

AUSTIN FOR LUXURY LOVERS

OVERVIEW BUDGET FAMILY FOODIE LUXURY ROMANCE

HOME | AUSTIN | AUSTIN FOR LUXURY LOVERS

Austin for luxury lovers

by Becca Hensley



(Photo: Denise Chambers)

Austin has no polo team or yacht club, nor does it boast swish discos guarded by burly bouncers behind a velvet rope. Nobody sports a tiara, except maybe last year's under-appreciated rodeo queen. Celebrities live, play, film and perform in Austin, but they'd rather blend in than be celebrated. You see, Austin is the kind of city that refuses to wear its blue blood on its sleeve. So, while the burg's gone up-market, you'll find a diverse crowd mingling here, be it at clubs, music festivals, farmers' markets, golf courses, at pools in summer, at the Formula One races in November, or at University of Texas games (Go Longhorns!).

Clearly, Austin's social scene is meant to be shared. Texas royalty reigns, but you won't see big hair and Blarney Stone-sized diamond rings (like you do up north in Dallas). Instead, Austin's crème de la crème tends to be understated and down to earth. Even black-tie events are dressed-down affairs. What's valued here is not who designed the shoes you're wearing, but what you pair them with and how comfortable you are when you break into the Cotton-Eyed Joe on the dance floor with your friends.

This is not a town bursting with global designer brands like those you find in Milan, Miami and Paris. Instead, Austin prides itself on independent boutiques, galleries, ateliers and salons. On South Congress, try Kendra Scott for handmade jewelry, Blackmail for house-sewn clothing, Allens for cowboy boots, and Uncommon Objects for alluringly curated antiques and art. You'll find coteries of shops and galleries throughout the city, as if the entire town embodies an artsy neighborhood district bent on ensuring that Austin's idiosyncratic footprint won't be stomped out by global homogeneity.

In that vein, celebrity chefs who try to stake out turf here as outsiders generally fail. "We have our own chefs, thank you very much," said one Austin dining maven. And it's true. The city has James Beard nominees and winners aplenty, and vaunts its fair share of top chefs. One of the city's most revered culinary eateries is Lenoir, a 34-seat space with recycled wood décor that devotes its menu to locally sourced ingredients.

For all their modesty, Austin residents want to look their best and maintain a youthful mien. For that, they visit the intimate haven of Dr. Steven Zimmet, a world-renowned vein specialist and dermatologist who specializes in non-invasive cosmetic procedures. Zimmet, who boasts a number of celebrity and out-of-town clients, performs skin-tightening (Ultherapy), body-sculpting (Lipsonix) and other dermatologic magic at an intimate central Austin medical spa.

For a posh stay in the SoCo district, check into Hotel St. Cecilia, a secluded enclave with a clubby feel and intimate, villa-like rooms. At the Four Seasons Austin, choose a room with a balcony and watch the watery world unfold from the shores of Lady Bird Lake.

MORE DESTINATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS



READY FOR YOUR DREAM VACATION?



Save time. Get connected for FREE to travel specialists. The journey starts right here at tripology.com

To begin, I'm interested in:

(Check all that apply)

- Flights
- Hotels
- Car Rental
- Transportation
- Cruise

From: Name or Airport

To: Name or Airport

Find My Agent



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Get expert tips and advice delivered to your inbox.

Full Name

Email

JOIN NOW

Tweets

Follow

USA TODAY Travel @usatodaytravel 6h
 Top stargazing spots in the western U.S. (hint: Death Valley is one of the best in the world) usat.ly/1gIDfBL
 Expand

USA TODAY Travel @usatodaytravel 8h
 With outdoor nature trails and in-terminal art walks, airports encourage fliers to take a hike usat.ly/1qVJMbb
 Expand

Tweet to @usatodaytravel



Where to eat and drink in Austin



Romantic Austin



Austin on a budget



Austin family-travel guide

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Add a comment...

Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

Get expert travel tips and advice delivered to your inbox.

[JOIN NOW](#)

CITY GUIDES:

[AUSTIN](#) | [BOSTON](#) | [CHICAGO](#) | [DALLAS/FORT WORTH](#) | [LAS VEGAS](#) | [NEW ORLEANS](#) | [ORLANDO](#) | [PHILADELPHIA](#) | [SAN ANTONIO](#) | [SEATTLE](#) | [WASHINGTON DC](#)

[USA TODAY TRAVEL:](#) [EXPERIENCE BEACH](#) | [EXPERIENCE CARIBBEAN](#) | [EXPERIENCE CRUISE](#) | [EXPERIENCE FOOD AND WINE](#) | [EXPERIENCE LAS VEGAS](#) | [EXPERIENCE SKI](#)



USA TODAY
A GANNETT COMPANY

[© USA TODAY](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)

[PRIVACY NOTICE / YOUR CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS](#)

[AD CHOICES](#)