nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

BruceTurner

The Top 10 Bar-B-Q Joints in Austin

Austin, 1 Day

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Austin Snapshot 8

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Few can visit the State Capitol without indulging in some authentic Texas barbecue--perhaps because there's a different BBQ joint on every corner. Smoked and roasted meats--ribs, brisket, chopped beef, turkey, chicken, sausage and more--slathered with barbeque sauces ranging from tangy and sweet to hot and spicy--they're all available within Austin's city limits. Plan out a bar-b-que sweep of the city with our help. In an effort to help you narrow down your options, I've highlighted some of the city's best-loved barbecue restaurants below.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Austin

Lambert's Downtown Barbecue
High-end barbecue in downtown Austin

Stubb's Barbecue
Relaxed outdoor barbecue

Iron Works Barbecue
Good ol' fashioned barbecue

Artz Rib House
BBQ with live music

Salt Lick (The)
Finger lickin' good!

Uncle Billy's Brew & Que
House brews and barbecue

County Line on the Lake (The)
BBQ time, lakeside

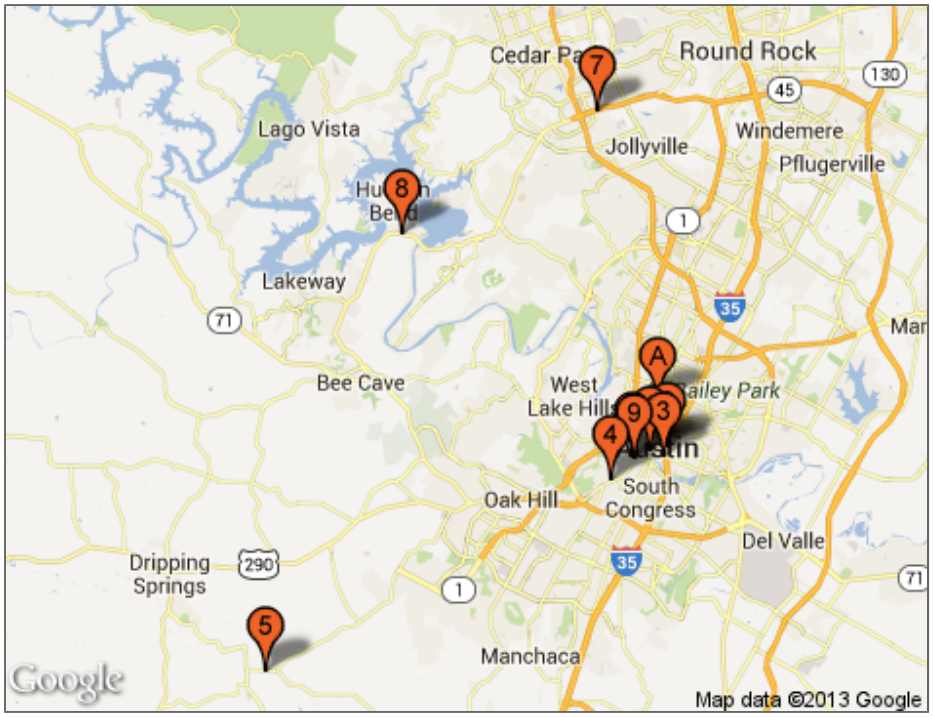
Buster's Barbeque
Meat and smoke

Green Mesquite Barbeque & More
Smoking barbecue since 1988

Ruby's BBQ
Barbecue and the blues

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Day 1 - Austin



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: +512 494 1500
http://www.lambertsaustin.com/

location:
401 West Second Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-Sa 11a-2p, 5:30p-11p, Su 11a-3p, 5:30p-11p

1 Lambert's Downtown Barbecue

DESCRIPTION: Lamberts, located within the entertaining Warehouse District, pairs an energetic atmosphere with an upscale menu made up of barbeque, steak, and seafood. When finished with any one of their highly recommended dishes, you can enjoy live music playing on their second floor nearly every night of the week. They are open for lunch, a popular spot for business patrons, and, as dinner is a well sought after experience, reservations are recommended. For those who wish to take advantage of the Austin weather, Lamberts also offers an outside patio. © wcities.com

Photo courtesy of Lambert's Downtown Barbecue

contact:
tel: +512 480 8341
http://stubbsaustin.com/

location:
801 Red River Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M 5p-10p, Tu-Th 11a-10p, F-Sa 11a-11p, Su 11a-9p

2 Stubb's Barbecue

DESCRIPTION: Besides providing some of the best barbecue in town, Stubb's has a huge outdoor venue for live music. Past acts have included Liz Phair, Flaming Lips, Peter Frampton, Bad Religion, DJ Spooky, Guided By Voices, Sonic Youth and more. You can expect to pay a moderate sum for a plate of barbecue chicken, pork or turkey breast. End your meal with banana pudding or a brownie. Come early to get a bite to eat, then stay and watch the shows. © wcities.com

wcities

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

contact:
tel: +1 512 478 4855 / +1 800 669 3602
fax: +1 512 478 2272
http://www.ironworksbbq.com/

location:
100 Red River Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-Sa 11a-9p

3 Iron Works Barbecue

citysearch

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
This is the perfect spot for a quick lunch or dinner when your day has you stuck at the Convention Center, as it's just around the corner. For that reason (and because the BBQ is top notch), this place is constantly packed when SXSW rolls around in March.

DESCRIPTION: The old Weigl family Iron Works no longer forges metal, but a tasty assortment of fine Texas barbecue. With walls adorned with branding irons, the motif is quintessentially Western, perhaps for the benefit of conventioneers from the neighboring convention center. At the counter, order your choice of sliced beef, chicken, beef ribs, pork ribs, pork loin and sausage for a two-meat combo plate completed with sides of potato salad and beans. Or make your choice of meat by the pound. The spicy sauce is a tangy counterpoint. And if you are craving barbecue somewhere far away, note that Iron Works ships their goods anywhere. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 512 442 8283
fax: 512 442 9342
http://www.artzribhouse.com/

location:
2330 South Lamar Boulevard
Austin TX 78704

hours:
M-Sa 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Su 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

4 Artz Rib House

citysearch

DESCRIPTION: This smoke-free restaurant is heaven for meat lovers. The smoked brisket and pork ribs are house specialties. All items are served with potato Salad, onions and pinto beans. If you are in the mood for some soup, try the seafood gumbo or the garlic soup. If folk music is your kind of thing, drop by Sundays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for Bluegrass Jam. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 512 858 4959
fax: +1 512 858 5473
http://www.saltlickbbq.com/

location:
18001 FM 1826
Driftwood TX 78619

hours:
M-Su 11a-10p

5 Salt Lick (The)

wcities

DESCRIPTION: For a mouthful of real Texas barbecue, head make the drive to the legendary Salt Lick. The scenery and the rustic restaurant buildings all add to that perfect Southern experience. Try the mammoth-sized sandwiches or the family style meals (inclusive of pork ribs, brisket, sausage, potato salad, cole slaw, beans, pickles, onions, and bread.) Dig into the delicious smoky sausages or the moist briskets all made with special Salt Lick sauces. You have to leave room for the irresistible homemade desserts. It must be noted though that the restaurant is located in a dry precinct so you have to bring your own alcohol. Great barbeque, melt in your mouth desserts and a drink of your choice, mmmm! © wcities.com

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

contact:
tel: +512 476 0100
http://www.unclebillysaustin.com/

location:
1530 Barton Springs Road
Austin TX 78704

hours:
M-Su 11a-2a

6 Uncle Billy's Brew & Que

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
No need to worry about parking now--Uncle Billy's shares the parking garage with the condo complex just behind the restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: Uncle Billy's is passionate about beer. Stop in for a cold pint and pick something off their long menu of Texas-style barbecue while you're there. Try the fried chicken salad or the quesadillas, or go for the family-style meat trays if you're feeding a crowd.

citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 346 3664
fax: +1 512 343 0469
http://www.countyline.com/

location:
5204 Ranch Road 2222
Austin TX 78731

hours:
Su-M 11:30 a-9p, Tu-Th 11:30a-9:30p, F 11:30a-10p, Sa 12p-10p

7 County Line on the Lake (The)

DESCRIPTION: A lovely view of the lake, warm and friendly staff and a cozy ambience, The County Line has it all! You can start your meal with delicious home-made bread and later on, feast on some pork ribs and beef brisket. Make sure you leave some place for dessert - the blueberry cobbler is just mind blowing! In short, this place serves the best barbecue and has value for your money as the big portions will not leave you hungry. © wcities.com

Photo courtesy of County Line

contact:
tel: +1 512 263 3999
http://austin.citysearch.com/profile/10221591/austin_tx/buster_s_bee_cave_bar_b_que.html

location:
3927 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin TX 78734

hours:
Tu-Sa 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m., Su 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8 Buster's Barbeque

DESCRIPTION: Sweet south Texas quail, pulled pork, sugar duck and the garlic h-bomb (smoked pork shoulder stuffed with garlic and jalapenos), slurp! Is your mouth watering yet? Then what are you waiting for, head down to Buster's at Bee Cave and go crazy at this barbeque heaven. You can also order that perfect summer party grub, since they offer catering as well. Quality preparations, variety and good vibes make Buster's a great barbeque stop. © wcities.com

citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 479 0485
fax: +1 512 479 6065
http://www.greenmesquite.net/

location:
1400 Barton Springs Road
Austin TX 78704

9 Green Mesquite Barbeque & More

DESCRIPTION: A cheap and satisfying eatery for barbeque lovers and non lovers alike, Green Mesquite offers it all, from lean and tender pork ribs to po'boys and vegetable burgers. Sip on a chilled beer while you dig into your chicken fried steak in the cheery outdoor courtyard or roll up your sleeves for the all-you-can-eat special. They also offer low carb plates for the health conscious and reasonable kids plates served with fries.

wcities

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

hours:
M-Su 11a-10p

Live music, succulent barbeque, beer and bright sunlight--this is a little piece of Texan barbeque paradise. Another location can be found at 7010 Hwy 71 W Austin, TX 78735 (+1 512 288 8300.) © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 512 477 1651
fax: +1 512 474 4294
http://www.rubysbbq.com/

location:
512 West 29th Street
Austin TX 78705

hours:
M-Su 11a-12a

A Ruby's BBQ

DESCRIPTION: This restaurant features backwoods barbecue with not-so-traditional side dishes, including collard greens and vinaigrette cole slaw. Musical legends such as Buddy Guy and Maceo Parker have dined here, and the restaurant decor reflects this down-home blues appeal. The restaurant serves the only barbecue made with all-natural beef in Texas and a house sauce that is one of the tastiest around. Beer and wine are offered. Catering is also available. © wcities.com

wcities

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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.
© NileGuide

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.