



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

Romantic Austin

Austin, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: In a city that embraces flip-flops and laptops, fancy clothes and high-dollar restaurants don't always equal romance. Rather than rely on the obvious options, try these subtle, more thoughtful locations to turn a two-day Austin getaway into a relaxing rendezvous.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Austin

DAY NOTE: For a special celebration in the Lone Star State's capital city, reserve a luxurious room at the Mansion at Judges' Hill, a historic boutique hotel near downtown with plenty of accolades, including Conde Nast's seal of approval. Be sure to let the staff know you'd like the "Romance at the Mansion" package, complete with red roses, champagne and chocolates, as well as turndown service with tea lights and scattered rose petals and a refreshing breakfast in bed. Sleep in and enjoy the quiet elegance of the beautiful grounds. When you're ready for lunch, mosey over to Portabla for healthy, mouth-watering take-out before heading to Mount Bonnell. Bring your freshly packed lunch and, once you've ambled up the 100 stairs, find a comfy picnic spot. Visiting this popular hilltop park in the daytime brings fewer pedestrian interruptions than the evening hours, when dozens of couples come to watch the sun set. Go from gazing into each others eyes over lunch to holding hands while exploring the lush lakeside grounds of the Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria, just a few blocks east. Bring a blanket and relax in the far field for a quiet cap nap together. After a day of lounging around outdoors, get cleaned up for a fresh, inspired dinner from one of the nation's top sushi chefs, Tyson Cole. Be sure to make reservations ahead of time to avoid the lengthy wait, though the time does fly with a cold Japanese beer or glass of wine in hand on the beautiful but relaxed front patio. Finally, get a true taste of the Live Music Capital of the World at the Broken Spoke. The old-school honky-tonk beckons to two-steppers, polka dancers and live country music fans.

	Mansion At Judges' Hill Beyond boutique
	Portabla Variety, high quality takeout food
	Mount Bonnell Breathtaking views from above Lake Austin
	Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria Italian villa turned lakeside art museum
	Uchi Japanese gem
	Broken Spoke Vintage honky-tonk, circa 1964

Day 2 - Austin

DAY NOTE: Austinites work hard and play hard, so late breakfasts or brunches abound. Take advantage of this leisurely pace with a stop at Starlite, the Warehouse District's simple but distinguished eatery, a favorite local spot for Gwyneth Paltrow and husband Chris Martin. After treating yourselves to breakfast and maybe a mimosa or two, take your better half to milk + honey day spa for a couples retreat. This all-encompassing package includes a 60-minute massage for two in the couples room, followed by a duel facial and manicure. After this two-hour treatment, you just might need a luxurious nap. What better way to follow up a relaxing rubdown and subsequent slumber than with a comforting, authentic French dinner. Make sure to leave room for dessert, for their Mousse au Chocolat or the creme brulee, a vanilla custard masterpiece with a perfectly caramelized sugar crust, is to die for. To cap off this amorous Austin adventure, hail one of the horse-drawn carriages downtown for a romantic last look at the area. Run by Die Gelbe Rose Carriage Tours, the Clydesdale-led jaunt can pass by the inspiring Capitol grounds, nearby historic homes or Sixth Street--whatever route you wish.

	Starlite American contemporary cuisine
	milk + honey day spa Austin's Premier Day Spa, Offering a Full Range of Treatments
	Chez Nous French bistro tucked off Sixth Street
	Die Gelbe Rose Carriage Carriage rides around town
	Mansion At Judges' Hill Beyond boutique

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contact:

tel: +1 512 495 1800

fax: +1 512 495 1869

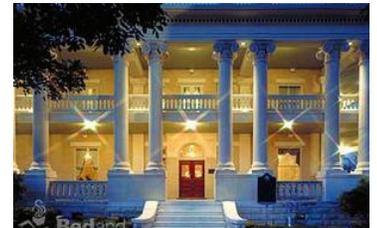
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/texas-austin-themansionatjudgeshill.html>

location:

1900 Rio Grande
Austin TX 78705

1 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

contact:

tel: +1 512 481 8646

<http://www.portabla.com/>

location:

1200 West Sixth Street
Austin TX 78703

hours:

M-F 9a-8p, Sa 10a-5p

2 Portabla

DESCRIPTION: Quality takeout is available for a business meeting in the office or for dinner with your family at home. The shop itself has a casual takeout feel with a reach-in case carrying a variety of options. There are a few seats to eat in, but most customers are on the go. The breakfast menu is full of croissant variations, eggs, and hormone-free sausage patties. Be sure to request the complimentary salsa with roasted red peppers. For lunch, several sandwiches are offered, including a vegetarian selection. Soups are made fresh daily along with focaccia and flatbreads. Pizzas are also on the menu. If you are interested in trying all types of hot dogs and sausages, this is a



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great place to start. You can create your own or try one of the specialties, including sauerkraut and bratwurst. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 512-974-6700
<http://www.austinparks.org/apfweb/park.php>

location:
3800 Mount Bonnell Road
Austin TX 78702

hours:
Daily 5am-10pm

3 Mount Bonnell

DESCRIPTION: Known for its beautiful, unobstructed view of the Austin area since the mid-1800s, Mount Bonnell hosts family photos, sunset picnics and romantic marriage proposals on a regular basis. Visitors park at the base of the hill and work their way up nearly 100 stone steps -- a 190-foot elevation gain -- to the wide open outcropping overlooking the southern side of the city and Lake Austin below. It's a fairly easy climb, but elderly relatives might find it challenging. A short gravel trail leads slowly downhill and to the left, offering up quiet spots for personal reflection with a clear view of the massive Pennybacker Bridge. Look left from Mount Bonnell to find the Texas State Capitol and the University of Texas Tower on the University of Texas campus. A number of nearby radio towers detract from the beauty of some of the views. At night, the towers' red lights give the spot an otherworldly feel. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: 512-458-8191
<http://www.amoa.org/>

location:
3809 West 35th Street
Austin TX 78767

4 Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria

DESCRIPTION: Driving up the gated circular path to the Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria is breathtaking. The stately Italian-style villa perches on the banks of Lake Austin, showcasing a handful of AMOA's permanent collections within its three stories. The house was built in 1916 by Clara Driscoll and her husband Hal Sevier, who owned The Austin American newspaper. Driscoll was an author, playwright and an avid gardener. The well-kept grounds include outdoor sculptures, strutting peacocks, an intimate stone amphitheater and the Art School, a small facility offering painting, ceramics, and sculpture classes for children and adults. Weddings, private parties and other celebrations frequently take place on the lushly landscaped 12 acres, a site featured on city, state and national registries of historic places. In 2011, AMOA announced it will close its museum downtown and focus more resources on Laguna Gloria. A new sculpture park and nature trail are planned for the Laguna Gloria site. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: +512 916 4808
<http://www.uchiaustin.com/>

location:
801 South Lamar Boulevard
Austin TX 78704-1509

hours:
M-Th 5p-10p, F-Sa
5:30p-11p, Su 5p-10p

5 Uchi

DESCRIPTION: Rated as one of the 'Top Five New Restaurants in Texas', Uchi is very romantic with dim-lit lanterns. If you want some privacy, the sushi bar is for you. In appetizers, try the muscovy duck and the baby bok choy and shiitake mushrooms. Make sure you leave some place for desserts; regulars rave about the chai tea creme brulee. Reservations are a must. The restaurant is closed on Sundays. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 512-442-6189

<http://www.brokenspokeaustintx.com/>

location:

3201 South Lamar Boulevard
Austin TX 78704

hours:

Tu-Th 9a-12a, F-Sa 9a-2a

6 Broken Spoke

DESCRIPTION: The most reliable indicator of a high-quality dance hall in Texas is the presence of old people, particularly old people who skillfully dance and spin and seem unaware of anyone other than their partner. On some nights, the Broken Spoke is bursting with lively seniors who dance circles around the novices. Most of the time, there's a mix of young and old, cowboys and hipsters, locals and tourists. The massive wooden dance floor splits the room in two, with seating areas on either side. The bands, whether they're young or old, play mostly traditional country music. Because that's the kind of music owner James White likes, he's been doing things this way since 1964, and he has no intention of changing. Another fan of traditional country music, a certain red-headed stranger, has been known to hang out here when he's not touring. © NileGuide



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Day 2 - Austin

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 512 374 9012
<http://www.starliteaustin.net>

location:
407 Colorado St
Austin TX 78701

hours:
M-F 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sa
5:30 p.m. - 11 p.m., Su 11
a.m. - 3 p.m.

1 Starlite

DESCRIPTION: Starlite features yummy new American cuisine. Don't miss the warm spinach salad. It's a great spot for Sunday brunch, when natural light fills the room.



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contact:
tel: (512) 236-1115
<http://www.milkandhoneyspa.com/>

location:
204 Colorado St
Austin TX 78701

hours:
Daily 9am-9pm

2 milk + honey day spa

DESCRIPTION: milk + honey is Austin's premier day spa, offering men and women a full range of treatments, including massages, facials, body treatments, and natural nail therapy in a hip, yet relaxed downtown atmosphere. Some treatments are designed to relax, some to invigorate, and others to heal.



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contact:

tel: +1 512 473 2413
fax: +1 512 236 8468
<http://www.cheznousaustin.com>

location:

510 Neches St
Austin TX 78701

hours:

Lunch: Tu-F 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dinner: Tu-Su 6 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

3 Chez Nous

DESCRIPTION: With fusion food on the rise and the word "bistro" thrown around willy-nilly, it is comforting to find an authentic one of the French variety. Homemade pate, roasted chicken and crepes, wonderfully executed and served in a cozy, dimly lit dining room dominated by a long bar. Rich, toothsome dishes such as escalopes de veau aux noix can be accompanied by an appropriately Gallic wine from the well-populated wine list. Try the salade Chez Nous, and do not miss the crepe du jour. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 512-477-8824
<http://www.austinsdiegelberosecarriage.com/>

location:

PO Box 61
Cedar Creek TX 78612

4 Die Gelbe Rose Carriage

DESCRIPTION: One of the best ways to learn about scenic Austin is from the back of a Clydesdale-drawn carriage. Romance, historical and family fun tours are available by appointment; or if you are a wayward evening traveler on Sixth Street, take in a tour of downtown. See the Capitol, Governor's Mansion, and the famous Fourth Street "Warehouse District." Custom tours and event rentals, including full wedding packages, are also available. © wcities.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

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more at BedandBreakfast.com

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.

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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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