



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

Business Travel to Austin: Around the corner from the Austin Convention Center

Austin, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

My List 3

Austin Snapshot 8

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Don't spend your entire business trip to the capital city cooped up indoors. Austin has plenty of sights, sounds and bites within walking (or pedicab) distance of the massive Convention Center. Rest your head at the Four Seasons, where you'll enjoy a view of Lady Bird Lake and the infamous bats that live beneath the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.

Treat your co-workers to a fun Cajun lunch at The Boiling Pot on Sixth Street, indulge in Tex-Mex at the Rio Grande Restaurant--the site of the former "Real World Austin" house--or succumb to the smell of barbecue wafting from nearby Iron Works.

Loosen up after a busy day with a potent Mexican martini on the deck of Cedar Door or enjoy some live music at Cedar Street Courtyard or the legendary Antone's. Take in the heart of Austin's entertainment district, Sixth Street, as well as the historic (and allegedly haunted) Driskill Hotel or check out a movie at the downtown location of the Alamo Drafthouse.

Regardless of what options you choose, you won't regret getting a first-hand view of Austin's bustling city center.

My List

contact:
tel: +1 512 476 8300
<http://riograndemexican.com/>

location:
301 San Jacinto Boulevard
Austin TX 78701

hours:
Su-W 11a-10p, Th-Sa
11a-11p

1 Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant (The)

DESCRIPTION: Rio Grande celebrates the tradition of gathering around a meal. That, and margaritas. Lots of margaritas. Try a mango margarita with your choice of many fine tequilas. If your buzz gets too wild, cool it down with one of their fresh salads or signature fajitas.



citysearch

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.

2 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: +512 472 0985
fax: +512 472 0986
<http://theboilingpotonline.com/index.html>

location:
700 East Sixth Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-Th 4p-10p, F-Sa 11a-11p,
Su 11a-10p

3 The Boiling Pot

DESCRIPTION: This festive Cajun eatery offers a little bit of New Orleans on Sixth Street. Be prepared to get messy, as boiled shrimp, crab legs and unshelled crawfish are the staples here and eating with your hands is the norm. The food is always satisfying, with sides that should not be ignored—boiled potatoes, Cajun-style beans, corn-on-the-cob, rich gumbo and thick French bread. The atmosphere is decidedly laid back, with meals served on butcher paper. More than 70 kinds of beer are available from the full bar, and an average entree—including sides—won't break the bank. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +512 444 7770
fax: +512 444 4554
<http://www.elsolylalunaaustin.com>

location:
600 East Sixth Street
Austin TX 78701

4 Sol y La Luna (El)

DESCRIPTION: Among the popular Mexican food served here: huevos rancheros, migas (even a variation with mushrooms) and breakfast tacos. The posole, a chicken soup with a masa broth, is heavenly, though only available on weekends. Enchiladas and tacos can also be had, as well as Central American specialties. A large patio beckons on fine days,



citysearch

hours:
W-Sa 7a-10p, Su-Tu 7a-3p

and the inside dining space is cool, light and comfortable. Relax in the morning with a coffee and a taco, and at night (on weekends) with a bottle of beer and some mole poblano. © wcities.com

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

5 Iron Works Barbecue

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 conventioners 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



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 512 473 3712
fax: 512 608 0123
<http://www.cedardooraustin.com/>

location:
201 Brazos St
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-Su 11a-2a

6 Cedar Door

DESCRIPTION: A local favorite, this bar has been relocated for the fourth time in its history. Regardless of location, it is a great stop before heading out on the town or just for sitting outside on a beautiful evening. The Mexican Martinis are a local favorite; however, they do pack a punch. © wcities.com



citysearch

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

7 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



wcities

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

contact:
tel: 512 476 1320
fax: +1 630 839 7663
<http://www.originalalamo.com/>

location:
310 E 6th Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:
Daily 4p-2a

8 Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - Downtown

DESCRIPTION: Have you always wanted to enjoy a cold beer at the movies? You can here; in fact, you will find a nice selection of both domestic and imported beers, as well as wines and champagnes. The libations help you wash down the tasty pizzas, chicken wings or cheese- and salsa-smothered nachos as you take in a flick. Children at least 6 years of age can accompany their parents; patrons must ordinarily be at least 18 to attend on their own. The theater features mostly independent films. See website for showtimes, ticketing info, menus, special event calendar, merchandise and more. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 512 478 0098 (Austin
Convention & Visitors Bureau)

location:
East Sixth Street
Austin TX 78701

9 East Sixth Street

DESCRIPTION: One of the first streets surveyed in Austin, Sixth was originally known as Pecan Street. During the day, shops, restaurants and historic buildings are the main attraction, but by night, the street becomes festive with live music, shows and special events. On Friday and Saturday nights, the blocks are closed to automobile traffic for an all-out street party. Stop by for a beer or a show, or just enjoy watching the eclectic nightlife of Austin. After the bars close at 2a, this can be a dangerous place to hang out alone. © wcities.com



wcities

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

10 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

Hotels.com

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

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

11 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: +512 320 8424

<http://www.antones.net/>

location:

213 West Fifth Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:

Daily 8:30p-2a

12 Antone's

DESCRIPTION: Although Willie Nelson and crossover country-and-western bands such as the Austin Lounge Lizards have been known to turn up at Clifford Antone's place, the club owner's name has always been synonymous with the blues. Stevie Ray Vaughan used to be a regular, and when such major blues artists as Buddy Guy, Etta James, or Edgar Winter venture down this way, you can be sure they'll either be playing Antone's or stopping by for a surprise set. Clifford Antone died recently, and the response by the blues community was a large outpouring of performances to honor the man. Look for the club



wcities

to continue the same trajectory set out by its former owner. ©
Frommer's

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

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.

© NileGuide

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.

© NileGuide

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.

© NileGuide

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/>

© NileGuide

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.

©