

How to Be an **AUSTINITE**

A Newcomer's Guide



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Know Your Town

Local Lingo & Getting Around

Austin Fast Facts

Population: 947,890 (2016)

County: Travis

Mayor: Steve Adler

Area Codes: 512 & 737

Austinites pride themselves on being weird. Often, the way we talk reflects it. Here's a rundown on some of the locations you should know, and a handy pronunciation guide so you can say them "different", just like us!

Burnet

Something that clearly identifies a non-Austinite is pronouncing Burnet in any way that emphasizes the "e" in the name of this major thoroughfare. Instead, make sure you pronounce it like "BURN-It."

Guadalupe

Many people moving to Austin for the first time are students coming to the University of Texas at Austin. As a result, they will spend a great deal of time on Guadalupe, the street running along the west side of campus and beyond. However, most Austinites drop the last "e" entirely from the name, creating from this originally Spanish term a uniquely Austin piece of lingo. So remember, when referring to Guadalupe, it is accepted (if not expected) to say "GUAD-a-loop." You may also hear it called "The Drag."

Koenig, Manor & Mueller

Koenig is pronounced "KAY-nig" by Austinites, Manor is "MAY-ner", and Mueller is "MILL-er."

Manchaca

Another street name that has transcended its original pronunciation is Manchaca Road. Think the A at the end of this name should be pronounced? Think again. Manchaca is pronounced by Austinites as "MAN-Shack."

Mopac

The Mopac Expressway is usually identified on street signs and road maps as Loop 1. It is always spoken of (fondly) as "MO-pac," so named for the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

SoCo

Heard of SoHo? Meet SoCo. The South Congress district is a thriving community of restaurants, shops, and food trailers. Just don't look confused if someone refers to the street as SoCo instead; this is increasingly becoming the normal Austin slang for the district. It's starting to spread out to SoLa (South Lamar) and SoFi (South First).

Hotspots

6th Street

It's the party mecca for our dear city, and over the years it's expanded so much that it's been sectioned into distinct districts with very different flavors:

West 6th | Posh, more expensive bars, usually filled with young professionals and ex-frat boys.

East 6th | East of I35, a much mellower place and a mecca for hipsters, with outdoor seating, and often art and music.

"Dirty" 6th | This is the rowdy stretch of 6th Street, from about Brazos to I35, that makes the news.

The Domain

The Domain in North Austin is a popular shopping and dining destination. Browse the shops by day, and check out the bars and venues by night!

Rainey Street

Here you'll find many renovated houses-turned-bars, food trucks, and a relaxed atmosphere.

Lady Bird Lake

Although the name was changed to "Lady Bird Lake" in 2007 after the death of our beloved Austinite Lady Bird Johnson, the name Town Lake has been so ingrained in Austin's local language that many people still refer to it, or at least think of it, as Town Lake.

Tours

Austin Duck Adventures austinducks.com

An amphibious tour of downtown Austin and beautiful Lady Bird Lake inside a US Coast Guard Inspected Hydra Terra Vehicles.

Haunted ATX hauntedatx.com

Haunted ATX offers the only mobile haunted tour in Austin. Guests will visit several historic Austin landmarks that are reportedly haunted or have experienced paranormal activity.

Austin City Running Tours cityrunningtours.com

These group running tours are 3 mile/5k led at a casual pace with designated stops along the way. Offered nearly every Saturday, these running tours range from Historic Downtown, UT Campus, and various beer/adult beverage tours!

Austin Trolley Company austintrolley.com

Another interesting way to tour the city is aboard the elegantly restored trolleys. Ride around and enjoy the scenic Hill Country in bygone style.



Rules of the Road

Just remember that Mopac is Loop 1; Capital of Texas Hwy is Loop 360; U.S. 183 is Research Blvd., Ed Bluestein Blvd. and Old Bastrop Hwy; 2222 is Northland Dr. or Allandale Rd. or Koenig Lane. Don't try to figure it out. Just accept it. Here are some helpful tips making your way around Austin like a local:

1. The 8:00 am rush hour is from 6:30 am to 9:30 am. The 5:00 pm rush hour is from 3:30 pm to 7:15 pm. Friday's rush hour starts on Thursday morning.
2. If you actually stop at a yellow light, then you cannot be from Austin. You may only apply your brakes when the end of a yellow light and the beginning of the red light create a burnt-orange hue. This is Longhorn Country, after all.
3. If there is any moisture on the road, all traffic must immediately come to a screeching halt. Ditto for Daylight Savings Time, or a flat tire three lanes over.
4. Do not attempt to access any road during an apocalyptic event like frozen precipitation or South by Southwest.

Other Ways to Travel

MetroRail

The advent of light rail is the latest attempt to lure Austinites out of their cars and is truly a giant step in that direction. These sleek trains run from Leander to downtown, with amenities including Wi-Fi and bike racks.

Car Sharing

Zipcar and car2go services allow Austinites to move from downtown and UT campus areas with ease, avoiding the hassles of parking, refueling and cleaning. Uber and Lyft ridesharing services are also available throughout the city.

Biking

Austin is designated one of the nation's best bike cities, with dedicated bike lanes and trails all over the city. We also have a bike sharing program!

Pedicabs

Available mostly in the downtown entertainment districts, pedicab drivers are licensed by the city, and offer relief from limping along in high heels on the club crawl.



Must See.

Must Do.

Austin Sights & Attractions

Live Music

Austin is the Live Music Capital of the World, and Austinites won't let you forget it for a second. Boasting two of the largest music festivals in the world (SXSW and ACL), Austinites are the authority on what's happening in the music world.

ACL Live	acl-live.com
Antone's Nightclub	antonesnightclub.com
Austin 360 Amph.	austin360amphitheater.com
The Backyard	backyardaustin.com
Continental Club	continentalclub.com
Nutty Brown Amph.	nuttybrown.com
Stubbs Bar-B-Q	stubbsaustin.com
Threadgill's	threadgills.com

South by Southwest

South by Southwest proves why Austin is an international hotbed of innovation, with giants of the music, film, and tech industries converging in one place.

ACL Fest

Inspired by the PBS concert series of the same name, The Austin City Limits Music Festival is an annual music festival held in Zilker Park on two consecutive three-day weekends.

Alamo Drafthouse

The Alamo Drafthouse has become an Austin institution. Anyone claiming to be an Austinite has laughed their socks off at a Master Pancake show, participated in one of their dance parties or sing/quote-alongs, giggled through a Girly Night, nibbled fingernails at a Terror Tuesday, or bro-ed out at an Action Pack. Go see why Austinites love these shows so much!

The Oasis

oasis-austin.com
Food, drinks and live music! Its tiered decks overlook Lake Travis, and there's no better place to take in the sunset!

Mexican Free-Tailed Bats

One of the most amazing sights in Austin takes place every evening from March to early November, when 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from their roosts under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.

Zilker Park

An Austin treasure, this green expanse is a popular venue for events of all kinds. There's always something going on here!

Trail of Lights

Austin's favorite holiday celebration boasts a lit tree 155 tall and 120 feet wide! With 3,309 multicolored light bulbs and topped with a 10-foot lighted double star, you can't miss this Austinite favorite come holiday season.

Austin Art Scene

Austinites have put their creativity to good use on the multitude of unique, offbeat signs, museums, and murals throughout the city, from Jeremiah the Innocent (Austin's beloved "Hi, how are you" frog), to the sweet love note of "I love you so much" on the side of Jo's Coffee.

Art On 5th	arton5th.com
Art. Science. Gallery.	artsciencegallery.com
Artworks	artworksaustin.com
Austin Art Garage	austinartgarage.com
Big Medium	bigmedium.org
Capital Fine Art	capitalfineart.com
Davis Gallery	davisgalleryaustin.com
Flatbed Press & Gallery	flatbedpress.com
Gallery Shoal Creek	galleryshoalcreek.com
grayDUCK Gallery	grayduckgallery.com
HOPE Gallery	hopecampaign.org
Link & Pin	linkpinart.com
Modern Rocks Gallery	modernrocksgallery.com
The People's Gallery	austintexas.gov
Photo Méthode Gallery	photomethode.com
Pump Project	pumpproject.org
Russel Collection	russel-collection.com
Stephen L. Clark Gallery	artaustin.org
Tiny Park	tinyparkgallery.com
Visual Arts Center	art.utexas.edu
Wally Workman Gallery	wallyworkmangallery.com
Women & Their Work	womenandtheirwork.org
Yard Dog Art Gallery	yarddog.com

Comedy

Everyone loves to laugh, but Austinites take it to another level. Here are a few Austin-only specialty comedy venues:

Esther's Follies esthersfollies.com

A modern-day vaudeville theatre on 6th Street downtown, named after actress Esther Williams. The acts incorporate magic, juggling, singing, dancing, and sketches on current events.

New Movement Theater newmovementtheater.com

An improv, sketch, and standup comedy theater and training center offering classes, corporate training, and shows ranging from comedy rap battles to open mic nights!

Cap City Comedy Club capcitycomedy.com

Cap City Comedy Club is home to some of the best comedy performances an Austinite could hope for. They also offer comedy classes, improv classes, and the most hilarious version of defensive driving permitted by the state of Texas!

ColdTowne Theater coldtownetheater.com

The tiny ColdTowne Theater is one of the most electric spaces in Austin, because the audience is practically on stage with the comedians. Here, local and touring improv, sketch, and stand-up comedians scramble to get their time in this highly coveted spotlight.

Circuit of the Americas

circuitoftheamericas.com

CoTA was first proposed in mid-2010 to be the first track in the United States purpose-built for Formula One. Austinites have embraced this enormous new venue and (of course) added a live music angle! The Austin 360 Amphitheater has become one of the largest venues in the city and sits at the base of the Observation Tower. Tours are given daily, including the view from the top! Explore your need for speed (or tricks!) and show your true Austin colors at the Circuit of the Americas!

Moonlight Towers

Austin's Moonlight Towers are the only ones left in the United States and are on the National Registry of Historic Places. One of the towers was prominently featured in the film *Dazed and Confused* as the site of a high-school keg party, in which the character played by famous Austinite Matthew McConaughey exclaims, "Party at the moon tower!"

Cathedral of Junk

Winner of Austin Chronicle's "Best Organized Chaos" award, the Cathedral of Junk is an Austin must for Austinites and visitors alike. Some 60 tons of discarded items are piled artfully in a suburban backyard in South Austin, towering over the home of Vince Hannemann. It's an ever-evolving shrine of the unwanted and discarded, a project that suits the attitude of free expression in Austin.

Roller Derby

Flat track or banked, Texas RollerGirls, Texas Roller Derby, and Austin Anarchy put on a great show. Rooted in the '70's, Roller Derby is a fast paced brawl that you can't take your eyes off of!

Chicken Sh*t Bingo

You can't just play this quirky (and slightly smelly) game of bingo—you have to win. Here's how it works: stop by Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon on Burnet Road on a Sunday night, line up and buy a ticket. Along with the 54 numbered squares, players can buy tickets on the line, the intersection of lines and the orange border around the board. After you've got your ticket, you just have to wait and see where the chicken, well, goes. The winning ticket-holder walks away with the cash pot—and the experience of a lifetime.

Pennybacker Bridge

This iconic bridge over Lake Austin is informally known as "The 360 Bridge". Surrounded by the rolling hills along Loop 360, it's part of what makes the road one of the most scenic urban drives in Texas. Be sure to take the nearby trail up to the overlook, where you can take in views of the surrounding hills.



Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial

Since 1994, this memorial to the blues guitar legend has stood at Auditorium Shores in Austin. Flowers and other tokens left by fans are often found at the base.

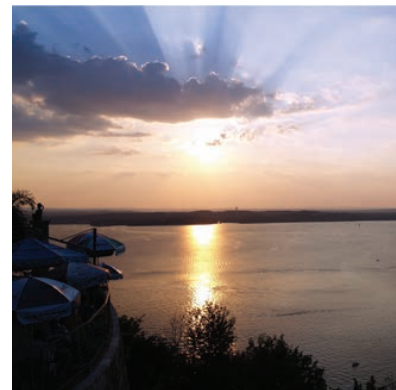


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The Oasis

Overlooking Lake Travis, the Oasis provides stunning views and gorgeous sunsets.



Live Like an Austinite

Fitness & Nature

Gyms & Fitness Clubs

There are many ways to stay fit in Austin. If hitting the gym is your thing, there's no shortage of choices.

24 Hour Fitness	24hourfitness.com
Anytime Fitness	anytimefitness.com
Austin Simply Fit	austinsimplyfit.com
Castle Hill Fitness	castlehillfitness.com
Crossfit Austin	crossfitaustin.com
Crossfit Central	centralathlete.com
Fit Austin	fitaustin.com
Gym One	gym-one.com
Hyde Park Gym	hydeparkgym.com
Lifetime Fitness	lifetime.life
Pure Austin Fitness	pureaustin.com
Orangetheory Fitness	orangetheoryfitness.com

Bike Trails

Cycling is huge in Austin and there are a wealth of scenic trails.

Barton Creek Greenbelt	austinparks.org
Bull Creek District Park	austinparks.org
Bull Creek Greenbelts	austinparks.org
Butler Hike & Bike	thetrailfoundation.org
Emma Long Metro. Park	austintexas.gov
MetCenter Hike & Bike	metcenter.com
Shoal Creek Greenbelt	austintexas.gov
Slaughter Creek Trail	austinparks.org
Veloway	austintexas.gov
Walnut Creek Metro. Park	austintexas.gov

Dance & Yoga

Ballet Austin	balletaustin.org/getfit
Black Swan Yoga	blackswanyoga.com
Austin Swing Syndicate	austinswingsyndicate.org

Swimming Holes

When summer arrives, it brings the urge to hit the water! Here in Austin, you'll find plenty of opportunities to cool off in the pools, lakes, and rivers.

Barton Creek

Barton Creek is part of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and one of the most beautiful urban natural areas in the U.S.

Barton Springs Pool

This gorgeous swimming hole is one of the top 10 tourist attractions in Austin. The spring-fed water is a consistent 68 degrees year-round.

Deep Eddy Pool

Featuring a bathhouse built during the Depression era, the historic Deep Eddy Pool is the oldest swimming pool in Texas, with its waters fed from a hand-dug well.

Hamilton Pool Preserve

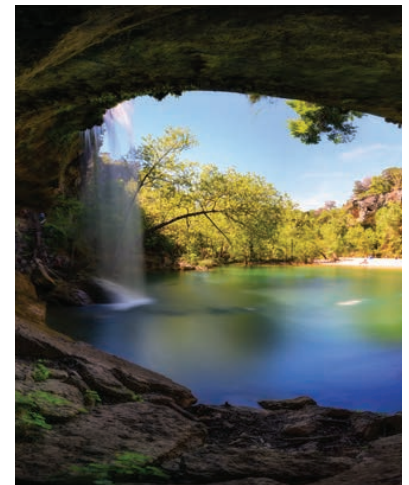
Acquired by Travis County in 1985, the site has been a popular spring-fed swimming hole since the early 1900s. The pool is in a box canyon fed by a 45-foot waterfall with a sandy beach and giant boulders. *Reservations required.*

Sculpture Falls

Within the Barton Creek Greenbelt lies Sculpture Falls, a clear, cool, dog-friendly swimming hole.

Big Stacy Pool

This is the place to swim during cold weather, heated by a natural warm spring. It's a special favorite, particularly with lap swimmers.



Hamilton Pool Preserve

A waterfall, fed by Hamilton Creek, spills over the limestone rocks, creating this beautiful Austin swimming hole.

Parks & Scenery

Austinites love nature and Austin is home to many beautiful parks.

Austin Nature and Science Center ci.austin.tx.us/ansc

Centrally located on the western edge of Zilker Park in the Zilker Nature Preserve, the ANSC offers indoor and outdoor exhibits and provides environmental science education programs to schools and the community in and around Austin.

Emma Long Metropolitan Park austinparks.org

Originally called City Park, it is situated on the shores of Lake Austin. Campsites are available.

Lake Travis laketravis.com

The most popular of the Highland Lakes that stair-step up the Colorado River from Austin. Formed by Mansfield Dam, it winds through steep, scenic hills for 65 miles with 270 miles of shoreline. More than a mile long with 24 floodgates, the dam is one of the largest masonry structures in the world. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has eight primitive recreation areas on the upper end of Lake Travis. Four of the primitive parks require daily permits per day per vehicle and can be purchased at the honor boxes at the park entrance. Annual passes may be purchased at the LCRA, 3701 Lake Austin Blvd., or through the mail.

Mayfield Park mayfieldpark.org

A historic cottage, gardens and nature preserve in west Austin, on a bluff overlooking Lake Austin.

McKinney Falls tpwd.state.tx.us

Camp, hike, bike, and just enjoy nature alongside Onion Creek as it flows along the limestone landscape.

Mount Bonnell austinparks.org

At 775 feet, Mount Bonnell is considered to be the highest point in Austin. It's a favorite for Austinites to catch stunning views of the surrounding hills.

Wild Basin wildbasin.org

Founded in 1974, the Wild Basin preserve covers 227 acres and offers 2.5 miles of hiking trails. Bikes, pets, smoking and picnics are all prohibited within the preserve boundaries.

Zilker Botanical Garden zilker garden.org

Often called "the jewel in the heart of Austin", it contains theme gardens such as rose, herb and Japanese gardens, which are interconnected with streams, waterfalls and koi-filled ponds. Within, the Hartman Prehistoric Garden recreates local dinosaur habitats.

Good Eats

Food Trucks

Austin runs on food trucks, and there sure are a lot of them. There are over 1200 food trailers, according to the city's state of the food report.

Chi'lantro BBQ	chilantrobqq.com
East Side King	eskaustin.com
Hey Cupcake!	heycupcake.com
The Peached Tortilla	thepeachedtortilla.com
Torchy's Tacos	torchystacos.com
Veracruz All Natural	veracruzallnatural.com
Baton Creole	batoncreole.com

Breakfast Tacos

This Austin staple deserves a category all to its own. Breakfast tacos are an Austinite's primary food group!

Bouldin Creek Café	bouldincreekcafe.com
Fresa's Chicken al Carbon	fresaschicken.com
Juan in a Million	juaninamillion.com
Papalote Taco House	yumpapalote.com
Tacodeli	tacodeli.com
Veracruz All Natural	veracruzallnatural.com

Tex-Mex

No Texan, or Austinite, can make it a week without their beloved Tex-Mex. In Austin, you could probably eat at a new Tex-Mex restaurant every night and still never get sick of it.

Chuy's Tex-Mex	chuys.com
El Arroyo	elarroyo.com
Fonda San Miguel	fondasanmiguel.com
Matt's Famous El Rancho	mattselrancho.com
Maudie's	maudies.com
Trudy's Texas Star	trudys.com

Barbecue

Texas knows barbecue, and Austin is no exception. Getting the meat-sweats is a rite of passage here!

Black's Barbecue	blacksbbq.com
Freedmen's	freedmensbar.com
Franklin BBQ	franklinbbq.com
Iron Works BBQ	ironworksbbq.com
Kerlin BBQ	kerlinbbq.com
La Barbecue	labarbecue.com
Lamberts	lambertsaustin.com
Micklethwait Craft Meats	craftmeatsaustin.com
Salt Lick BBQ	saltlickbbq.com
Stiles Switch	stilesswitchbbq.com
Terry Black's BBQ	terryblacksbbq.com

Pet Adoption


In 2010, Austin's City Council voted for a plan to make Austin a no-kill city. Since then, we became the first no-kill city in the US, and Austin's love for rescuing animals continues to grow. Here are a few places Austinites love to adopt their cuddly companions:

Austin Animal Center	austintexas.gov
Austin Dog Rescue	austindog.org
Austin Humane Society	austinhumanesociety.org
Austin Pets Alive!	austinpetsalive.org



Breakfast Tacos

Some are big, some are small, some are spicy, and some are cheesy, but they're all delicious, and a beloved mainstay of Austin's food culture.

A photograph of a bridge at sunset. The sky is filled with golden clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, reflecting on the water below. Silhouettes of about a dozen people are standing on the bridge's walkway, looking out over the water. The bridge has a large archway in the foreground.

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