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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

The Top 10 Restaurant & Bar Patios in Austin

Austin, 1 Day

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Guide Description













AUTHOR NOTE: Austin's temperate climate makes patio dining year-round a massive advantage. Plenty of area restaurants and bars invest in spacious verandas, relaxing porches, shady courtyards and rooftop decks with stunning views. Our list of the Top 10 spots for chilling in the sun incorporate them all--from a multi-tiered lakeside perch or rooftop view of Sixth Street to a quirky University of Texas area coffee shop or casual, kid-friendly cafe. Sit back and relax on one of my favorite Austin patios.

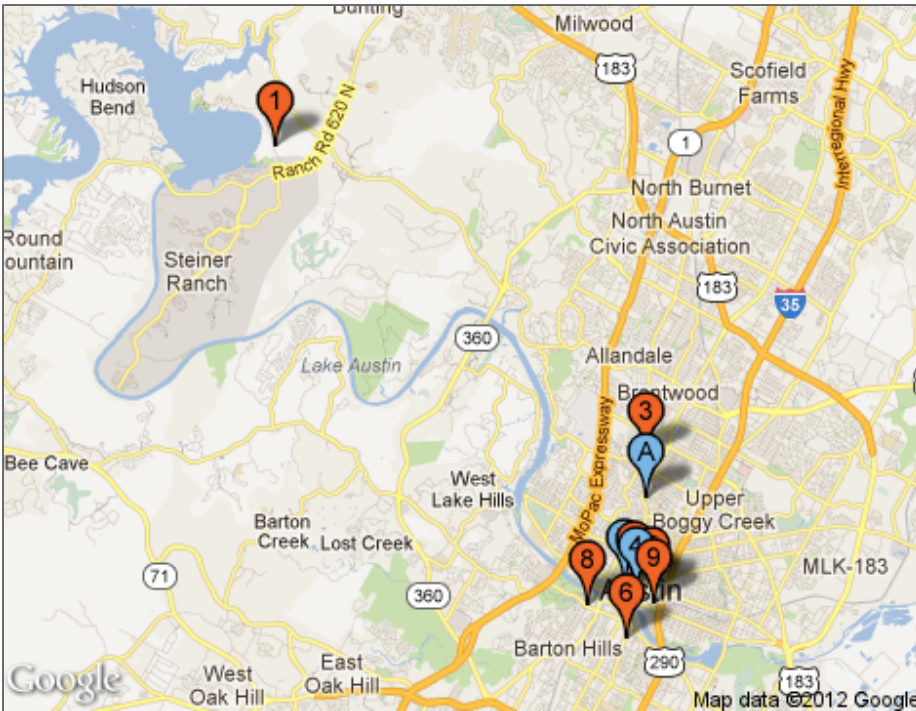
Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Austin

	Oasis (The) Lakeside restaurant with stunning sunset view
	Belmont (The) Always a classic
	Central Market Cafe Family-friendly and healthy café
	Cedar Street Courtyard Dance outside, chat inside
	Iron Cactus Mexican Grill & Margarita Bar Hip hangout with tequila and margaritas
	Doc's Motorworks Cold brews in SoCo
	Union Park Signature frozen mojitos
	Shady Grove Casual restaurant with great patio
	Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill Shine on
	Spider House Coffee or beer near UT

Day 1 - Austin



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 512-266-2442
<http://www.oasis-austin.com/>

location:
6550 Comanche Trail
Austin TX 78732

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

1 Oasis (The)

DESCRIPTION: A simple sunset is the star of the show every night at The Oasis. Perched on a hillside covered with tiered decks, diners applaud spontaneously as the sun slips behind the hills. For years, the restaurant was criticized for its pricey, mediocre food and drinks. Now, you can have your view and a good meal too. The Fire Grilled Relleno is stuffed with spicy pork or chicken and covered with queso fresco, cilantro and Mexican cream. The Grilled Shrimp Diablo is a plate of huge shrimp stuffed with sliced jalapenos wrapped in bacon and basted in sweet chilies. For optimum sunset toasting, get the gold margarita, with a floater of Cazadores Blanco and a splash of orange juice. On Sunday nights, Latin jazz band The Brew plays at the adjoining Starlight Terrace bar. A retractable roof is opened during good weather to allow dancing under the stars. © NileGuide



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contact:
tel: +512 457 0300
<http://thebelmontaustin.com/>

location:
305 West Sixth Street
Austin TX 78701

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

2 Belmont (The)

DESCRIPTION: With chef Benjamin Nathan at the helm, The Belmont seeks to transport you back in time to the Las Vegas and Palm Springs of the 1960s. Looking around, you might expect to see the Rat Pack as you sense the nostalgia of the elegant leather and soft lighting while being entertained with music of the era. The menu offers a wide range of American culinary options including cedar plank salmon and grilled



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asparagus as well as shrimp and grits. For the lighter appetite, try one of their unique salads like the arugula, pear and goat cheese salad or iceberg wedge salad. All in all, this place has achieved what it set out to become: The upscale classic American restaurant and bar. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 512 206 1000
fax: +1 512 206 1010
<http://www.centralmarket.com/cm/index.jsp>

location:

4001 North Lamar Blvd
Austin TX 78756

hours:

Su-Th 7a-9p, F-Sa 7a-10p

3 Central Market Cafe

DESCRIPTION: Whether it's a quick lunch or leisurely dinner on the deck, this cafe goes way beyond expectations for a grocery-store eatery. As Central Market is no ordinary grocery store, so Cafe on the Run is no pedestrian deli. Soups, salads and sandwiches are all executed with creative flair; for instance, the roast beef sandwich is dressed up with brie, and the turkey with havarti. Dinner entrees such as pecan-crusting trout could make you swear off cooking completely. Ingredients are fresh, and most of them are available at the adjacent grocery. And if you don't want to exercise your sweet tooth, stay away from the bakery case. The creme brulee and Italian Cream Cake will tempt you every time. A second location, minus the child's playground, can be found at 4477 S Lamar Blvd Austin, TX 78745 (+1 512 899 4300.) © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 512-495-9669
<http://www.cedarstreetaustin.com/>

location:

208 West Fourth Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:

M-F 4p-2a; Sa-Su 6p-2a

4 Cedar Street Courtyard

DESCRIPTION: Cedar Street is made up of three distinct spaces. There are two indoor bars on either side of a large outdoor courtyard. The music and dancing happen in the courtyard while most of the mingling happens in the long, narrow side bars. The bands are usually fun, danceable cover bands, such as the Spazmatics and SkyRocket. The place can get packed on weekends, but it is so large that you can usually snag a seat if you stay alert. Restless souls can make a loop from one bar across the courtyard and back. The crowd tends to be in the 30- to 40-year-old age group. So it's a little calmer than the wild-and-crazy Sixth Street crowd, but there's still a fair amount of groove-thing shaking. © NileGuide



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contact:

tel: +1 512 472 9240
fax: +1 512 472 5283
http://www.ironcactus.com/dt_austin.asp

location:

606 Trinity Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:

Su- W 11 a.m. - 12 a.m., Th-F 11 a.m. - 2 a.m., Sa 12 p.m. - 2 a.m.

5 Iron Cactus Mexican Grill & Margarita Bar

DESCRIPTION: This three-story bar is home to one of Austin's best margaritas. Relax on the rooftop bar and watch the crowd meander up Sixth Street, or sit downstairs as the crowd bustles past the huge windows. Patrons enjoy live music at night and during the day, the full-service Southwestern restaurant provides a convenient segue from late lunch to happy hour, or dinner to dancing. There are two other area locations: 10001 Stonelake Blvd Austin, TX 78759 (+1 512 794 8778) and 13420 Galleria Circle Suite A128 Bee Cave, TX 78738 (+1 512 263 7636.) © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: +1 512 448 9181
<http://www.docsaustin.com/>

location:

1123 South Congress Avenue
Austin TX 78704

hours:

M-Sa 11a-11p, Su 11a-10p

6 Doc's Motorworks

DESCRIPTION: Doc's Motorworks is a locally-owned restaurant in a converted auto mechanic shop with the most impressive patio in Austin's see-or-be-scene South Congress District. Parking can be difficult in this popular section of downtown, but once you're settled on Doc's temperature-controlled patio, you can relax with a batch of onion rings and a cold draft beer. The casual restaurant is part sports bar, part grill. The restaurant offers moderate prices, daily happy hour deals and weekly food and drink specials. Try the burger and fries with a discounted pint, or a tasty Tex-Mex platter with a giant margarita. Doc's is open late and always busy. Mid-afternoon is your best shot for speedy service. Try the second location at 5207 Brodie Ln Suite 100 Austin, TX 78745 (+1 512 892 5200.) © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 512 478 7275
<http://www.unionparkaustin.com/>

location:

612 W Sixth Street
Austin TX 78758

hours:

Tu-Sa 4p-2a, Su 7p-2a

7 Union Park

DESCRIPTION: Union Park features a rooftop patio with a great view of the Austin skyline in the evening, the Boom Boom Room and a young, energetic crowd. At around 9p the vibe changes from friendly neighborhood watering hole to scenester-club scene though, so beware a late-night visit.



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contact:

tel: +512 474 9991
<http://www.theshadygrove.com/>

location:

1624 Barton Springs Road
Austin TX 78704

hours:

Su-Th 11a-10p, F-Sa 11a-11p

8 Shady Grove

DESCRIPTION: Sit at a patio table under the huge oaks and you will discover why this spot is called Shady Grove. One of the best patios ever created is reason enough to stop by, and the consistently tasty, crowd-pleasing food is a great bonus. Happy hour is offered Monday through Friday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. A menu standard is the Hippie Sandwich, a concoction of sautéed vegetables, cheese and a sub-style roll. Add a chicken breast and you have got the Hippie Chick. Kids love the chicken fingers and the burgers are great, too. Plus, this place has personality - just check out the bathroom (housed in an old Airstream trailer). © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: +1 512 236 9599
fax: +1 512 236 8816
<http://www.moonshinegrill.com>

location:

303 Red River Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:

M-Th 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., F-Sa
11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Su 10 a.m. -
2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

9 Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

DESCRIPTION: Moonshine Bar & Grill sits in the oldest building in Austin and the decor tastefully reflects that. The sweeping arches and exquisite mirrors on the brick and stone walls, not to mention the warm fireplace, all make for a cozy setting. The starters everyone's raves about are the corn dog shrimp (skewered shrimp in cornmeal batter, served with honey and blueberry mustard). The choice entrées are the broiled rainbow trout and Texas flat iron steak. Don't miss out on the creamy macaroni and cheese topped with a bacon gratin. Behind the main restaurant is a refurbished carriage converted into a bar, making the his downtown restaurant an ideal setting, no matter the occasion. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 512 480 9562
<http://www.spiderhousecafe.com>

location:

2908 Fruth Street
Austin TX 78705

hours:

Daily 7a-2a

A Spider House

DESCRIPTION: The Spider House, located close to UT, is an unusual establishment open from breakfast until late night. Largely populated by students in search of coffee drinks, light food and solitude by day, this quiet spot gets decidedly more upbeat at night when beer and wine are the more common fare. Based in an old house complete with wooden floors and wrap-around porch, the interior is comfortable and serene with tables and chairs for lounging. Outside, there is a fabulous patio with strings of festive lights and mismatched funky furniture. © 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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