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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

# The Top 10 Restaurant & Bar Patios in Austin

## Austin, 1 Day

### Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Austin Snapshot 8

# 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

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



wcities

**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 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



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**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-crusted 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



citysearch

playground, can be found at 4477 S Lamar Blvd Austin, TX 78745 (+1 512 899 4300.) © wcities.com

**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](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



wcities

**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



wcities

**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 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



citysearch

**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



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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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## 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.

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### 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 big-name 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.

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### Things to Do Insights

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.

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There

##### Air

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) +1 512 530 ABIA <http://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 (+1 800 227 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 at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out: <http://travel.state.gov/>

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### 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.

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