

A Visitors Guide to Austin

Sixth Street (Dirty Sixth) - Similar to Bourbon St, New Orleans, Sixth is comprised of countless bars and venues, many of which offer roof deck patios. It's common to hear live music at places like the Parish, and Kingdom. Sixth is where Austin meets late night fun.

West Sixth Street- Just west of Dirty Sixth Street, West sixth offers a more sophisticated vibe, with higher end restaurants and bars. Visit Arro for handcrafted local French fare. Check out Rio's Thursday Night Swim in their lavish roof top pool.

Rainey Street- A once local neighborhood has now been transformed into house bars and restaurants. Quaint and handcrafted, Rainey Street is perfect for bar-hopping to relaxing on outdoor patios. Visit El Naranjo for true authentic Mexican food or Javelina for tasty bar snacks.

4th Street- Known as the warehouse district- 4th street is known for its bars and clubs. From Peche-a laid back French cocktail bar to Hangar Bar- with their high energy rooftop patio, 4th street offers something for all groups.

2nd Street- Located in the heart of downtown, Second Street is where dining meets boutique shopping. From unique restaurants to handmade goods there's something for everyone. Check out Lamberts gourmet barbecue, Cru's fantastic wine and champagne, and Violet Crown Cinema- featuring Indie films shown nowhere else in town.

The Capitol Building- Head north on Congress Avenue and you can't miss the Austin State Capitol Building. Tours are free.

The Austin Bats- From the middle of the Congress bridge- cast your sights east and watch the United States largest urban bat colony fly. Flight time is about dusk.

South Congress- Follow Congress Avenue- the main stretch through downtown-over Town Lake to a district famous for handcrafted jewelry, thrifts, boutiques, and local fare. Check out Homeslice for the best pizza in town, Snack Bar for a vintage lounge featuring a unique cocktail list and organic diner items, and Uncommon Objects for obscure finds.

University of Texas Campus- Just North of downtown, the campus is home to the Bullock Texas State History Museum, The Blanton Art Museum, LBJ Library, the Harry Ransom Center, and more.

Arts District- Just north west of the Capitol Building- between Colorado St and Nueces/15th and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, sit some of Austin's oldest and most historic homes.

Manor Rd- East of Downtown in the East End of town, Manor is home to some of the best gastro pubs and hip cafes the city has to offer. Check out Mi Madres for home-style Mexican food and the Salty Sow for local drafts and handcrafted fare.

The Hope Gallery- Turn left onto W. 11th Street from North Lamar to witness a living outdoor art gallery. What was the foundation of a proposed condo is now a display of Austin's vibrant street art culture.

Cathedral of Junk- Just as it sounds, an Austin landmark consisting of antiques, vintage signs, and just about anything you could imagine, piled high like a cathedral.

North Loop- Just north of the University of Texas campus, North Loop is where you'll find vintage boutiques, vinyl shops, funky eateries, and home décor from the 50s.

Outdoor Fun

Lady Bird Lake- Follow Congress Avenue south from the Capitol building to Lady Bird Lake, for outdoor activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, water tours, running paths, and Austin's long anticipated boardwalk.

Barton Springs- The closest swimming hole to downtown, Barton Springs is at a constant temperature of 68 degrees year around. Just around the block is **Barton Springs Picnic-** offering an array of gourmet and flavorful food trucks.

Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum- If you like outdoorsy adventures as well as 20th Century art, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden will make for a perfect outing. Combining bronze and stone sculptures, waterfalls, streams, and exotic plants, this garden is a great representation of Austin.

Zilker Park- A great destination for picnics, Frisbee, athletics, and dog walking.

Mount Bonnell- A popular destination since 1850, Mount Bonnell overlooks Lake Austin and all of downtown. Just miles from Austin proper and seven hundred and fifty feet above sea level, visitors are offered a true view of the city. This outdoor attraction is ideal for picnics with friends and family.

McKinney Falls- Appealing to locals as well as visitors, McKinney Falls is an ideal reserve to cool off and relax under the summer sun. Located in South Austin, the falls are a stunning display of the natural world. The Park is named for Thomas F. McKinney, whom first came to Texas in the early 1820s as one of Stephen F. Austin's first 300 colonists. Best visits are a day or two after rainfall.

Lake Travis- Just west of downtown, Lake Travis has become a destination for boating, water sports, and summer fun. Take a drive through the hills and feast your eyes on some of Austin's most vibrant sunsets. Located on the water is The Oasis, accommodating guests with dinner and drinks.