



Austin Entertainment Spots

We Are Your Resource • www.alamotitle-austin.com • 512.483.6710



Alamo Title

Music: No matter how many things you've heard about the music scene in Austin, you can't visualize its full depth and breadth. More than 150 venues offer regular musical sets. At any given time, more than 3,000 musical acts navigate this maze, and public places are a magnet for live music. Almost across the board it's a consistently high level of musicianship that twice a year peaks in mammoth festivals: South by Southwest in the spring and Austin City Limits Music Festival in the fall.

Arts: Second only to music, the arts are ubiquitous in Central Texas. In a select group of cities with professional symphony, opera, ballet and theater companies, Austin also has benefited as those offerings improved exponentially during the past decades. There's only one large art museum — the Blanton Museum of Art — but plenty of high-quality galleries and smaller museums. Comedy is red-hot in Austin, with dozens of transient sketch, improv and hybrid comedy troupes winning international fame.

Movies: Austin has been a movie mecca, for about 20 years. Besides giants like Robert Rodriguez, Mike Judge, Richard Linklater and Elizabeth Avellan, other directors, actors, designers and technicians wander our streets every day. The Alamo Drafthouse phenomenon started here. Depend on the good folks with the Austin Film Society, Austin Film Festival, South by Southwest Film Festival and other hyperactive groups to keep this city cranking out the films.

Nightlife: As money poured into Austin during the past 2 or 3 booms, club scenesters multiplied the "going out" options. Ultra-lounges were all the rage a couple of years ago. Now the night tribes follow celebrity party planners, social media mavens and mixologists sparking the next cocktail revolution. Newer entertainment districts include West Sixth Street, East East Sixth Street and Rainey Street.

Sports: In Austin, sports count as entertainment. Especially the University of Texas Longhorns on any field of action. They've been joined recently by superior minor-league teams, such as the Round Rock Express, Austin Toros, Texas Stars and the amazing freshman Austin Aztex. Add to that fast-expanding local sports bar phenoms, such as Third Base, Bikinis and Cover 3.

Style: Not long ago, the only fashion show in town was staged annually by the UT design program. Now it seems models walk the runway every night of the week. The presence of powerful national stores (Neiman Marcus, Saks, etc.) helps, but more influential are the masses of designers and boutiques that make up the backbone of the Austin fashion scene.

Food: When asked what they do for entertainment, Austinites often say: "Eat out." As you will soon discover, dining in Austin often comes with a dash of design, music, comedy or film. Take it all in.

Central Texas is bustling with attractions tourists and residents alike can enjoy.

- * **Austin Duck Adventures.** A narrated, 75-minute land-&-lake tour in an amphibious vehicle through downtown. 209 E. Sixth St. 477-5274, www.austinducks.com.
- * **Austin Ghost Tours.** Downtown themed walking tours of different haunted buildings and stories from Austin's past and present. Reservations required. 853-9826, tour schedule at www.austinghosttours.com or www.austinghosttours.com.
- * **Austin Nature and Science Center.** Camps, exhibits & animal showcase. 301 Nature Center Drive. 327-8181, www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc.
- * **Austin Steam Train.** Vintage trains make varied runs throughout the year. 401 E. Whitestone Blvd., Suite A-103, Cedar Park. 477-8468, www.austinsteamtrain.org.
- * **Austin Zoo.** Rescued animals from Texas and around the world, petting zoo and train. 10807 Rawhide Trail. 288-1490, www.austinzoo.org.
- * **Austin's Park.** Go-karts, miniature golf, bumper boats, rock wall, batting cages, arcade games, laser tag, pizza buffet and more. 16231 Interstate 35 N., Pflugerville. 670-9600, www.austinspark.com.
- * **Bats in flight.** The Congress Avenue Bridge over Lady Bird Lake is home to the largest urban bat colony in North America. Best mid-March through early November. The American-Statesman has a free bat-viewing area, 305 S. Congress Ave. Inside Line, 416-5700, category 3636, www.batcon.org.
- * **Bear Creek Stables Inc.** Lighted arenas, English and Western riding lessons, guided

- rides and summer camp. 13017 Bob Johnson Ln. www.bearcreekstables.com. 282-0250.
- * **Bremond Block.** Historic district bound by Seventh, Eighth, San Antonio and Guadalupe streets. The Convention and Visitors Bureau offers tours on weekends March through November. 478-0098.
- * **Capital Cruises.** Boat tours on Lady Bird Lake. 208 Barton Springs Road. 480-9264, www.capitalcruises.com.
- * **Capitol Visitors Center.** Center is in the old General Land Office Building, the oldest state office building. 112 E. 11th St. 305-8400, www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.
- * **Chaparral Ice.** Ice skating, video games and a hockey program. 14200 N. Interstate 35. 252-8500. 2525 Anderson Lane. 451-5102, www.chaparralice.com.
- * **Congress Avenue and Sixth Street.** Guided walking tour of downtown. Wheelchair accessible; parking free on weekends. Call 48 hours in advance for a guided walking tour with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. www.austintexas.org. 478-0098.
- * **French Legation Museum.** Guided tours available Tuesday-Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. 802 San Marcos St. 472-8180, www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.
- * **J & M Aviaries.** 60 species of exotic birds and other animals. Animal encounter shows Saturdays and Sundays. 8647 W. U.S. 290. 288-2199, www.austinianrr.org.
- * **Kiddie Acres.** Amusement park for families with children 10 and younger. Rides, miniature golf and concessions. Closed Mondays. 4800 W. Howard Lane. 255-4131, www.kiddieacres.com.
- * **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.** The nonprofit center promotes and preserves native plants. 4801 La Crosse Ave. 232-0100, www.wildflower.org.
- * **Lone Star Riverboat.** Double-decker, paddle wheel riverboat cruises on Town Lake. 327-1388, www.lonestarriverboat.com.
- * **Mabel Davis District Park.** Austin's first skate park with a skate bowl and streetscape elements, Olympic-size swimming pool, playscape and picnic area. 3427 Parker Lane. 441-5247, www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/mabeldavis.htm.
- * **Main Event.** Bowling alley, laser tag, rock wall, miniature golf, billiards and a restaurant. 13301 N. U.S. 183. 401-0000, www.maineventusa.net.
- * **Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.** Bowling, roller skating, arcade games, movie theater and more. 1156 Hargrave St. 472-6932, www.myec.net.
- * **Mount Bonnell.** Picnic atop this 785-foot limestone hill with panoramic views of Lake Austin, downtown and the University of Texas. 3800 Mount Bonnell Rd. 974-6700.
- * **Old Bakery and Emporium.** Listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Gift shop & confectionery. 1006 Congress Ave. 477-5961, www.ci.austin.tx.us/park/bakery1.htm.
- * **Peter Pan Mini Golf.** Two miniature golf courses and video games. 1207 Barton Springs Road. 472-1033.
- * **Playland Skate Center.** Roller skating and in-line skating. 8822 McCann Dr. 452-1901, www.playlandskatecenter.com.
- * **Ramp Ranch.** In-line skating, skateboarding and BMX biking. Lessons available. 10355 Texas 29, Liberty Hill. 512-515-7600, www.austinskatepark.com.
- * **Texas Capitol.** Tours of the Capitol and underground extension. 11th St and Congress Avenue. 463-0063, www.capitol.state.tx.us.
- * **Texas State Cemetery.** Burial ground dating to 1851 for Republic of Tx founders, jurists, writers and elected officials. Includes the works of Charles Umlauf, Elisabet Ney and Pompeo Coppini. 909 Navasota St. 463-0605, www.cemetery.state.tx.us.
- * **Texas Union Underground.** Located on the University of Texas campus, the Union Underground offers bowling, billiards, arcade games and a laptop lounge. Texas Union, 24th and Guadalupe streets. 475-6670, www.utexas.edu/tunion.
- * **Treaty Oak.** 500-year-old famed live oak is the last surviving tree of a grove that once sheltered Comanches and Tonkawas. The tree made international news in 1989 when it was poisoned. Fifth and Baylor streets. 478-0098, www.ci.austin.tx.us/treatyoak/.
- * **Volente Beach Water Park.** Water rides, beach and lagoon on Lake Travis. April thru September. 16107 FM 2769, Leander. 512-258-5109, www.volentebeach.com.
- * **Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.** 227-acre sanctuary for native plants, animals and birds, including some endangered species. Some trails are wheelchair accessible. 805 N. Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360). 327-7622, www.wildbasin.org.
- * **Zilker Botanical Garden.** 30-acre botanical garden features a butterfly trail and themed gardens. 2220 Barton Springs Road. 477-8672, www.zilkerbotanicalgarden.org.
- * **Zilker Park.** Downtown park includes Barton Springs, a spring-fed swimming pool, picnicking, a hillside theater, playground and a miniature train. 2100 Barton Springs Road. 974-6700, www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/.

Source: Austin 360.com