



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

Austin's Best Budget-Friendly Restaurants

Austin, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Just because you're on vacation (or a business trip, for that matter) doesn't mean you can throw finances to the wind and eat extravagantly for each and every meal. To help make the most of your travel dollars, I've put together a list of some of Austin's yummiest spots that just so happen to be easy on the pocketbook, in other words: cheap eats. From greasy burgers and healthful sandwiches to sushi and crepes, this budget guide has got you and your family covered--all you have to worry about now is what to order.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Austin



Zen Japanese Food Fast

Healthy Japanese food



Sandy's Hamburgers

Cheap, greasy burgers



Austin's Tamale House

Quick and cheap Mexican eats



Flip Happy Crêpes

Jump for joy



Dart Bowl Steakhouse

Lovers rejoice!



Mekong River

Inexpensive Vietnamese cuisine



Milto's Pizza Pub

Pizza, Greek, Italian



Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse

No frills, good barbecue



Thundercloud Subs

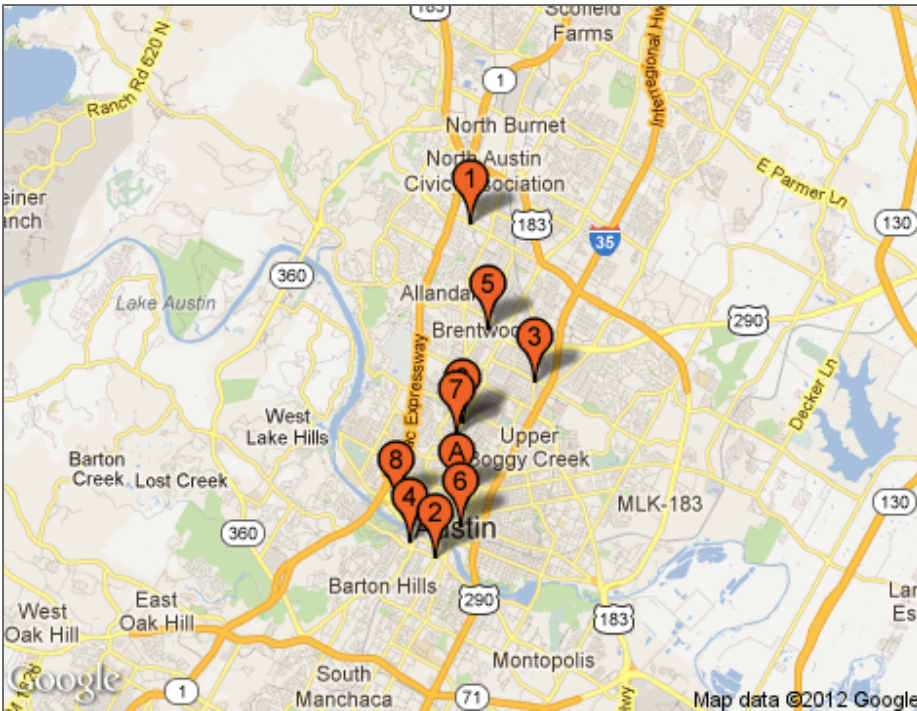
Austin sandwich tradition



Texas Chili Parlor

Hot, hot, hot!

Day 1 - Austin



QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +512 451 4811
fax: +512 451 0088
<http://www.eatzen.com/>

location:

2900 West Anderson Lane
Austin TX 78757

hours:

M-Sa 11a-10p, Su
11:30a-8:30p

1 Zen Japanese Food Fast

DESCRIPTION: The name is accurate, but does not do justice to the heart-healthy offerings of this Japanese eatery. Drop in for lunch or dinner and select from the menu of sushi, refreshing salads and entrees. The familiar types of sushi are available, as well as variations such as teriyaki chicken rolls and tofu rolls. Try some "heart smart" entrees, such as steak and veggies teriyaki and white chicken with broccoli. A low-key, casual atmosphere is the rule here, with customers choosing from a selection of Japanese beers. Other locations include 1303 S. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704 (+1 512 444 8081,) 3423 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX (+1 512 300 2633) and 5207 Brodie Ln, Austin, TX (+1 512 899 2222.) © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: + 512 478 6322
http://austin.citysearch.com/profile/10210777/austin_tx/sandy_s_hamburgers.html

location:

603 Barton Springs Road
Austin TX 78704-1144

hours:

M-Su 10:30a-10:30p

2 Sandy's Hamburgers

DESCRIPTION: Sandy's is one of those all-American cafes. This one has been around for two decades, its neon custard cone its trademark. So, if you want a bit of classic Americana, drive through and pick up a meal or sit at one of the picnic tables. The menu consists of mouthwatering cheeseburgers and its famous custard cones. Everything on the menu is affordable here. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 453 9842
<http://www.myspace.com/tamalehouse>

location:
5003 Airport Boulevard
Austin TX 78751

hours:
M-F 6:30a-3p, Sa 7a-3p

3 Austin's Tamale House

DESCRIPTION: Small and quaint is how you can describe this place best. But don't let the small factor undermine the Mexican fare dished out here - you can actually watch them cook. Crowded with hungry students, travelers, local patrons, and professionals, the food is delicious but inexpensive. Food includes homemade salsa, breakfast tacos, migas, enchiladas, chalupas et al. You can call ahead and order - with the prices, for a whole baseball team. In spite of the demand and queue, service is quick. Note: no credit cards please. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 552 9034
<http://www.fliphappycrepes.com/>

location:
400 Jessie Street
Austin TX 78704

hours:
W-F 10:30a-2:30p, Sa 9a-3p

4 Flip Happy Crêpes

DESCRIPTION: The French seem to be inspiring the folks in Austin. If the Bistro Le Marseillaise is an out-of-the-box concept, well, Flip Happy Crêpes is an inside-an-Airstream concept. Operating out of a trailer parked off South Lamar Boulevard, the menu has sweet and savory crêpes for all tastes and a mini crêpe and nutella roll up for the kids. Flip Happy also serves tea, coffee and sodas and has a seating area with tables on the lawn. This is one place, even the French will admit, where the crêpes are as good as back home. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +1 512 452 2518
fax: +1 512 452 2761
<http://www.dartbowl.com>

location:
5700 Grover Avenue
Austin TX 78756

hours:
Su-Th 9a-12a, F-Sa 9a-1:30a

5 Dart Bowl Steakhouse

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy bowling while you satisfy your appetite with yummy steaks and chops. You can have breakfast, lunch and dinner at Dart Bowl Steakhouse. A quiet place to chill out with folks and friends. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +1 512 236 8878
<http://mekongriveraustin.com/>

location:
215 East Sixth St
Austin TX 78701

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

6 Mekong River

DESCRIPTION: This is a consistently excellent Vietnamese restaurant with an extensive menu of reasonably priced entrees. Located in a roomy, two-story space in the middle of the bar and live music district, they serve a variety of Pho (noodle soup), vermicelli and rice dishes topped with grilled or stir-fried meat and vegetables. No alcoholic beverages are served, but the Vietnamese coffee, iced or hot, is not to be missed. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 476 1021

location:
2909 Guadalupe Street
Austin TX 78705-3721

hours:
Su-F 11a-10p, Sa 11a-11p

7 Milto's Pizza Pub

DESCRIPTION: This campus area location offers excellent pizza, Greek items and pasta dishes for eating in, to go or delivery. Prices are reasonable, and the service is generally efficient and friendly. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +1 512 338 1990
<http://www.pokejos.com/>

location:
9828 Great Hills Trail
Austin TX 78759

hours:
M-Su 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

8 Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse

DESCRIPTION: This warehouse-style restaurant serves reliably good barbecue along with great sides. An entire meal is surprisingly inexpensive. Other locations: 1202-C North IH-35 Round Rock, TX 78681 (+1 512 388 7578,) 2121 Parmer Lane Austin, TX 78759 (+1 512 491 0434,) 4109 Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX 78746 (+1 512 440 0447) and 1000 E 41st St, Austin, TX 78751 (+1 512 302 1200.) © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +512 452 5010
<http://www.thundercloud.com>

location:
3200-B Guadalupe Street
Austin TX 78705

hours:
M-Th 10:30a-10p, F-Sa
10:30a-11p, Su 11a-10p

9 Thundercloud Subs

DESCRIPTION: This local chain that boasts the motto "fresh, fast, and healthy" offers sandwiches that taste fresher and less corporate than their competitors. Even better, the prices are affordable. Vegetarians will enjoy the Veggie Delight, a cold sub loaded with mushrooms, avocado, sprouts, black olives, cream cheese, onions, tomatoes and ThunderSauce--their trademark special sauce. The other subs offered are largely made up of traditional deli meats such as smoked chicken, turkey, tuna salad, roast beef and mixed cold cuts. If you're looking for something lighter, try a hummus sandwich or soup and salad. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 472 2828
<http://www.cactushill.com/TC/P/home.htm>

location:
1409 Lavaca St
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-Su 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

A Texas Chili Parlor

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Chili Parlor serves up X (mild) chili, XX (spicy) chili, XXX (hot) chili, black bean and sausage chili and vegetarian chili. On the weekends, the special is habanero chile! Despite the name, the Chili Parlor also serves Mexican food, burgers and sandwiches and has a popular bar area. Live music can be heard several nights a week. © wcities.com



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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 year-round.

Along with university students, musicians and outdoorsy-types, Austin also hosts the largest urban colony of Mexican free-tail 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 trailers-turned-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 quite a crowd every night of the week.

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