts intermixed with quirky retailers.

[South First Street](#)

South First Street between Barton Springs and Oltorf

Come explore the best of Austin's vintage and off-the-beaten path retailers. Not limited to retail, South First is home to multiple food trailer lots as well as brick-and-mortar restaurants. From designer vintage to neon art, South First is the heart of local shopping.

[South Congress Avenue](#)

Congress Avenue between Academy and Oltorf

The strip of South Congress just below Lady Bird Lake sees politicians, hipsters and students come together to visit antique shops, eclectic restaurants and vintage retailers. This has become the essential "hip strip" of the city.

TOURS

From free, guided historic walking tours of downtown to a 3-hour walking tour of Austin's best eateries, to a family-friendly adventure on the Austin Duck, there are many ways to see the city of Austin. Find the tour that fits your personality through our extensive [online guide](#).

VISUAL ARTS & MUSEUMS

Austin boasts a variety of fine arts, museums and galleries for the local artist. Take a look at a few select locations below, or find more detail on showings and listings [here](#).

[Blanton Museum of Art](#)

Congress Avenue at Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., 512-471-7324

Largest university-owned art collection in the country; acclaimed collections of contemporary Latin American, Western and Renaissance art. Admission is \$9, free on Thursdays.

[The Contemporary Austin –The Jones Center](#)

700 Congress Ave., 512-453-5312

This newly-renovated contemporary arts center features three expansive galleries showcasing local, national and international artists. The building itself is worth a photo or two.

[The Contemporary Austin – Laguna Gloria](#)

3809 W. 35th St., 512-458-8191

The grounds of Laguna Gloria have delighted visitors for close to 100 years. Stephen F. Austin once owned the property, which he described as being "on the Colorado at the foot of the mountains. Clara Driscoll, known as the savior of the Alamo, donated the site to be used as a museum in 1943. Laguna Gloria displays art and also plays home to the Museum's Art School. Today, the Contemporary Austin offers exhibitions and expanded program at both Laguna Gloria and its downtown facility at 700 Congress Avenue. Admission \$5, free on Tuesdays.

Harry Ransom Center

Guadalupe at 21st Streets, 512-471-8944

This amazing cultural archive houses some 41 million literary, film, photographic, cultural and historic artifacts, including the first photograph and an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible. Check the website for information on current and upcoming exhibits. Admission is free.

Mexic-Arte Museum

419 Congress Ave., 512-480-9373

This culturally enriching art museum is centrally located in downtown Austin and is home to over 1,500 works of art and artifacts. Both modern and historical pieces of Mexican, Latino and Latin American art cohabit to create an engaging display of fine art and heritage. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students and \$1 for children.

Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum

605 Robert E. Lee Rd., 512-445-5282

The Umlauf Sculpture Garden showcases the work of former UT professor emeritus of art, Charles Umlauf, whose statues and sculptures of animals, families, religious figures and mythological characters can now be found throughout the nation as an ethereal, hidden gem. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$1 for students.