



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

# Austin's Best Hotels

## Austin, 1 Day

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# Guide Description













**AUTHOR NOTE:** It can be hard to differentiate between Austin hotels when you're searching through the options online, whether you're looking for lakeside accommodations, downtown convenience or a quirky room that's easy on the wallet. Several chain hotels have worthwhile locations within Austin, while a handful of boutique hotels offer one-of-a-kind experiences if that's your kind of thing. This list of the Top 10 area hotels has something for everyone--from the affordable motel to the extravagant getaway resort.

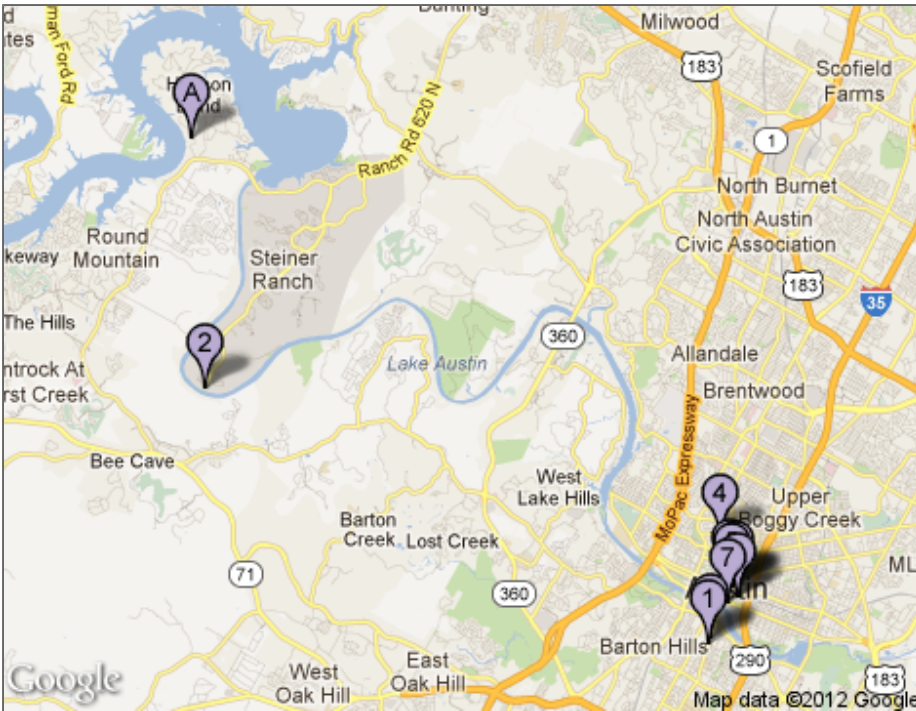
# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Austin

	<b>Hotel San Jose</b> One of a kind
	<b>Lake Austin Spa Resort</b> Luxurious resort and spa
	<b>Austin Motel</b> Unique downtown motel
	<b>Mansion At Judges' Hill</b> Beyond boutique
	<b>Driskill (The)</b> Historic downtown beauty
	<b>Hilton Austin</b> Fun to the hilt!
	<b>Four Seasons Hotel Austin</b> Downtown on Town Lake
	<b>InterContinental Stephen F. Austin</b> Prominent, luxury Austin hotel
	<b>Omni Austin Hotel Downtown</b> Upscale, downtown location
	<b>Vintage Villas</b> Villas overlooking Lake Travis

# Day 1 - Austin



## QUICK NOTE

### contact:

tel: +1 512 444 7322

fax: 512 444 7362

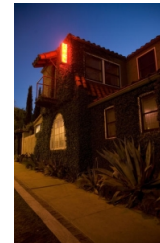
<http://www.sanjosehotel.com/features.html>

### location:

1316 S Congress Avenue  
Austin TX 78704

## 1 Hotel San Jose

**DESCRIPTION:** This revamped 1930s motor court gets a lot of attention from the national press for a design that weds beauty to simplicity. The San Jose is a good choice for design enthusiasts and hipsters, who enjoy both the nonconformist vibe and the social scene in South Austin. Other travelers may think that the minimalist rooms are overpriced. Even if you don't stay here, you might enjoy coming here in the late afternoon/early evening to enjoy the comfortable surroundings of the hotel's popular beer and wine bar. The rooms are indeed spare and come furnished with beds and chairs made from Texas pine, but they also come with amenities such as CD players. Most rooms have pleasant small outdoor sitting areas. The design achieves a certain serenity that evaporates the moment you step out on to South Congress Avenue's lively street scene. Right across the way is the famous Continental Club, a great place for happy hour. Book a room in the back to avoid the Congress Avenue traffic noise. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

**contact:**

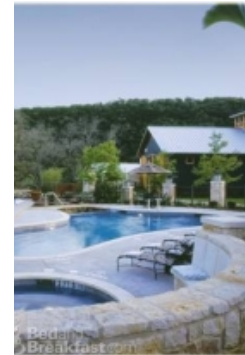
tel: +1 800 847 5637  
fax: +1 512 266 1572  
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/texas-austin-lakeaustinsparesort.html>

**location:**

1705 South Quinlan Park Road  
Austin TX 78732

**2 Lake Austin Spa Resort**

**DESCRIPTION:** Nestled along the shores of scenic Lake Austin in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Lake Austin Spa Resort offers guests the luxury of a world-class spa and the warmth of a best friend's lake house. The resort, named #1 Destination Spa in North America by Condé Nast Traveler and the Top 10 Best Destination Spa in the World by Travel + Leisure, offers all-inclusive packages with accommodations in one of 40 lakeside guest rooms, three gourmet meals daily, indoor and outdoor fitness activities and classes. Those seeking rejuvenation of the mind, body and soul can choose from over 100 indulgent services at the LakeHouse Spa.



more at [BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 441 1157  
fax: +1 512 441 1157  
<http://www.austinmotel.com>

**location:**

1220 South Congress Avenue  
Austin TX 78704

**3 Austin Motel**

**DESCRIPTION:** This establishment, the best lodging bargain on South Congress, is one of the old motels that was built when this was the main road to San Antonio. Built in 1938, it has been in the hands of the same family since the 1950s. A convenient (but not quiet) location in the heart of SoCo and great rates makes this place very popular. It has a classic kidney-shaped pool, a great neon sign, free HBO, free coffee in the lobby, and a certain quirkiness that's part of the local charm. It also has one of those rarities: real single rooms, so those traveling on their own don't have to pay for a bed they're not sleeping in. All rooms are different, many decorated with murals. For instance, room 257 has a cactus mural. You can check out pictures of the rooms before you make a reservation by going to the website. © Frommer's



[citysearch](http://citysearch.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 495 1800  
fax: +1 512 495 1869  
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/texas-austin-themansionatjudgeshill.html>

**location:**

1900 Rio Grande  
Austin TX 78705

**4 Mansion At Judges' Hill**

**DESCRIPTION:** Uncompromised comfort coupled with legendary Texas hospitality makes for a beyond boutique experience at the Mansion at Judges' Hill. From the moment you step foot on our property, you know you're in store for something extraordinary. Each of the 48 guest rooms features custom-made bedding with 310-thread count Egyptian cotton linens, deluxe bathrobes and L'Occitane and Gilchrist & Soames bath products. Complimentary high-speed internet access and on-site parking are also provided. With standard rooms starting at \$129 per night and deluxe rooms ranging from \$219-399, an affordable luxury experience is well within reach. The Mansion is conveniently located three blocks west of the University of Texas campus and has easy access to all of Austin's hotspots.



more at [BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 474 5911 / +1 800 252 9367 (Toll Free)  
fax: +1 512 474 2214  
<http://www.driskillhotel.com/>

**location:**

604 Brazos Street  
Austin TX 78701

**5 Driskill (The)**

**DESCRIPTION: Location.** Located in downtown Austin, Texas, the Driskill Hotel was once the showplace of a cattle baron. Located seven miles from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, this historic 12-story hotel is adjacent to Sixth Street entertainment district and less than one mile from the Texas State Capitol Complex.

**Hotel Features.** Gargoyles and busts of The Driskill Hotel's owner and his sons still peer out from high above each entrance, and shorhorn steer heads adorn the outer walls. The lobby's three-story columns reach to a stained-glass dome ceiling canoping marble floors. The hotel features a full-service business center, elegant meeting facilities wired with high-tech capabilities, and a fitness studio complete with stretching room and massage tables. The Driskill Grill offers contemporary American cuisine in elegant surroundings, while old Texas-style décor is found in the 1886 Café & Bakery, serving full breakfasts and light entrees daily. The Driskill Bar is furnished with cowhide couches and features an extensive wine list, native Texas brews, and live piano music.

**Guestrooms.** Palatial guestrooms and suites span from the Driskill's Traditional Wing, built in 1929 featuring the colorful surroundings of the Texas Hill Country, to the Historic Wing's vaulted decorative ceilings, detailed woodwork and balconies. Both wings include original art, lavish draperies, and opulent beds featuring Frette Italian linens. Bathrooms are outfitted with black Brazilian marble tile, brass fixtures and bathrobes. Nightly turndown service, minibars and expanded cable television are room standards. Complimentary guestroom amenities include coffee service, newspapers and high-speed Internet access.

**Expert Tip.** Built in 1886, the Driskill is rich in history and serves as a landmark of Texas hospitality. Its dark mahogany bar with brass railings, scrolled mirrors and crystal globes was imported from Germany and has been featured in many movies throughout the decades, including "Cabaret" in 1972. This hotel is non-smoking. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 482 8000  
fax: +1 512 469 0078  
[http://www1.hilton.com/en\\_US/hi/hotel/AUSCVHH-Hilton-Austin-Texas/index.do](http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/AUSCVHH-Hilton-Austin-Texas/index.do)

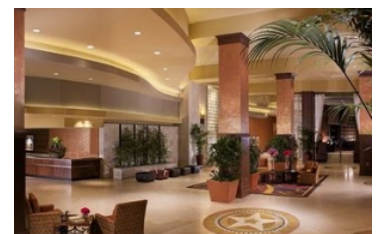
**location:**

500 E 4th St  
Austin TX 78701

**6 Hilton Austin**

**DESCRIPTION: Location.** The Hilton Austin is located across from the convention center in Austin, Texas, and just a short walk from the nightclubs and restaurants of Sixth Street and the Warehouse district. This hotel is found in the downtown business district, less than one mile from the State Capitol Complex, and within two miles of The University of Texas, Bob Bullock Texas Historical Museum and the LBJ Presidential Library. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is approximately seven miles away.

**Hotel Features.** Grand interiors at Hilton Austin welcome guests to contrasting hues and minimalist furnishings. The focal point of the hotel is a 48-foot heated lap pool with spa tub located on the eighth floor and overlooking the Austin skyline. Breaking the mold of ordinary fitness areas, the hotel features



Hotels.com

Tower Health Club, a therapeutic spa facility offering massages, personal trainers and advanced exercise equipment. Flexible event space on site includes two ballrooms seating up to 3000 guests for splendid banquets or wedding receptions. Hotel fine dining at Finn & Porter features expertly prepared steaks, while casual diners experience delicious coffee and flaky pastries at Java Coast. Guests are always invited for cocktails in the Lobby Bar, where a nightclub ambiance creates an ideal environment for relaxed social interaction.

**Guestrooms.** The Hilton Austin features 800 fashionable guestrooms with eclectic interiors. Each room is equipped with spacious desks, two dual-line phones and wireless high speed Internet access. Guestrooms include hospitality centers with minibars and coffeemakers. Private marble bathrooms feature a shelf below the sink for travel necessities, a makeup vanity and designer toiletries.

**Expert Tip.** The Texas Capitol building, located just one mile away, is composed of sunset red Texas granite quarried just 50 miles from the site. It is the second largest Capitol building only to the National Capitol in D.C. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 478 4500

fax: +1 512 478 3117

<http://www.fourseasons.com/austin/index.html>

**location:**

98 San Jacinto Blvd

Austin TX 78701-4039

## 7 Four Seasons Hotel Austin

**DESCRIPTION:** This member of the well-known luxury chain has an ideal location on the north shore of Lady Bird Lake, with great views and close proximity to all the downtown hot spots. Large, comfortable rooms; an excellent spa; beautifully manicured grounds; and direct access to Austin's Hike and Bike Trail are just a few reasons for staying here. And, of course, there's the famous Four Seasons service, which sets this hotel apart from all others. No place in Austin can make life easier. The look of the place is part modern, part traditional, and part Texas. Polished stone floors, with plush area rugs, deep easy chairs and sofas, and a smattering of Western art form a seamless blend in muted tones. It's a look that has much in common with many other luxury hotels I've seen. These hotels obviously know the tastes of their clientele, but to my eye, the interiors lacks character. The guest rooms have the same plush and conservative feel. The city views are fine, but the ones of the lake are finer still. You can choose between rooms with balconies and rooms without. If you're traveling with toddlers, the staff can provide such necessary gear as strollers and baby seats; and there are plenty of weekend activities. Older kids can enjoy complimentary treats, such as popcorn and soda or milk and cookies, if you notify the hotel when you make your reservations. © Frommer's



citysearch

**contact:**

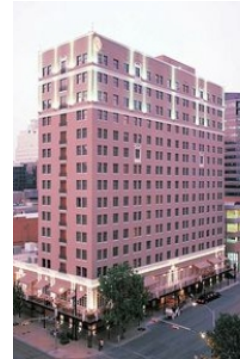
tel: 512 457 8800  
fax: 512 457 8896  
<http://austin.intercontinental.com/>

**location:**

701 Congress Ave  
Austin TX 78701

**8 InterContinental Stephen F. Austin**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Historic InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel is a prominent, luxury Austin hotel conveniently located in downtown Austin. The hotel is one block from Austin entertainment districts. This Austin hotel is three blocks from the hip warehouse district and only six blocks from the University of Texas campus. The hotel is an icon of Austin splendor and seamlessly connects historic elegance with renewed glamour and opulence. Many of the original architectural features have been Magnificently restored. Deep mahogany furniture compliments bright, contemporary decor in the spacious rooms and suites featuring luxurious marble bathrooms complete with terry robes. Breakfast is served daily in the hotel's Café Julienne.



Hotels.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 512 476 3700 / +1 800 843 6664  
fax: +1 512 397 4888  
<http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/default.asp>

**location:**

700 San Jacinto Boulevard  
Austin TX 78701

**9 Omni Austin Hotel Downtown**

**DESCRIPTION:** Entering the luxurious Austin Omni, with its 200-foot atrium constructed of glass, brass and marble, immediately transports you from the casual college town outside to big-city glamour inside. With the largest guest rooms in downtown Austin, this property is close to Sixth Street, the Capitol, the Convention Center and the University of Texas. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

**contact:**

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

**location:**

4209 Eck Lane  
Austin TX 78734

**A 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



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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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