



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



BruceTurner

Weekend in Austin

Austin, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Austin Snapshot 10

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: You've got 48 hours in Austin--don't waste a minute of it. Visit these tourist hotspots and local favorites for a realistic taste of what this capital city has to offer.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Austin

DAY NOTE: Wake up in casual luxury at the Hotel San Jose in the hip South Congress neighborhood of Austin, otherwise referred to as SoCo. Meander up and down the boulevard, browsing the locally owned boutiques for the perfect souvenir. When lunchtime rolls around, head to Guero's, a low-key Mexican joint on the corner of South Congress and Elizabeth St. that's popular with tourists and locals alike. Everything here is good, though the fish tacos and fajitas stand out, plus you can surprise your tablemate with a serenade performed by the roaming mariachi band. After lunch, make a date with Austin Duck Adventures, a unique sightseeing experience that drives tourists around in an amphibious vehicle, visiting both the land and lake. Once you've seen the sights, head over to Stubb's Bar-B-Q for a flavorful meal of smoked meats and homemade sides, including a creamy mac and cheese. An authentic evening in Austin must include a little live music, so be sure to stop by Continental Club before hitting the sack. Located just across the street from the Hotel San Jose, Continental makes for a convenient nightcap, coupled with a little two-stepping.



Hotel San Jose Lounge

Great atmosphere



South Congress Avenue

Hip shopping and local eateries embody "Keep Austin Weird" motto.



Guero's Taco Bar

Tex-Mex, margaritas, and musica



Austin Duck Adventures

Land and lake tours



Stubb's Barbecue

Relaxed outdoor barbecue



Continental Club

Country, rock, and a distinctively Austin crowd

this time of year. Continue your Texas education at the nearby Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, just south of the University of Texas campus. The interactive exhibits are fun for all ages, and surprisingly educational to boot. Lunchtime calls for comfort food Austin-style at Shady Grove. Grab a table on the patio and consider trying the chili cheese fries and a Hippy Chick sandwich--both favorites at this local haunt. If you feel so compelled, walk from Shady Grove to Zilker Park, the city's biggest public green space. Lounge around on the hillside of Barton Springs Pool, or, if you're brave, take a dip in the natural pool, but be prepared for the chilly water. After all the daytime activity, a laid-back movie sounds perfect, so take in one of the latest releases at Alamo Drafthouse, while enjoying a bucket of beers and a signature pizza.



Cisco's Restaurant Bakery & Bar

Tex-Mex breakfast bar



Texas State Capitol

The colossal house of the Texas state government



Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Family fun coupled with interactive Texas history lesson



Shady Grove

Casual restaurant with great patio



Zilker Park

Wide open green space in the heart of downtown, plus cool spring water



Barton Springs Pool

Spring-fed pool and first-rate people watching.



Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - South Lamar

Movies, Food & Beer

Day 2 - Austin

DAY NOTE: Now that you're a seasoned Austin tourist, ring in your second day in the capital city at Cisco's, an eastside greasy spoon with a lot of character and some well-known migas. The Tex-Mex breakfast staple--a mix of eggs, tortilla chips, cheese, spices and veggies--is one of the restaurant's specialties. Once you're energized, head downtown for a quick visit to the Texas State Capitol. The green grounds are beautiful

Day 1 - Austin

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Wake up in casual luxury at the Hotel San Jose in the hip South Congress neighborhood of Austin, otherwise referred to as SoCo. Meander up and down the boulevard, browsing the locally owned boutiques for the perfect souvenir. When lunchtime rolls around, head to Guero's, a low-key Mexican joint on the corner of South Congress and Elizabeth St. that's popular with tourists and locals alike. Everything here is good, though the fish tacos and fajitas stand out, plus you can surprise your tablemate with a serenade performed by the roaming mariachi band. After lunch, make a date with Austin Duck Adventures, a unique sightseeing experience that drives tourists around in an amphibious vehicle, visiting both the land and lake. Once you've seen the sights, head over to Stubb's Bar-B-Q for a flavorful meal of smoked meats and homemade sides, including a creamy mac and cheese. An authentic evening in Austin must include a little live music, so be sure to stop by Continental Club before hitting the sack. Located just across the street from the Hotel San Jose, Continental makes for a convenient nightcap, coupled with a little two-stepping.

contact:

fax: 512 444 7362

<http://www.sanjosehotel.com/features.html>

location:

1316 S Congress Avenue
Austin TX 78704

hours:

Daily 5p-12a

1 Hotel San Jose Lounge

DESCRIPTION: This modern little lounge is located within the San Jose hotel. Try the champassion (champagne and passion fruit juice, garnished with raspberries), the cheese platter and the finger food. The welcoming patio area is perfect for a balmy night and the great service and laidback vibe are great year round. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

<http://www.austintexas.org/visitors/listing.details.php>

location:

South Congress Ave
Austin TX 78704

2 South Congress Avenue

DESCRIPTION: Known for its funky style, South Congress Avenue, located about a mile south of the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge and with a clear and brilliant view of the Texas State Capitol, draws Austinites and area visitors for its shopping, eating, and live music opportunities. Stylish boutiques filled with eccentric and often locally made clothing and accessories share South Congress Avenue with fun local eateries and antique stores brimming with undiscovered treasures. Food trailers offering everything from cupcakes to Vietnamese sandwiches congregate near Monroe Street. There's often a band playing on Guero's outdoor patio, and the Continental Club is rocking seven nights a week. The first Thursday of each month brings the aptly titled First Thursday event, where SoCo storefronts remain open later, often serving margaritas or cold beer to a slew of people meandering the street in this open-to-the-public street festival. People watching is at its prime on South Congress Avenue during weekend afternoons when many emerge for a lazy day of window shopping. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: 512-447-7688

fax: 512-447-6255

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

location:

1412 South Congress Avenue
Austin TX 78704

hours:

M-F 11a-11p, Sa-Su 8a-11p

3 Guero's Taco Bar

DESCRIPTION: Housed in a cavernous former feed store, Guero's never feels crowded, even when every seat is full. While they do crank out a ton of Tex-Mex every day, the food still tastes like it's made with care. The tacos al pastor, filled with spicy pork, pineapple, and cilantro, are always excellent. The caldo de pollo, or chicken soup, also has legions of loyal fans. A centralized salsa bar allows you to sample a number of different variations, from the standard red and green salsa to black bean, pico de gallo and more exotic concoctions. The lively bar at the front of the restaurant can get boisterous at times, but in a good way. Free-flowing margaritas may have something to do with the boisterousness. There's also a lovely, oak-shaded outdoor area where bands frequently play. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 512 477 5274

fax: +1 512 345 5323

<http://www.austinducks.com>

location:

1605 West Fifth St
Austin TX 78703

hours:

Tours depart W-F 11a and 2p ; Sa 10a, 12p, 2p, 4p; Su 11a, 2p, 4p

4 Austin Duck Adventures

DESCRIPTION: This one-of-a-kind tour takes you through the city on an authentic amphibious military landing vehicle that carries up to 45 passengers. The tour goes through downtown, to the State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the LBJ Library, Sixth Street's music district, historic Congress Avenue and area lakes. Meanwhile, the tour guide gives the history of the city, along with little-known insights. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Austin Duck Adventures

contact:

tel: +512 480 8341

<http://stubbasaustin.com/>

location:

801 Red River Street
Austin TX 78701

hours:

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

5 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

contact:

tel: 512-441-2444

fax: 512-443-5478

<http://www.continentalclub.com/Austin.html>

location:

1315 South Congress Avenue
Austin TX 78704

6 Continental Club

DESCRIPTION: The Continental Club started out as a swanky dinner club in the 1950s, and it went through a series of ups and downs before emerging as South Congress' premier live music venue. When Steve Wertheimer bought the bar in 1987, the area around the bar was run-down and frequented by prostitutes. As the club developed a loyal following, with acts ranging from roots rock to country, other businesses, including



wcities

hours:
Call for details

antique shops, restaurants and clothing boutiques, popped up around it. The front area, where the band plays, is long and narrow, with only a smattering of tables and chairs; arrive early if you want a seat. Sitting at the small bar will give you an excellent sampling of Austin culture; bikers, bakers and lawyers drink together and bond over music. In a business where bartenders come and go daily, a few of the Continental Club's friendly, if a little edgy, servers have worked here for 20 years. Some of the popular acts include James McMurtry (son of novelist Larry McMurtry), Jon Dee Graham and Toni Price, whose Tuesday night happy hour show draws legions of slightly obsessive fans. © NileGuide

Day 2 - Austin

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Now that you're a seasoned Austin tourist, ring in your second day in the capital city at Cisco's, an eastside greasy spoon with a lot of character and some well-known migas. The Tex-Mex breakfast staple--a mix of eggs, tortilla chips, cheese, spices and veggies--is one of the restaurant's specialties. Once you're energized, head downtown for a quick visit to the Texas State Capitol. The green grounds are beautiful this time of year. Continue your Texas education at the nearby Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, just south of the University of Texas campus. The interactive exhibits are fun for all ages, and surprisingly educational to boot. Lunchtime calls for comfort food Austin-style at Shady Grove. Grab a table on the patio and consider trying the chili cheese fries and a Hippie Chick sandwich--both favorites at this local haunt. If you feel so compelled, walk from Shady Grove to Zilker Park, the city's biggest public green space. Lounge around on the hillside of Barton Springs Pool, or, if you're brave, take a dip in the natural pool, but be prepared for the chilly water. After all the daytime activity, a laid-back movie sounds perfect, so take in one of the latest releases at Alamo Drafthouse, while enjoying a bucket of beers and a signature pizza.

contact:

tel: +1 512 478 2420
http://austin.citysearch.com/profile/10207711/austin_tx/cisco_s_restaurant_bakery.html

location:

1511 East Sixth Street
Austin TX 78702

hours:

M-Su 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

1 Cisco's Restaurant Bakery & Bar

DESCRIPTION: Founded in the 1950s, Cisco is an Austin institution. This Tex-Mex eatery has served its famous breakfast migas to the who's who. The clientele may have changed but the recipe hasn't. Migas, meaning 'crumbs' in Spanish, is made from eggs, cheese, vegetables and tortillas with black beans, chorizo and avocado chile varieties. Many an egg-hater has been converted by Cisco's migas. Cisco is also a bar, and the Bloody Mary is best had to nurse a hangover, not something you'd want to begin your day with. Migas, fajitas and toasted biscuits--that's all you really need to know about Cisco. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 512-463-0063
<http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/spb/plan/tours.htm>

location:

1100 Congress Ave
Austin TX 78701

2 Texas State Capitol

DESCRIPTION: The Texas State Legislature meets only once every two years, so if the cavernous building seems oddly deserted, the legislature is probably not in session. Considered one of the nation's most distinguished state buildings, the Texas State Capitol, with its strong red granite facade and Renaissance Revival architectural style, sits regally on a hill overlooking Congress Avenue. Largest of all state capitols and only second in size to the National Capitol in Washington, D.C., the Texas State Capitol anchors the north end of downtown, just four blocks south of the University of Texas at Austin campus. Free tours of the capitol building cover Texas history, fun facts about the 17 monuments on the 22-acre, park-like grounds, and information about the Texas legislature, or take the self-guided tour to explore at your own pace. You'll need to go through a quick security check at the entrance, including having your bags scanned by a metal detector. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: 512-936-8746
<http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>

location:
1800 N. Congress Avenue
Austin TX 78705

hours:
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm; Sun
noon-6pm. Phone or check
website for additional IMAX
evening hours

3 Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

DESCRIPTION: With a grand facade that includes a 35-foot-tall bronze star, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is hard to miss. The three-story museum, open since 2001, turns the fascinating and sometimes sordid history of the state into imaginative interactive exhibits for the enjoyment of all ages. Meet the state's first occupants on the first floor, hear Stephen F. Austin announce the Texas Revolution on the second and peruse the third level for an understanding of how big business -- mostly cotton, cattle, and oil -- has played a part in the making of the Lone Star State. Located just south of the University of Texas campus, a stone's throw from the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art and a short walk from the Texas State Capitol, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum also features Austin's only IMAX theater as well as the Spirit Theater, a 200-seat multimedia special effects theater with history-based shows. © NileGuide

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

4 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: 512-974-6700
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/>

location:
2100 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

hours:
Daily 5am-10pm

5 Zilker Park

DESCRIPTION: Zilker Park, Austin's largest urban green space, occupies 351 acres along the southern shore of Lady Bird Lake with Barton Springs Road cutting through the middle of the park. Grassy fields play host to soccer matches, volleyball games and picnics. Sand volleyball courts are normally first-come, first-serve, but they can also be reserved for large groups for a fee. The Zilker Playground on the park's southern end, complete with the pint-sized Zilker Zephyr train, entertains the little ones. Within the Zilker Park grounds, visitors will find Barton Springs Pool and the Zilker Botanical Garden, as well as seasonal events including the Austin City Limits Music Festival, the annual Kite Festival and the summer music series, Blues on the Green. Kayaks and canoes can be rented by the hour at two sites, one near Barton Springs pool and the other on the shores of Lady Bird Lake. The Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum lies along the park's eastern border. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: 512-867-3080
<http://austincityconnection.net/parks/bartonsprings.htm>

location:

2101 Barton Springs Road
Austin TX 78704

hours:

Daily 5am-10pm except during pool maintenance (Thurs 9am-7pm). Splash! Tues-Fri noon-6pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm

6 Barton Springs Pool

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

On busy summer days, it's easier to park at the back parking lot, near Umlauf Sculpture Garden along Robert E. Lee Road.

DESCRIPTION: The water in Barton Springs swimming pool hovers around 68 degrees year-round, which means that it feels cool -- even cold -- in the heat of summer. It feels relatively warm in winter, though, and a few rugged souls swim there every morning, regardless of the weather. If you're more into lounging than exercise, there's a part of the massive pool dedicated to floats and floaters. On the hillsides surrounding the pool, you will see a snapshot of Austin culture. There's usually a group of twentysomethings kicking around a hacky-sack ball, a sixtyish man doing yoga, and (kid warning) a woman of indeterminate age without her top. Occasionally, a drum circle forms at the top of the hill. Guitars are almost as common as smart phones. On summer days when the temperature can soar above 100 degrees, this is the only reasonable place to be. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: 512 476 1320
<http://www.originalalamo.com/>

location:

1120 South Lamar Boulevard
Austin TX 78704

7 Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - South Lamar

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. © wcities.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.

© 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.

©