



WELCOME TO AUSTIN!



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GETTING AROUND AUSTIN

PLANNING AHEAD:

Austin isn't that big, so you'll be able to get to most places within 20-30 minutes (as long as it isn't rush hour). Don't expect to use public transportation. There are scooters and pedi-cabs in a few areas, but walking and Uber/Lyft are your best bets.

If it's not July or August, expect to be enjoying great outdoor things with nice weather. Dress casually and comfortable for the weather, most of the nicest restaurants don't have dress codes!

There are **three main areas** that are over 30 minutes away that you'll want to plan ahead for:

Lake Travis Area- A bunch of great activities on the lake, read more on this below

Dripping Springs Area- Swimming holes, breweries/distilleries, and good BBQ

Lockhart- The birthplace of great BBQ, read more on this below.

 **365 THINGS AUSTIN**

A great Instagram page to check out for up-to-date activities happening in town.



GETTING AROUND

FOOD

Austin is a well-known foodie city. Best known for BBQ, Mexican food, and food trucks. *Note from the locals*: If you're going to eat local fast food, PTerry's > Whataburger



MEXICAN/ TACOS

LAS TRANCAS

Arguably the best food truck tacos you'll get in Austin, perfect when you're out on Rainey St.

CUANTOS TACOS

The other side of the argument involving the best food truck tacos in Austin.

CARNITAS AL GUERO

Amazing carnitas (Mexican pulled pork) tacos that can't be beaten. Bring an appetite.

BREAKFAST TACOS

A MUST-HAVE! ALL YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST ITEMS (EGGS, AVOCADO, BACON, ETC.) IN A TORTILLA.

VALENTINA'S

A bit far south (~20 min from downtown) but the best breakfast BBQ tacos in Austin.

VERACRUZ ALL-NATURAL

Budget in 20-30 minute wait. They have a few locations, take your pick.

CHERRYWOOD COFFEE HOUSE

Great morning spot to hangout with live music, large patio, good coffee and tacos.

Austin has a plethora of Mexican food restaurants to choose from! If your take on Mexican food is Taco Bell and fajitas at Chile's, we invite you to expand your horizons.

COMEDOR

Incredible Mexican fusion, probably our favorite restaurant in Austin right now. Swanky, trendy. We suggest the bone marrow tacos. Great cocktails and Mezcal selection. Make a reservation!

SUERTE

Very good Mexican food with a bit of a Texas twist. Great cocktails. Make a reservation!

LICHAS CANTINA

a converted house with very good authentic Mexican food and a great vibe. The wait can get long so either go during off hours or put your name down and go to the dive bar next door. Great way to start a night out in East Austin.

TORCHY'S TACOS

Not our favorite, but is one of the best-known places for tacos in Austin. All different kinds of crazy tacos. If you go here, make sure you get the queso! They also have many locations, making this one of the more convenient options.

BARBECUE



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: RUDY'S

A BBQ spot with multiple locations around Austin! Not only does it have great bbq, but it also has ready-to-go breakfast tacos for when you don't have time for a sit-down breakfast.

MORE BBQ!

CHECK OUT
THIS LIST FOR
MORE
BARBECUE
OPTIONS.

If someone from the Carolinas tries to tell you they have the best barbecue, they're wrong. Maybe we're biased, but we don't think it gets any better than good ol' Texas barbecue!

FRANKLIN'S

probably the most famous BBQ place in the world, you either get there early to get in line and wait hours or you get there later to wait in line for hours and risk them running out of what you want. So, get there early and bring a cooler of beer.

LA BBQ OR TERRY BLACK'S

Both are very good and right in Austin, won't have the insane line you'll deal with at Franklin's.

SALT LICK

A bit of a drive but worth it if you have a way of getting around, over near Hamilton Pool so if you head there make a day of it. Do not ruin Salt Lick for yourself and get BBQ at their location in the Austin airport.

SMITTY'S

If you're really serious about getting the best BBQ you can go to the birthplace of BBQ, Lockhart. It's about a 30-45 min drive from Austin. Smitty's has some of the best sausage you'll ever have.

RAMEN & KOREAN

Especially in the winter months, Ramen is a go-to comfort food here in Austin and we hope you find some time to check these spots out!

There is a booming Korean-cuisine-culture in Austin, largely around the northern part of the city. Some of the best places are in strip malls up north-east of downtown.

RAMEN

RAMEN TATSU-YA

Very good ramen, there's a few of them around town, doesn't matter which you go to. Usually a decently long line but it goes fast, no option for reservations.

SAZAN RAMEN

May be even better ramen than Tatsuya, also lesser known so it has a shorter wait. In a strip mall with a bunch of other great Asian food options.

ICHIUMI RAMEN

for when you want your ramen Korean-style. Another gem hidden in a strip mall!



KOREAN

MANNA KOREAN

About as "home cooking" as things get, with (low) prices to match. Mind you, the "large room, one waitress, one chef" conundrum is in full swing, but hey, hang out, drink beers, have fun

KOREAN GRILL

Also very "home cooking" style food with a genuinely nice couple manning the house.

SEOLUJU

for when you have a midnight craving for Korean chicken wings and other Korean finger food. Bonus: they have a bar.

MORE FOOD!

Austin has far too many great food options than we are able to list, but here are a few more restaurants we love and think you should consider!

- **Launderette**- Exactly the type of thing you'd expect in Austin, a retro-modern cafe/diner, converted from a laundromat. Has an awesome mural if you're looking for an Instagram or dating profile pic.
- **Loro**- Loro is an Asian smokehouse and bar brought to you by James Beard Award winners Chef Tyson Cole and Aaron Franklin of Franklin Barbecue. Its menu focuses on combining Texan and Asian influences highlighting smoked meats, sides, craft beer and batch cocktails.
- **Odd Duck**- Great American food place with incredible food. So good and has options for many different tastes.
- **Buenos Aires Cafe**- Some of the best Argentinian food we've had! Casual. Get the empanadas. There is a speakeasy in the basement!
- **Lutie's**- a new, classy & romantic restaurant at the remodeled Commodore Perry.
- **Estate**- You'll want a reservation well in advance.
- **Sushi/Japanese [cuisine]** - Austin is NOT known for its sushi. Nonetheless, spots like Uchi, Uchiko, or Soto are all great, but rather expensive. Sushi | Bar ATX is a more reasonably priced option. Kemuri Tatsu-ya has a pretty solid offering of Japanese-Texas fusion options.
- **Bufalina Due** - Great Neopolitan-style pizza
- **Peacock**- Mediterranean Restaurant with great food.
- **Aba**- Book in advance, a beautiful and delicious Mediterranean Restaurant.
- **Flower Child**- casual bowl place for lunches or a quick dinner, very good. Try their homemade lemonades.
- **SaltySow**- hidden gem, nothing fancy but always spot on food, reliable service, great cocktails and truffle deviled eggs.

OPEN LATE/24 HOURS

BENNU COFFEE

Multiple locations, but the Highland location is open 24/7. Solid cafe/diner.

TYSON'S TACOS

Great taco option open 24/7



DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

Austin is an active city with both natural and man-made options for fun daytime activities!

Time To...

GET OUTSIDE!

Zilker Park/Auditorium Shores- beautiful dog-friendly parks with views of the skyline. Grab some food for a picnic and go enjoy the park

Walk (or bike!) the **Lady Bird Lake trail** (locals call it Town Lake Loop) which is an absolutely beautiful trail that goes along the lake downtown with views of the skyline and nature alike.

Seeing the bats is a big deal in Austin. At dusk you can visit Congress Bridge where over 1.5mil bats live. Every night in good weather there are over a thousand people that go watch them fly out. A great way to experience this is on paddleboards or kayas. There are also tours if you'd like to go that route!

This is not necessarily an Austin-specific activity, they have these all over the country, but the **K1 indoor electric go-karts** are so fun! They're something any age can enjoy. You can also go-kart at Circuit of the Americas where F1 is hosted!

**A WAY TO STAY ACTIVE
WHEN IT'S TOO HOT
OUTSIDE!**

*Austin Bouldering Project -
A great bouldering (rock climbing) gym
that's a lot of fun for both beginners and
experts! There are two locations in
Austin.*



LAKE TRAVIS

Lake Travis is a beautiful lake about 30 minutes from downtown that has lots of great activities. Some things we suggest include...

- **Lake Travis Zipline Adventures**- a great activity there that has some light hiking and amazing views as you zipline across little bays of the lake.
- **Waterloo Adventures**- an obstacle course on the lake.
- **Cliff jumping** - there's a few options, one of note being Pace Bend Park
- **The Oasis**- a restaurant / brewery which has an incredible view

RIVERS AND PARKS

There are a few wakeboarding parks north of Austin, some of which have lazy rivers and massive slides. You can also float the river in San Marcos, which is about a 45-minute drive outside of Austin.

NATURAL SWIMMING HOLES

Austin is home to several beautiful natural swimming holes! Here are the most popular ones we suggest...

- **Hamilton Pool** - If you have a car, this is a must-visit. It is super beautiful and you'll need to make a reservation in advance.
- **Barton Springs** - A natural spring located in the heart of downtown Austin. It stays at a crisp 70 degrees year-round and is a great way to cool off in the summer.
- **Deep Eddy** - Another natural spring in Austin. It is more of a "pool" than the others listed and is generally not too crowded.

LADYBIRD LAKE

Paddleboarding / kayaking on the river that goes right along the downtown skyline (Colorado River). The renting is cheap and easy, doesn't matter which company you get it from as long as they're on the river. Probably not worth paying for a tour here, just go out and enjoy at your own pace.

ACTIVITIES IN/ON THE WATER





BRUNCH AND HANGOVER CURES

JUICELAND

A great spot to visit if you're craving a smoothie or fresh juice in the morning

SAWYER AND CO

A retro-modern diner with southern comfort, Louisiana food. Has a solid brunch!

LAUNDERETTE

A great brunch spot with a menu that isn't overwhelming but always hits the spot.

DRINKS + FOOD

BANGER'S

Amazing beer selection and great German-themed food, most notably their sausages.

CENTRAL MACHINE WORKS

Popular with locals in the evenings. Tons of live music, great cocktails, LOTS of seating, great for big groups, good pizza.

DAYTIME DRINKS!

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

JESTER KING

One our favorite breweries in Austin. Some of the best farmhouse ales you'll have with solid food and goats you can pet. It's about 30 minutes outside Austin in the Dripping Springs area

DESERT DOOR DISTILLERY

Also in the Dripping Springs area. Incredible cocktails based on the sotol they produce. Sotol is a liquor very similar to mezcal or tequila but is not as common.

BETTER HALF AND HOLD OUT BREWING

Great food, great vibes, cowboy pools on the weekends, coffee shop in the morning, good weekend brunch. Their draft cocktails and boozy slushies will take you for a ride!

LAZARUS BREWING CO

Good food (few options), good beer selection, and generally great vibes. Lots of locals work from here on the weekdays.

ABGB

A fun Brewery with good food and live music

NIGHTLIFE

While you're here, be sure to check out all that a night in Austin has to offer!

SIXTH STREET

Austin's most well-known nightlife area. At night, a stretch of Sixth Street become pedestrian-only. Nicknamed "dirty sixth" the street is lined with clubs and bars great for dancing and having fun. We don't necessarily recommend spending the entire night here, but it's a great place to get the party going and is also worth visiting at least once. Sixth Street generally draws a younger college crowd. Live country music and fairly cheap drinks can be found here. Also great for people watching!

RAINEY STREET

The more adult and well kept version of Dirty 6th. Many new bars are located here and are generally more upscale, but still fun! Specific suggestions include Unbarlievable, Icenhauers ,and the Tippy Alchemist which has good cocktails. There are food truck lots with good street food too, get tacos at Las Trancas. Short scooter or pedi cab ride between here and East Austin. You can start with dinner at Emmer and Rye (James Beard finalist in 2020).

EAST AUSTIN

What many would describe as the most "Austin" feeling area for nightlife. Has smaller bars and clubs with more eccentric tastes. There are great country music locations such as The White Horse and well as places with great food, even during the day, such as Easy Tiger. A few speakeasies we recommend in this area are Firehouse Lounge and Floppy Disk Repair Co.

SOUTH AUSTIN

Great area for live music and country dancing. Broken Spoke is well known for its country vibes and line dancing. The Continental Club is in this area as well and is known for their great live music.

THE DOMAIN

Located in North Austin, this is great place to get shopping done during the day and dance at night! Home to bars such as the Rose Room and Wonder Bar. The entire area is full of shops and great places to eat. Great if you're wanting to avoid the younger crowd on Sixth Street.

OUT ON THE TOWN

