

## **Adventure Austin**

## **Austin, 2 Days**

## **Table of contents:**

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Austin Snapshot 8



# **Guide Description**

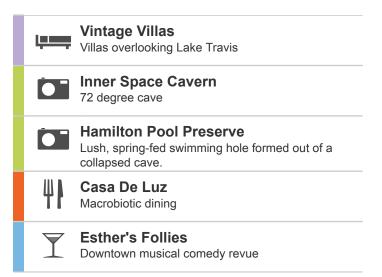


AUTHOR NOTE: Veteran tourists and those craving something more off the wall will appreciate this collection of Austin experiences that will give everyone a story to tell.



## Day 1 - Austin

DAY NOTE: After waking up with a beautiful view of Lake Travis from your Vintage Villa room, head north to Georgetown for a cool (read: chilly) visit to Inner Space Cavern, an underground limestone cave that will take you back to prehistoric times. Follow up the learning experience with a relaxing dip at Hamilton Pool Preserve, though you'll have to earn the it with a short hike from the parking lot through the trees to the beautiful quarried natural pool. A healthy lunch or dinner at Casa de Luz, Austin's only organic, vegan and macrobiotic restaurant, will give you added energy and a new outlook on seriously tasty health food. Cap off your busy day with an evening show at Sixth Street's Esther's Follies, a hysterical comedy troupe that's been going for more than three decades.



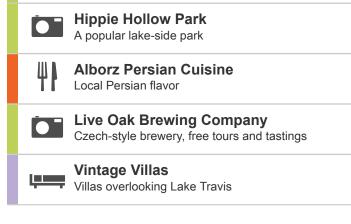
## Day 2 - Austin

DAY NOTE: Kick off your second morning in Austin with a hearty breakfast at Star Seeds Cafe, a popular low-key diner, before heading to your Austin Segway Tour. Roll around town on the two-wheel contraption, learning all there is to know about Austin history, architecture and culture. Once you've finished your local lesson, head back toward Lake Travis for some personal time at Hippie Hollow, Texas' only nude sunbathing beach. Once your cheeks are sunkissed, skip over to East Austin's Live Oak Brewing Company for a personal tour of the beer-making facilities and perhaps a sample taste. Then its off to Alborz Persian Cuisine for an adventurous dinner rich with eastern flavor.



**Star Seeds Cafe** 

Popular late-night hangout



Austin Segway Tour Tour Austin On A Segway

## Day 1 - Austin

#### **QUICK NOTE**

DAY NOTE: After waking up with a beautiful view of Lake Travis from your Vintage Villa room, head north to Georgetown for a cool (read: chilly) visit to Inner Space Cavern, an underground limestone cave that will take you back to prehistoric times. Follow up the learning experience with a relaxing dip at Hamilton Pool Preserve, though you'll have to earn the it with a short hike from the parking lot through the trees to the beautiful quarried natural pool. A healthy lunch or dinner at Casa de Luz, Austin's only organic, vegan and macrobiotic restaurant, will give you added energy and a new outlook on seriously tasty health food. Cap off your busy day with an evening show at Sixth Street's Esther's Follies, a hysterical comedy troupe that's been going for more than three decades.

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 266 9333 fax: +1 512 266 1875 http://www.vintagevillas.com

#### location:

4209 Eck Lane Austin TX 78734



## Vintage Villas

DESCRIPTION: This collection of villas, each with its own Texas style, is perfect for a romantic getaway or your corporate retreat. Every room overlooks the lake, with many offering balconies. Golfers will enjoy the convenience of three golf courses located nearby and wine lovers will be close enough to walk to the Slaughter/Leftwich winery. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 931 2283 http://www.myinnerspacecave rn.com/

#### location:

4200 South I-35, exit 295 Georgetown TX 78627



## Inner Space Cavern

DESCRIPTION: After being sealed for over 10,000 years, this cave was discovered in 1963 when a group of workers were digging to build a highway overpass. Daily tours are available and last just over an hour. The cave stays a comfortable 72 degrees Farenheit year-round, and features not only beautiful rock formations but also the remains of prehistoric mastodons, saber-tooth cats and other ice age animals. After your tour, enjoy the shaded picnic area with a playscape for children. Its located 24 miles north of Austin on IH 35, exit 259. © wcities.com

#### contact:

tel: 512-264-2740 http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/p arks/hamilton\_pool.asp

#### location:

24300 Hamilton Pool Road Dripping Springs TX 78620



## **Hamilton Pool Preserve**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located approximately 30 miles southwest of Austin, Hamilton Pool Preserve appeals to nature lovers in search of swimming, hiking, and birdwatching opportunities. The main attraction is a natural swimming hole formed out of a collapsed grotto. The pool is about 1/4 mile from the parking area, so keep that in mind when you're deciding what to bring. A limestone outcropping, formerly part of the roof of a cave, shades one side of the pool. Depending on recent rainfall, water either drips or flows down the outcropping, creating a refreshing shower for swimmers underneath. Delicate ferns cling to the outcropping, lending the site a tropical flair. Hamilton Pool Preserve is also home to the golden-cheeked warbler, a rare and endangered bird that lives among the area's mixed ashe-juniper and oak woodlands. The hike to the pool is short, but it does include a series of uneven rock steps. Good hiking shoes are recommended. Visitors with physical disabilities should call ahead to arrange assistance. Parking is limited, and the pool is very popular, so try to arrive early.



wcities



Drinking water and other concessions are not available. Take Highway 71 west through the town of Bee Cave and turn left onto FM 3238 (Hamilton Pool Road). Travel 13 miles to the Preserve entrance, which will be on your right. © NileGuide

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 476 2535 http://www.casadeluz.org/

#### location:

1701 Toomey Road Austin TX 78704

#### hours:

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



#### Casa De Luz

DESCRIPTION: Serving macrobiotic food in a community setting, this restaurant offers natural, organic, vegan meals. One complete, balanced macrobiotic meal is created for lunch and another completely different meal will be offered for dinner. You will not find a menu, as the chef plans meals daily based on the seasons. The cooks work continuously during each meal to keep the fresh food coming, as you may go back for "seconds" as often as you like. The fresh steamed greens with almond sauce are a personal favorite of many patrons. Its environment is spacious and airy with many windows surrounding the dining area. There is even a "silent table" where guests may eat without being disturbed. Check out the weekend brunch where you can explore tofu migas, or spelt pancakes with berries. Meal prices include tax and tip. © wcities.com



wcities

#### contact:

tel: 512 320 0553 http://www.esthersfollies.com

#### location:

525 East 6th St Austin TX 78701



#### **Esther's Follies**

DESCRIPTION: One part vaudeville and one part stinging political/social satire, this place has amused and delighted its guests, as well as the pedestrians who pass by its front-stage windows and observe its goings-on, since the late 1970s. A troupe of multi-talented performers write, act, sing and dance their way across a broad comedic map that pokes fun at our elected officials, celebrity icons, and regular citizens, and the material is constantly being updated. It is not all for laughs, though; a magical act comes on a couple of times per show to startle and captivate your senses. This is a true downtown institution. © wcities.com



wcities



## Day 2 - Austin

**QUICK NOTE** 

DAY NOTE: Kick off your second morning in Austin with a hearty breakfast at Star Seeds Cafe, a popular low-key diner, before heading to your Austin Segway Tour. Roll around town on the two-wheel contraption, learning all there is to know about Austin history, architecture and culture. Once you've finished your local lesson, head back toward Lake Travis for some personal time at Hippie Hollow, Texas' only nude sunbathing beach. Once your cheeks are sunkissed, skip over to East Austin's Live Oak Brewing Company for a personal tour of the beer-making facilities and perhaps a sample taste. Then its off to Alborz Persian Cuisine for an adventurous dinner rich with eastern flavor.

#### contact:

tel: +512 478 7107 http://www.starseedscafe.com/

#### location:

3101 North I H 35 Austin TX 78722

#### hours:

Daily 24 hours



### **Star Seeds Cafe**

DESCRIPTION: This funky roadside restaurant, located on the grounds of Days Inn University along Interstate 35, provides a hip late-night hangout for all types. Musicians and music fans alike mingle over omelets, breakfast tacos and a full range of diner food. Students are drawn to it because of the late night hours, convenience to UT and affordable menu items. After 2 a.m. there is often a wait while the bar crowd trickles in. The walls are covered with artwork—not anything typical, usually very eclectic or raw pieces are shown. The atmosphere is laid back and casual with diner booths filling the small space. © wcities.com



wcities

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 495 9250 http://www.glidingrevolution.c om/

#### location:

20 North IH-35 Austin TX 78701

#### hours:

Daily 9:30a-9:30p



## Austin Segway Tour

DESCRIPTION: See the beautiful sights of the Texas State Capital, Austin, like you've never seen them before by gliding on a Segway. Segways have a platform perched on two wheels with a patented gyroscope balancing system enabling the standing rider to maneuver by tilting forward or backwards while using the steering control on the left side of the handlebar to turn. We offer 7 day a week, 365 day a year guided 2.5 hour Segway tours visiting the Governor's Mansion, the Texas State Capital, the World famous 6th street entertainment district, the new 2nd street shopping district and much more. Our guided Segway tours are informative tours now rated as one of the highest quality tours in Texas. Segway guided tours are ideal for families, visitors, residents and work groups for team building activities.

We currently have a variety of new model Segways in many colors for your enjoyment including the popular XT Off-road models. We believe in safe and fun Segway experiences for all of our guest groups! Reservations are strongly recommended. © wcities.com



wcities

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 854 7275 http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/p arks/hippie\_hollow.asp

#### location:



## **Hippie Hollow Park**

DESCRIPTION: Hippie Hollow Park lies in the basin area of Lake Travis in the Hill Country of central Texas, approximately one-half hour's drive from downtown Austin, The Park features a steep, rocky shoreline and provides some spectacular views of Lake Travis. This heavily-used park,



6

7000 Commanche Trail Austin TX 78732

#### hours

Sept 10-Oct 31 9am-7:30pm, Nov 1-Feb 28 9am-6pm, Mar 1-Apr 30 9am-7:30pm, May 1-Sept 9 8am-9pm the only clothing optional public park in Texas, is popular for sunbathing and swimming. Hippie Hollow is also the site of Splash Day, a festive, semiannual event celebrating the beginning of spring and the end of summer, hosted by the Gay and Lesbian community.

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 420 2222 http://www.alborzpersiancuisi ne.com/

#### location:

3300 West Anderson Lane Austin TX 78757

#### hours:

Su-Th 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., F-Sa 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.



### Alborz Persian Cuisine

DESCRIPTION: For truly exotic food that you won't find at every street corner in Texas, try the subtle cuisine of Persia. In true Middle Eastern style, the reception is warm and welcoming and the menu consists of food evocative of the Arabian Nights - sensuous and bold. The menu highlights are the kashk-o-bademjan; a rich, smoky, baked eggplant starter topped with dry yogurt, mint, walnuts and garlic, and chelo kabob-e-koobideh (ground beef kabob) with chargrilled tomatoes, herbs and onions. The dessert menu has delightful items such as Persian ice cream with rosewater, pistachios and saffron. © wcities.com

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 385 2299 http://www.liveoakbrewing.co m/index2.html

#### location:

3301 East Fifth St Austin TX 78702

#### hours:

9a-6p; tours available by appointment.



## **Live Oak Brewing Company**

DESCRIPTION: Several Austin restaurants and bars have Live Oak brands (including Big Bark Amber Lager, Live Oak Pale Ale and Live Oak Pilz) on tap. Beer-enthusiasts will appreciate not only the rich malt flavors they find in the tasting room, but also the process behind the brew. The two brewers traveled to Prague to learn ancient techniques, and then developed their own unique process. The free tour, which explains how decoction mash, open fermentation and secondary lagering make Live Oak beers unique, takes about twenty minutes. Free samples follow every tour. © wcities.com



wcities

#### contact:

tel: +1 512 266 9333 fax: +1 512 266 1875 http://www.vintagevillas.com

#### location:

4209 Eck Lane Austin TX 78734



## Vintage Villas

DESCRIPTION: This collection of villas, each with its own Texas style, is perfect for a romantic getaway or your corporate retreat. Every room overlooks the lake, with many offering balconies. Golfers will enjoy the convenience of three golf courses located nearby and wine lovers will be close enough to walk to the Slaughter/Leftwich winery. © wcities.com



Hotels.com



1

## **Austin Snapshot**

#### **Local Info**

With its perfect proportions of adventurous spirit and laid-back atmosphere, Austin wins visitors over time and time again. Nestled in the southern portion of the Lone Star State, the capital city doubles as the hub of serious government affairs and the supreme getaway for outdoor recreation and cultural escape.

#### Downtown

The heart of Austin lays downtown, among the busy streets and inner workings of the state government. The Texas State Capitol--built of pink granite and native limestone and standing 14 feet taller than the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C.--anchors the area's main thoroughfare, Congress Avenue. The street that once paved the way for horses and carriages now houses some of Austin's tallest buildings, including the futuristic-looking Frost Bank Tower--the first high-rise to be constructed in the U.S. following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The downtown area juggles work and play with a handful of areas organized especially for after-hours fun. Comparable to New Orleans' famous Bourbon Street, Austin's East Sixth Street is often the first place rowdy tourists visit for a memorable night out. Within an eight-block stretch, more than 100 shot bars, live music venues, dance clubs, restaurants and souvenir shops line the street, which is cordoned off from vehicular traffic most nights of the week.

The post-collegiate crowd heads a few blocks west to one of three nearby areas: the Warehouse District, West Sixth Street or the Second Street District. Each neighborhood offers an array of trendy eateries alongside classy pubs, bars and clubs and is only a pedicab ride away from one another.

As the self-described"Live Music Capital of the World," Austin touts a constant schedule of bands and musicians throughout the city, though most performances are concentrated in the downtown area. The Red River District, located one block west of IH-35 between Sixth and 10th Streets, attracts a mixture of punk, heavy metal and indie rock acts at venues like Emo's, Mohawk and Red-Eyed Fly, while Stubb's regularly schedules

big-time touring acts of all genres at the barbecue joint's outdoor amphitheater.

Other popular downtown music venues include Antone's, Austin Music Hall, La Zona Rosa, the Elephant Room and Cedar Street Courtyard, among others. All of these locations and hundreds of other venues host musicians, film premieres and interactive parties during the South by Southwest Music, Film and Interactive Conference held each March.

#### University of Texas/ The Drag

Part of Austin's draw is the highly ranked and centrally located University of Texas at Austin. The 40-acre campus sits right in the midst of the city's action, with more than 50,000 students enrolled each semester. The grounds also holds some of Austin's finest museums, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center and the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art. The campus' western border--Guadalupe Street--is known as the Drag, a mile-long section of coffee shops, cafes and Longhorn-centric stores like the University Co-Op. The open-air Renaissance Market houses local artisans peddling their wares under shady tents, while the nearby Toy Joy stocks the largest array of random baubles fit for all ages.

#### South Austin

Lady Bird Lake, formerly known as Town Lake, intersects the city just south of downtown, creating the unofficial divide between Central and South Austin. The Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail keeps Austinites and travelers alike in shape with nearly 10 miles of landscaped trails amid the hustle and bustle of downtown. Zilker Park, a 400-acre park along the southern shores of the lake, provides wide open space for kite-flying, Frisbee and other outdoor activities, including dancing at the Austin City Limits Music Festival each October. Kayak and canoe rentals let people enjoy a view of the skyline from the water, while Barton Springs Pool, a natural spring-fed swimming hole, offers up a cool and refreshing respite from the infamous Texas heat. A handful of quirky restaurants--namely Chuy's, Shady Grove, Romeo's, Austin Java Co. and Uncle Billy's Brew& Que--line Barton Springs Road, offering quick and easy meal options for

those enjoying the beautiful weather yearround.

Along with university students, musicians and outdoorsy-types, Austin also hosts the largest urban colony of Mexican freetail bats in North America, which take up residence under the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge from March to November. Their nightly flight for food occurs around dusk and attracts hundreds of visitors eager to see the throngs of insect-eating bats take to the skies.

Just a couple blocks south of the bat haven sits the hip and trendy South Congress Avenue, referred to locally as SoCo. This strip, only a mile or so away from St. Edward's University, houses some of the city's most unique shops(Uncommon Objects, Parts& Labour, Lucy in Disguise) alongside hip hotels(Hotel San Jose, Austin Motel, Hotel Saint Cecilia) and locally owned eateries(Zen Japanese Food Fast, Home Slice Pizza, Guero's Taco Bar). On the first Thursday of each month, area businesses keep late hours while hundreds mingle along the street, shopping and enjoying live music during the free event appropriately dubbed First Thursday. Another SoCo highlight: Airstream trailersturned-food vendors, and not just of the sno-cone variety. From cupcakes to chicken cones(you have to try one to understand), the block of food trailers draws guite a crowd every night of the week. © NileGuide

#### **Restaurants Insights**

Spread out over roughly 300 square miles, Austin offers a limitless supply of dining options, ranging from festival-style handheld bites to indulgent, multi-course meals that last hours. Tex-Mex restaurants like Chuy's, Maudie's and Matt's El Rancho and barbecue joints such as Stubb's, Ironworks and Salt Lick might have put Austin on the map for their tried-and-true ways, but some of the city's most daring spots are the most popular. Uchi, a hip sushi restaurant along South Lamar, is the mastermind of nationally recognized chef Tyson Cole, serving innovative dishes to a capacity crowd. Flip Happy Crepes, an Airstream trailer-turned-creperie, has wooed patrons with their sweet and savory French delicacies, including celebrity chef Bobby Flay who challenged the owners



## Austin Snapshot continued

on a Season 3 episode of his Food TV competition, "Throwdown with Bobby Flay." (Spoiler: Flip Happy Crepes won!) Another local favorite, Baby Greens, brings healthy to the drive-thru with fresh salads and house-made dressings. With options like these, it can be difficult to make a decision on an empty stomach.

© NileGuide

### **Nightlife Insights**

Austin provides something for everyone when it comes to nighttime entertainment. The title of "Live Music Capital of the World" is well deserved, as live music bellows from not just bars and clubs, but restaurants, coffee shops, museums and more on a nightly basis. For some of the city's best up-and-coming acts, check out Antone's, the Mohawk or Hole in the Wall, while bigname touring groups stop by Stubb's, La Zona Rosa or Austin Music Hall. Couples(or courageous singles) can get their two-steppin' on with the help of house bands at Donn's Depot and Broken Spoke.

The bar scene in the capital city is varied-the collegiate crowd heads to the infamous East Sixth Street, where shot bars and dance clubs share the street with souvenir shops and tourist-driven restaurants. The Warehouse District and West Sixth Street areas attract more sophisticated clientele. Hotspots like the Belmont, Union Park and the Ranch couple breezy rooftop patios with swanky cocktails and skyline views. Casual spots like Opal Divine's, the Key Bar and Ginger Man serve pints and more to a laid-back crowd.

### Things to Do Insights

© NileGuide

Part of Austin's appeal stems from the array of outdoor activities the area offers. From hiking and biking to window-shopping and bat-watching, there's something for every level of physical activity. Tourist hot spots are scattered throughout the city--Mount Bonnell offers a short 100-step trek to a sweeping view overlooking Lake Austin; Zilker Park provides hundreds of acres of wide open space for sports and the like right in the city center. Bicyclists take to the Hike and Bike Trail around Lady Bird Lake, while others opt for the Veloway, a paved closed course for bikes and rollerbladers only.

Cultural opportunities also abound in Austin, with a combination of museums, music and special events. The Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art--the latest addition to the University of Texas campus--spans centuries and genres of painting and sculpture, while the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum encompasses the pride of the Lone Star State with its larger-than-life exhibits and state-of-the-art technology that makes taking a step back in time fun for all ages. Smaller museums and galleries make way for the local artisans--Wally Workman Gallery exhibits oils, watercolors and other media from area artists, as does Women& Their Work, Yard Dog, Flatbed Press and a handful of other galleries. © NileGuide

# **Travel Tips Getting There**

#### Air

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport(ABIA)+1 512 530 ABIAhttp:// www.abia.org/

ABIA is located eight miles from Austin and is serviced by the following airlines:

American Airline(+1 800 433 7300/http://www.aa.com) America West(+1 800 235 9292/http://www.americawest.com) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/http://www.british-airways.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/http://www.continental.com) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/http://www.delta.com) Frontier Airlines(+1 1 800 432 1359/http://www.frontierairlines.com) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/http://www.southwest.com) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/http://www.nwa.com) United(+1 800 241 6522/http://www.ual.com)

Car Rental: Alamo( +1 800 327 9633/ http://www.alamo.com) Avis( +1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com) Budget( +1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com) Dollar( +1 800 4000/http://www.dollar.com) Enterprise( +1 800 325 8007/http:// www.enterprise.com) Hertz( +1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com National( +1 800227 7368/http://www.nationalcar.com) Thrifty( +1 800 367 2277/http:// www.thrifty.com)

Shuttles: SuperShuttle( +1 800 BLUE VAN(258 3826)/+1 512 258 3826) Carey

Austin( +1 512 929 5009/http://www.carey-austin.com)

Train Amtrak services Austin daily from nationwide locations( +1 800 872 7245/ http://www.amtrak.com).

Bus Greyhound( +1 800 231 2222;+1 512 458 4463/http://www.greyhound.com) accesses Austin daily.

**Highway** The I-35, I-10, and the US-290 will take you into Austin from any direction.

#### **Getting Around**

#### **Train**

Take the historic Austin Steam
Train( +1 512 477 8468/http://
www.austinsteamtrain.org) through Austin.
Open year-round on weekends only.

#### Bus

The Capitol Metro Bus( +1 512 474 1200/ http://www.capmetro.org) serves the airport as well as all areas of the city.

#### **Taxi**

Ace Taxi( +1 888 582 8646) American Yellow( +1 452 9999;+1 800 874 0278) Austin Cab( +1 478 2222;+1 800 TAXICAB) Roy's Taxi Inc.( +1 482 0175;+1 800 845 ROYS)

#### **Traffic Information**

To find out city traffic information go to:http://www.traffic.com/

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out:http://travel.state.gov/
© NileGuide

#### **Fun Facts**

#### **Austin**

**State:** Texas

**Country:** United States **Austin by the Numbers:** 

Population: 710,000 Elevation: 597 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 32 inches Average Annual Snowfall: 9 inches



## Austin Snapshot continued

Average January Temperature: 50 degrees

F

Average July Temperature: 85 degrees F

**Quick Facts:** 

Major Industries: Oil, Electronics, Computers, Automobile Manufacturing, Aerospace Industries, Agriculture, Telecommunications, Higher Education

Ethnic Mix: Caucasian(65%), African American(10%), of some Latino descent(30%), Asian(4%)

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two

pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT- 6 Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 361& 512

**Did You Know?** 

Austin is not only the state capital of Texas, it is also home to the University of Texas,

Austin. On further note, Austin is the site of the President Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Center.

#### **Orientation:**

Austin is located deep in the heart of Texas, about 160 miles west of Houston, 80 miles northeast of San Antonio, and 200 miles south of Dallas.

(C)

