

# AUSTIN TRAVEL GUIDE

OVERVIEW BUDGET FAMILY FOODIE LUXURY ROMANCE

## Austin travel guide

by Becca Hensley



Austin – you’ve heard all about it, but, you just can’t visualize the place. Well, here’s the thing: The Lone Star state’s capital city isn’t your granddaddy’s Texas. It’s a lake-studded spot in the heart of verdant Hill Country, which borders a burgeoning wine region. It’s an urbane metropolis that functions like a hip hamlet.

An erudite university town, a blue dot in a red state, a diverse community that puts creativity on a pedestal, Austin abounds with artists, inventors, philosophers, chefs, brewers, entrepreneurs, designers and other bold thinkers who all flourish here. Whole Foods, Dell, Tommy’s Foods, and Sweet Leaf Tea are just a few of the companies that started in Austin.

With an unofficial motto of "Keep Austin Weird," you’d think the entire town was quirky. Instead, the slogan is a call to action to express yourself, and a host of independent restaurants, mom-and-pop-owned boutiques, funky food trucks, pop-up businesses and galleries prove the point.

The denizens themselves are independent, brash and affable souls. No one style dominates. Residents run the gamut from tattooed and bearded groovers to buttoned-up business types. In the local dress, you’ll notice a western flair in colorful cowboy boots paired with a sundress, vintage cowpoke shirts, and Wrangler jeans that have never seen the back of a horse.

### Music City

Boasting more than 250 live-music venues, Austin revels in its moniker of Live Music Capital of the World. Tunes don’t just waft from clubs, taverns and speakeasys, though. Everywhere you go – from the nature trails to the airport, you’ll find guitars strumming, drums beating, accordions squawking and bands blaring. Myriad music festivals – South-by-Southwest (SxSW), Austin City Limits, Fun Fun Fun Fest, to name a few – draw thousands of music buffs to hear genres ranging from blues to rock to reggae to punk.

### Recreation rules

In the heart of the city, spring-fed [Barton Springs](#) forms the centerpiece of 358-acre Zilker Park. The quarter-mile-long pool with natural rock sides stays cool all year at 70 degrees. A hangout from dawn to dusk, this historical pond even boasts its own endangered species: a blind, albino salamander.

Repeatedly named a top city for fitness, Austin sits the shores of the Colorado River. The three man-made lakes within the city limits teem with boats, wake-boarders, paddle-boarders and kayakers. Hiking trails, parks and bike lanes appeal to other sports enthusiasts, while abundant yoga studios keep Texan minds, bodies and spirits in shape.

### Other charms

With a buzzing food scene, fueled by craft breweries, independent restaurants, thriving food trucks, area farms, and locals who live to eat, the town never seems to put down its collective fork. This Texas treasure welcomes visitors unconditionally to its fold with a marriage of Southern hospitality, Western joie de vivre and city-slicker conviviality. No wonder more than 100 people move to Austin every day. You’d better hurry while there’s still room!

### 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

powered by

### 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

MORE DESTINATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS



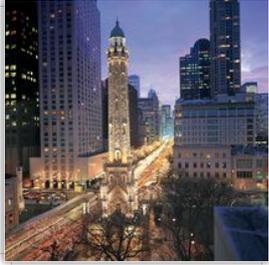
Austin on a budget



San Antonio on a budget



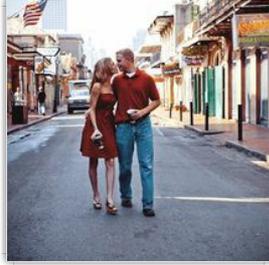
Where to eat and drink in Austin



Chicago for luxury lovers



Austin family-travel guide



Romantic New Orleans

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Add a comment...

Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

Get expert travel tips and advice delivered to your inbox.

Full Name

Email

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