



Austin

POP 820,611

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Salt Lick Bar-B-Que (p76)
- ➔ Amy's Ice Cream (p75)
- ➔ Uchiko (p75)
- ➔ Salty Sow (p76)
- ➔ Güero's Taco Bar (p74)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel San José (p70)
- ➔ Heywood Hotel (p70)
- ➔ Driskill Hotel (p70)
- ➔ Austin Motel (p70)
- ➔ Adams House (p71)

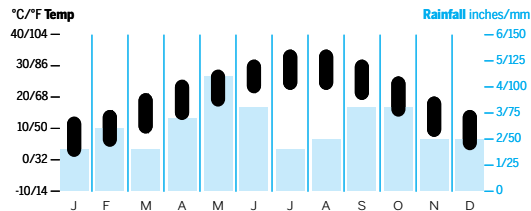
Why Go?

You'll see it on bumper stickers throughout the city: 'Keep Austin Weird.' And while old-timers grumble that Austin has lost its funky charm, the city has mostly managed to hang on to its laid-back vibe. Though this former college town with a hippie soul has seen an influx of tech types and movie stars, there's still a strong contingent of residents who just want to focus on their music or write their novel or annoy their neighbors with crazy yard art.

You may have heard Austin is a music town, earning it the title of 'Live Music Capital of the World.' The city now hosts two major music festivals, South by Southwest (SXSW) and the Austin City Limits Festival, but you don't have to endure the crowds and exorbitant hotel prices to experience the scene, because Austin has live music all over town every night of the week.

When to Go

Austin



Mar & Apr Wildflowers and mild weather make this the perfect time of year to visit.

May & Jun The weather is hot but bearable, and everything is still green for the most part.

Sep & Oct You won't see any fall foliage, but temperatures will have cooled by now.

Plan Ahead: South by Southwest

If you're planning on coming for the citywide takeover that is SXSW – whether the music festival, the interactive festival, the film festival, or any combination thereof – planning ahead can save you a significant amount of money, not to mention a lot of headaches. The most affordable option is to buy early-bird tickets before mid-September, and the price goes up approximately once a month until it's showtime. Hotel rooms get booked up months ahead of time, so go ahead and look into places to stay the moment you think you might want to go. (If you're not sure, at least make a reservation somewhere that will allow you to cancel, lest you end up on someone's floor.)

FOOD TRAILERS

From epicurian Airstreams to regular old taco trucks, food trailers are kind of a big deal in Austin, and wandering from one to another is a fun way to experience the local food scene. Because of their transient nature, we haven't listed any of these rolling restaurants, but since they travel in packs, we can tell you where they tend to congregate.

- ➔ **South Austin Trailer Park and Eatery** This seems to be a rather settled trailer community, with a fence, an official name, a sign and picnic tables.
- ➔ **East Austin** This area has its own little enclave, conveniently located right among all the bars on the corner of East Sixth and Waller St.

For Kids

- ➔ **Dinosaur Park** (p88) A nature trail lined with full-sized dino replicas, 12 miles east of the Austin airport.
- ➔ **Zilker Zephyr** (p68) Take a ride around Zilker Park on a miniature train.
- ➔ **Barton Springs** (p63) Cool off in this ginormous natural pool with icy-cold water.
- ➔ **Texas Memorial Museum** (p59) More dino fun on the University of Texas campus, this time in the form of a flying pterosaur skeleton.
- ➔ **Austin Children's Museum** (p68) A new and much larger space equals more fun for the little ones.

BEST PHOTO OP

Snap a pic against the backdrop of the giant vintage-postcard mural on the side of Roadhouse Relics (1720 S 1st St) that reads 'Greetings from Austin, Capitol of Texas.'

Fast Facts

- ➔ **State Capital of Texas**
- ➔ **Area code** ☑ 512
- ➔ **Area** 265 sq miles

What's New

- ➔ **Formula 1 Grand Prix** (p69) A new multi-million-dollar track means an onslaught of international visitors in November.
- ➔ **Firehouse Hostel** (p69) Finally! A hostel in downtown Austin, right across from the venerable Driskill Hotel.
- ➔ **Roy G Guerrero Disc Golf Course** (p66) A brand new course to replace the beloved (but closed) Pease Park course.

Resources

- ➔ **Austin CVB** (www.austintexas.org)
- ➔ **Austin360** (www.austin360.com)
- ➔ **Austin Chronicle** (www.austinchronicle.com)
- ➔ **Austin City Links** (www.austinlinks.com)