

Welcome,

Y'all!!!

**Austin Monthly's  
2014 Newcomers' Guide**

There are a reported 110 people moving here every day. Whether you are one of them or you've lived here one, five or 15-plus years, this comprehensive guide to our city is sure to teach you something new about the magical place you call home.  
By Mikela Floyd

PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK.

Newcomers' Guide

# The Basics

## History Lesson



"Father of Texas" Stephen F. Austin

It's certainly hard to picture "Keep Waterloo Weird" on a bumper sticker, but before the city of Waterloo was renamed Austin after the "Father of Texas" Stephen F. Austin in 1839, that could have been the case. Since then, Austin has kept on changing. Once a haven for hippies and slackers, the capital city has transformed into a list-topping hot spot for young professionals previously more likely to favor cities like New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. They come in droves, drawn by the favorable job market and relatively good cost of living. Sure, the traffic has increased, and mom-and-pop shops are giving way to luxury hotels and condominiums, but Austin also has more opportunity than ever. Businesses previously relegated to metropolistype cities (hello, Facebook and Apple!) are making their way down South, mixing in with the kitsch as best they can.

Let's put it this way: You can still get great chicken-fried steak at Threadgill's and head to Saxon Pub to see Bob Schneider play—it'll just take you longer to get there.

## Local Landmarks

Four of the spots that make Austin so special



### Barton Springs

With a water temperature of about 68 degrees all year long, this public, spring-fed pool and its surrounding grassy area are full of sunbathing and scantily clad Austinites.



### The Texas Capitol

The red granite Italian Renaissance revival structure that sits on 11th and Congress is the center for all things political in Texas, including Wendy Davis' famous pink-shoed filibuster.



### Mount Bonnell

Whether you're looking for the perfect photo op or a place to unwind, this spectacular view of both the city skyline and Lake Austin is well worth the climb, about 780 feet above sea level.

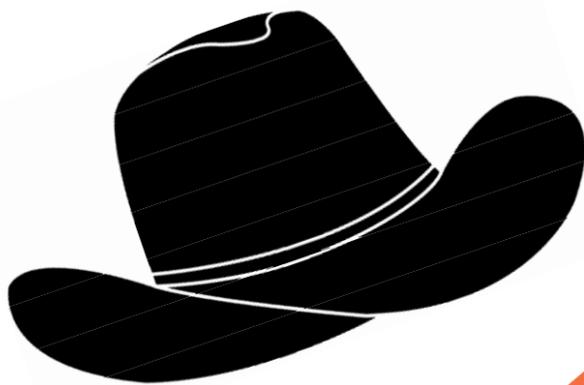


### Lady Bird Lake

Named after Lady Bird Johnson, this lake serves as a focal point of the city. It's famous for its running trail, frequented by fitness-conscious citizens and visiting celebs.

## Local Lexicon

In this city, there are some streets and towns that we just pronounce our own way



### Buda

This nearby town is pronounced BYU-da.

### Burnet

This hip road is called Burn-IT.

### Guadalupe

Forget that "ay" sound you want to add on the end. This street is pronounced GWA-da-LOOP.

### Koenig

Also called 2222, this lane is pronounced KAY-nig

### Manchaca

This road is actually called Man-SHACK.

### Manor

Both a road and a nearby town, this is pronounced MAY-ner.

## No Car? No Problem!

You've got four public transportation options (though we need more)



### Car2Go

Car2Go's model is simple: Get into one of its smart cars with a member card, drive it wherever you want and park it for another driver-in-need—or go back to it later to continue your journey.



### MetroRail

It might not be as efficient as rail systems in other cities, but if you live north and work downtown this train can be quite convenient. The route spans 32 miles and has nine stops from Leander to downtown.



### Buses

With dozens of routes and varied schedules, Austin's MetroBus Service makes commuting a bit easier. And with larger and more frequent MetroRapid buses equipped with free WiFi, you can save time stuck in traffic and check your email.



### Austin B-cycle

If you're looking to burn some calories on the way to your destination, jump on the bike-sharing bandwagon and swing by one of the 40 B-cycle bike stations around town and enjoy the first 30 minutes free. Or, for a more permanent ride, sign up for an \$80 yearlong membership.

## Take the Good with the Bad

Hey, no one is perfect—not even our fair city. These are the three most common complaints about it.



### Allergies

Even if you weren't sneezing on a daily basis before you moved here, you might consider keeping a box of Kleenex by your side at all times. We sniffle and sneeze during the three pollen seasons (spring, fall, winter), and most of us are watery-eyed messes December to February thanks to the dreaded cedar fever.



### Heat

If you can't stand the heat, get over it—because it's not going anywhere. With temperatures hovering around 100 three to four months straight and lingering heat that lasts well into October, the only solutions we can offer are an ice-cold beer, a dip in Barton Springs and the air-conditioned respite of an Alamo Drafthouse.



### Traffic

Get used to spending a lot of time in your car. A trip down I-35 guarantees gridlock, so commuters are eagerly waiting word on the "cut and cap" proposal, which aims to create better crosstown flow. MoPac (Loop 1) commuters can sympathize; new construction to create express toll lanes on it has slowed things down considerably.

## Tip Sheet

Fast facts, important numbers and key info you need to know about your new home

### Population

842,595, according to the American Community Survey 2012 (the Austin Metro Area, including Round Rock and San Marcos, clocks in at 1.83 million)

### County

Travis

### Mayor

Lee Leffingwell

### Area Code

We have two now: 512 and 737

### Police

(512) 974-5000

### Fire

(512) 974-0130

### Gas

texasgasservice.com

### Electric

Water and solid waste: City of Austin, (512) 494-9400, austinenergy.com

### Telephone and cable

Depending on where you live, AT&T, att.com; Time Warner Cable, timewarnercable.com; Grande Communications, mygrande.com

### Internet

Grande Communications and AT&T provide high-speed internet access, though Austin's Google Fiber service has been delayed until late 2014

### Trash and recycling

Residents pick a 24-, 32- 64- or 96-gallon garbage cart and pay accordingly. We also have a Single Stream Recycling program, which allows residents to mix plastic, paper, glass and aluminum cans into one blue cart. Collection schedules can be found at [austintexas.gov/departments/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule](http://austintexas.gov/departments/residential-curb-side-collection-schedule)

### Taxes

There is no state income tax; sales tax is 8.25 percent

### Hospitals

Brackenridge, Seton, Dell Children's, St. David's Medical Center

### School District

Austin Independent School District, (512) 414-8324, austinisd.org

### Colleges

University of Texas at Austin, St. Edward's University, Huston-Tillotson University, Austin Community College, Concordia University

### Newspapers

*Austin American-Statesman*, *The Austin Chronicle*, *Austin Business Journal*, *The Daily Texan* (UT's student newspaper)

### Grocery Stores

H-E-B, Whole Foods Market, Central Market, Randalls, Wheatsville Co-op, Trader Joe's

### Other resources

City of Austin, [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov); Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, [austintexas.org](http://austintexas.org); *Austin Monthly's* website, [austinmonthly.com](http://austinmonthly.com)



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# Loosen Your Belt

Our city's food scene has positively exploded in the past five years. From barbecue and Tex-Mex to sushi and locally grown menus, here's the dish on all the delicious places you'll want to eat at as soon as possible.



Barley Swine



Franklin Barbecue

Gone are the days when Tex-Mex and barbecue were your only choices when dining out. With a slew of young, critically acclaimed chefs making Austin home, the options for fabulous dining experiences are now nearly endless. There's *Top Chef* winner Paul Qui's eponymous fine-dining restaurant, which brings plenty of experimental flair to the scene. Not to mention his cadre of East Side King fast-casual joints. Then there's Bryce Gilmore, with his locally focused menus at Barley Swine and Odd Duck. And don't forget Aaron Franklin, whose mouth-watering ribs, brisket and sausage at Franklin Barbecue inspire lines that start at the crack of dawn. But we're not letting all the national media attention and James Beard Award nominations go to our head. For most Austinites, chips, salsa and a margarita at the neighborhood Tex-Mex joint is still heaven.

PHOTOS BY: QUI; JENN HAIR; BARLEY SWINE; JACK OPATRANY; FRANKLIN; ANDREW HOLMES.

## Faces & Names

10 Award-Winning Chefs of Note



**David Bull**

Congress, Second Bar + Kitchen, Bar Congress



**Shawn Cirkiel**

Parkside, olive & june, Chavez, the backspace



**Tyson Cole**

Uchi and Uchiko



**Sonya Cote**

Eden East and Hillside Pharmacy



**Andrew Curren**

24 Diner and Arro



**Bryce Gilmore**

Odd Duck and Barley Swine



**Larry McGuire**

Jeffrey's, Perla's, Lamberts, Elizabeth Street Café, Clark's Oyster Bar, Josephine House



**Janina O'Leary**

laV (pastry chef), formerly of Trace



**Rene Ortiz**

The upcoming Launderette, formerly of Sway and La Condesa



**Paul Qui**

qui and East Side King

PHOTOS BY: BULL; JODY HORTON; CIRKIEL; O'LEARY AND QUI; JENN HAIR; COLE; BRETT BUCHANAN; COTE; SHANNON MCINTYRE; CURREN; VANESSA ESCOBEDO; GILMORE; JACK OPATRANY; MCGUIRE; JON SHAPLEY; JESTER KING; NICOLE MLAKAR; MIDNIGHT COWBOY; BILL SALLANS; ORTIZ PHOTO COURTESY GIANT NOISE. PEPPER PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK.



## Putting the Tex in Mex

Breakfast tacos, queso, Mexican martinis—oh my! Whether you're craving Tex-Mex or lighter interior Mexican fare, there are plenty of options. Old standbys for Tex-Mex include **Polvos**, **Chuy's**, **Matt's El Rancho** and **Trudy's**. If you're looking for upscale Mexican, head to **Fonda San Miguel**, a 39-year-old Austin institution. And, since you can't call yourself a true Austinite until you become addicted to breakfast tacos, begin the search for your favorites immediately. We suggest starting off with the offerings at **Torchy's** and **Tacodeli**.



The Salt Lick

## Smoking Hot

10 barbecue joints that are bone-pickin' good

- Franklin Barbecue
- The Salt Lick
- La Barbecue
- Lamberts
- Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q
- Micklethwait Craft Meats
- Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew
- Stubb's Bar-B-Q
- County Line
- John Mueller Meat Company

## Newcomers'

# Guide

The Bar Scene



Jester King Brewery

## Sip Sliding Away

As Austin's food scene has grown, so has the bar, craft beer and cocktail scene. Since we are all about supporting local here, start working on trying all of Austin's brews. Names to look out for: **Jester King Brewery**, **Austin Beerworks**, **Hops & Grain**, **(512) Brewing Company** and **Live Oak Brewing Company**—though there are many, many more to try. If cocktails are more your taste, you're in luck, as the city has plenty of great bars to keep you entertained. A few to put on your must-try list: **Midnight Cowboy**, **Drink.Well.**, **Peche**, **East Side Show Room**, **The Tigress Pub**, **The Gatsby** and **Whisler's**. But, again, we're just scratching the surface.



Midnight Cowboy



Willie Nelson

Gary Clark Jr.

Marcia Ball

Jerry Jeff Walker

**Newcomers' Guide**

# Music Matters

With dozens of shows each night, festivals including Austin City Limits, South by Southwest and Fun Fun Fun Fest and world-class venues like ACL Live at The Moody Theater drawing top talent, it's clear that the Live Music Capital of the World is still deserving of its title.

And the homegrown talent has always been Austin's calling card; talented and decorated musicians, including Willie Nelson, Janis Joplin and Stevie Ray Vaughan, are inextricably linked to this city. Now, names including Gary Clark Jr., Shakey Graves and Max Frost are becoming part of that tradition. Aside from a plethora of music venues and a chill atmosphere, there are a handful of nonprofits making sure that local musicians are well taken care of, including Black Fret and Health Alliance for Austin Musicians.

CLARK JR. PHOTO BY LEANN MUELLER; WALKER PHOTO COURTESY JERRYJEFFWALKER.COM; NELSON PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK; BALL PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

## Listen Up

Some of the city's most famous concert venues



Open since 1975, **Antone's** was the first club on Sixth Street. While it has moved several times—and is currently awaiting a new downtown location—there is no denying that this blues club helped popularize everyone from Stevie Ray Vaughan and Los Lonely Boys to Gary Clark Jr.



**The Backyard**, an open-air venue located about 20 minutes from downtown in Bee Cave, has featured big-name acts, from David Bowie and Foster the People to Willie Nelson, who has hosted several Fourth of July picnics there. Our inaugural jazz fest was also held there last month.



A SoCo staple since 1957, **The Continental Club** was a main part of an amazing era of Austin music in the 1970s, featuring musicians including Vaughan, Charlie Sexton and Joe Ely. The venue is still considered one of the city's finest and hosts a variety of acts, from country to rockabilly.



Known as "the best honky-tonk in Texas," **Broken Spoke** has featured country artists from Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys in 1964 to Dale Watson today. Now flanked on both sides by a mixed-use complex, the venue is Austin's prime example of the old-versus-new dynamic.



**Threadgill's** started it all. Its owner, Kenneth Threadgill, was the first person in Austin to get a liquor license in 1933—the same year he opened the original location on North Lamar. Janis Joplin got her start singing there, and now there's a second restaurant location on Barton Springs Road.



After being relocated here from Lubbock in 1986, **Stubb's Bar-B-Q** quickly became one of the city's best indoor-outdoor concert venues (complete with barbecue). It's hosted everyone from Adele and Snoop Dogg to Lady Gaga at her now-infamous SXSW show this year.

**Did You Know?**

### They're From Here!

25 musicians and bands that Austin can proudly claim

- Alpha Rev
- Marcia Ball
- The Black Angels
- Blue October
- Butthole Surfers
- Gary Clark Jr.
- Court Yard Hounds
- Alejandro Escovedo
- Ghostland Observatory
- Patty Griffin
- Janis Joplin
- Robert Earl Keen
- Ben Kweller
- James McMurtry
- Willie Nelson
- Okkervil River
- Bruce Robison
- Bob Schneider
- Charlie Sexton
- Spoon
- Jimmie Vaughan
- Stevie Ray Vaughan
- Jerry Jeff Walker
- Dale Watson
- Kelly Willis

PHOTOS BY: CONTINENTAL CLUB AND THREADGILL'S; JON SHAPLEY; MOHAWK; CHRIS TZITIS; ANTONE'S, BACKYARD, BROKEN SPOKE AND STUBB'S PHOTOS COURTESY VENUES.



## The New Crew

Young venues already making their mark on ATX

Indie bands from Austin and around the world flock to **Mohawk**, which has been open since 2006. The unique bar and live music venue has a small indoor stage and a two-tiered outdoor space for bigger acts, such as The Lemonheads, who played there in 2012.

Since 2011, **ACL Live at The Moody Theater** has been hosting about 100 concerts a year—on top of being the host of PBS' ACL TV tapings. It's hosted bands ranging from Tom Jones and Sheryl Crow to Robin Thicke.

Open since spring 2013, open-air venue **Austin360 Amphitheater** at Circuit of The Americas not only holds 14,000 people, but it has already hosted huge acts from Mumford & Sons to Jimmy Buffett.

## Calling the Shots

Familiarize yourself with these famous directors



**Terrence Malick**

With films that include *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven*, *The Thin Red Line* and *The Tree of Life*, no other Austin-based director has had a greater influence on upcoming filmmakers than the industry's most-famous recluse.



**Richard Linklater**

His idiosyncratic style leaves some viewers dazed and confused, but most would agree that the diversity of Linklater's body of work (*Slacker*, *Dazed and Confused*, *School of Rock*, the *Before Sunset* trilogy, *Bernie* and the upcoming *Boyhood*) makes other filmmakers green with envy.



**Robert Rodriguez**

Famous for making his first feature, *El Mariachi*, on a budget of \$7,000, Rodriguez has gone on to create the *Spy Kids* movies and to be a frequent collaborator with Quentin Tarantino (*From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Grindhouse*). Oh, he also started cable network El Rey last year.



**Jeff Nichols**

The city's next auteur has actually never made a film in Austin. But with three critically acclaimed ones under his belt, *Shotgun Stories*, *Take Shelter* and *Mud*, we don't mind. His next project, *Midnight Special*, stars Kirsten Dunst and his go-to actor, Michael Shannon.



**David Gordon Green**

The sometimes indie (*Prince Avalanche*, *Joe*), sometimes big-budget (*Pineapple Express*) filmmaker shoots in and around Austin constantly. Look for his newest production, *Manglehorn*, starring Al Pacino and Holly Hunter, later this year.



**Kat Candler**

Up-and-comer Candler made a splash at this year's Sundance with her Aaron Paul-led drama *Hellion*, which is being released in New York and Los Angeles this month.



**Jay and Mark Duplass**

Best known for indie films *The Puffy Chair*, *Cyrus* and *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*, these brothers have made seven films together since graduating from UT. These days, Mark is making a name for himself as an actor, appearing in *The League*, *The Mindy Project* and more.

## Movie Magic

Five movies that put Austin on the film industry map



**The Texas Chainsaw Massacre**

The slasher flick that started the gore-fest genre turns 40 this year. Future Oscar winners Renee Zellweger and Matthew McConaughey starred in the 1994 reboot of the franchise.

**The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas**

Yep, the 1982 romp starring Burt Reynolds as a sheriff and Dolly Parton as a madam was shot in and around Austin.

**Blood Simple**

In 1984, this stylish thriller launched the careers of its star, Frances McDormand, and the Coen brothers, who directed it.

**Slacker**

Richard Linklater's depiction of young Austinites gave the city its reputation of being a quirky, laid-back college town.

**Office Space**

Corporate spoofing doesn't get much better than the 1999 Mike Judge gem, which is now a cult favorite.

### Tube Tops



Austin isn't just movies—TV makes up a big portion of our film industry revenue. With shows like the beloved *Friday Night Lights*, NBC apocalyptic drama *Revolution* and more casting for reality shows than you can shake a stick at (including *Property Brothers*, which shot half its season here), our TV industry is very healthy.

# Lights, Camera, Austin!

With three major film festivals in town (Austin Film Festival, South by Southwest and Fantastic Fest), top-notch directors using Austin as their muse and movie stars casually gallivanting down SoCo, the mother ship for cinephiles is right here. (Sorry, Hollywood.) Recently, Richard Linklater's Austin homage *Dazed and Confused* celebrated its 20th anniversary, Jeff Nichols assisted in the McConaissance with indie hit *Mud* and Terrence Malick shot an as-of-yet-untitled movie that brought the likes of Ryan Gosling, Natalie Portman and Michael Fassbender to town in 2012. The benefit of filming movie and television productions here is more than just the considerable tax break—it's also hanging around with heavy hitters in the entertainment industry, including Linklater, who also heads the nonprofit Austin Film Society, director Robert Rodriguez and Tim League, owner and CEO of the Alamo Drafthouse franchise, who spread the gospel of Austin far and wide and encourage major players to invest in resident talent.

# Fan-Tastic

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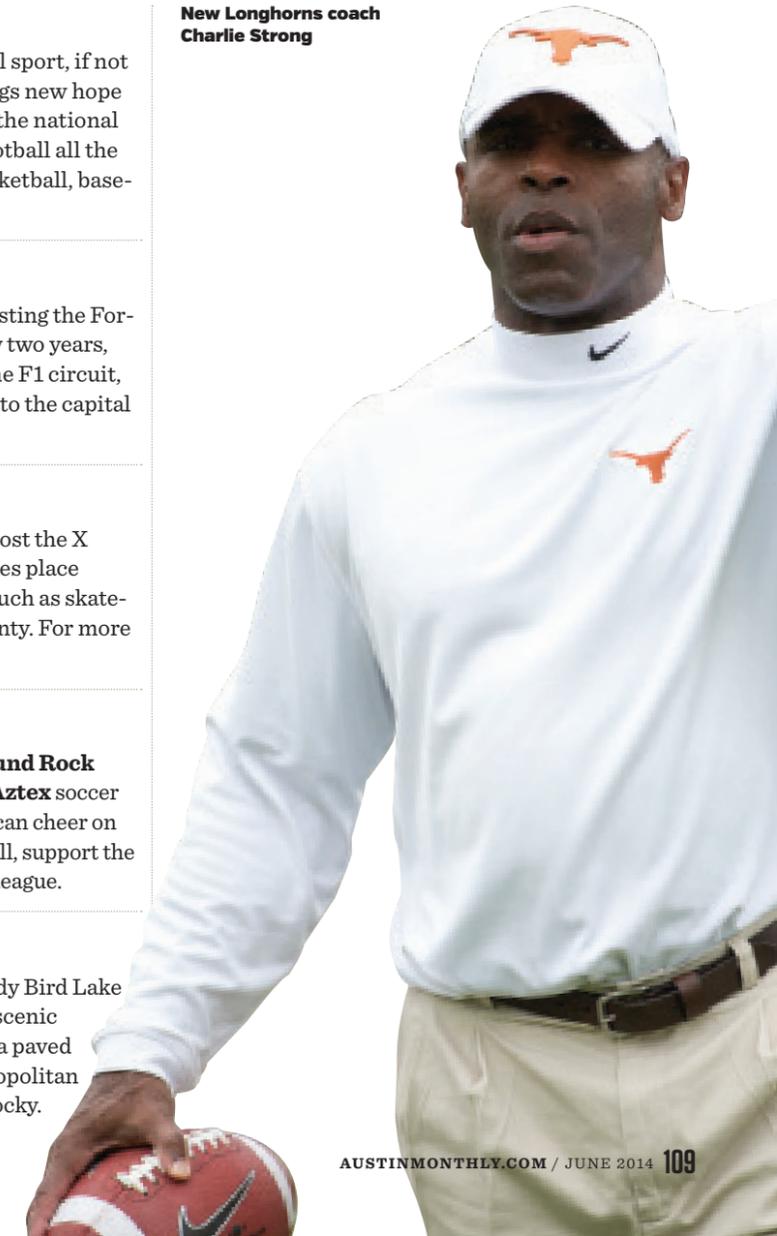
The city that proudly bleeds burnt-orange better make some room because Austin's sporting landscape is a lot more colorful these days.

Though we're a city without a major sports franchise, the 2012 opening of Circuit of The Americas catapulted us into the international stratosphere, and the 2014 X Games taking place this month is another major addition. The local minor league teams are doing well for themselves, too: the Austin Toros basketball team won the NBA development league championship in 2012, the Austin Aztex soccer team won its PDL championship in 2013 and the Round Rock Express baseball team has won five minor league titles. And, oh yeah, about those Longhorns: The dissolution of Mack Brown's tenure as the football program's head coach marked the end of an era. But new coach Charlie Strong brings a fresh perspective to a team in need of a little rejuvenation.

## Longhorns

The burnt-orange faithful treat Longhorn football as a professional sport, if not a veritable religion. Recently hired head coach Charlie Strong brings new hope to the team, which has struggled in the past four years but went to the national championship in the '09 season and won it in '05. But it's not all football all the time; the university also has other exciting athletics, including basketball, baseball, volleyball, golf, swimming and diving and track and field.

**New Longhorns coach Charlie Strong**



## Formula 1

Since November 2012, Austin has satiated our need for speed by hosting the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas. In only two years, the 3.4-mile COTA track has been called one of the best tracks on the F1 circuit, and the influx of international fans has brought worldwide acclaim to the capital city—as well as quite the financial boost.

## X Games

Locals were thrilled last year when our fair city secured the bid to host the X Games, which happens this year June 5-8. The four-day festival takes place downtown and at COTA and features extreme sport competitions such as skateboarding, BMX and Moto X in addition to concerts and parties aplenty. For more on the event, see "X Marks the Spot" on page 122.

## Other Sports

Looking to have a ball? Head north to the Dell Diamond to see the **Round Rock Express** minor league baseball team, or get your kicks at an **Austin Aztex** soccer game at House Park stadium near downtown. This summer, you also can cheer on the new **Austin Aces**, a Mylan World Team Tennis team, and come fall, support the **Austin Toros**, a basketball team that plays in the NBA development league.

## Biking/Running

A sunny day calls for a bike ride, run or stroll along the beautiful Lady Bird Lake hike-and-bike trail. Another great spot for running or hiking is the scenic Barton Creek Greenbelt. Bikers of all levels will enjoy the Veloway, a paved trail, while experienced bikers should venture to Emma Long Metropolitan Park, which contains fun but challenging trails that are steep and rocky.



### Eeyore's Birthday

One of Austin's funkiest traditions, this annual April event is complete with drum circles, outlandish costumes and smoke so thick you'll have to wear goggles.

## Newcomers' Guide

# Celebrate the Weirdness

Even if you don't have a freak flag to fly, in this town we embrace those who do. While our main mascot, the cross-dressing, jovial Leslie Cochran, passed away in March 2012, there are still people and places that are keeping the oddness in the capital city alive and well.

PHOTO BY ROSENFIELD.

PHOTOS BY: ROLLER DERBY; THONG GUY; SANDY CARSON; CHRISTMAS TREES, ANDREW HOLMES; CHICKEN SHIT BINGO, LEAH OVERSTREET; I LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND AUSTIN POSTCARD MURAL, JON SHAPLEY; HI, HOW ARE YOU, CORY RIVADEMAR; WILLIE NELSON STATUE, AVA BAIRD; LALA'S, CATHEDRAL OF JUNK AND OASIS PHOTOS COURTESY SUBJECTS, SRV STATUE PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK.



### Lala's Bar

With Christmas decorations all year long, this North Austin dive bar is perfect for those nights when you want to straddle the line between naughty and nice.



### Thong Guys

The death of local cultural fixture Leslie left a thong-shaped hole in Austin's heart, but there are a few cyclists in town doing their best to fill the void. Bonus: Sightings indicate the arrival of warmer temps better than any weatherman could.



### Chicken Sh\*t Bingo

Cheer for a chicken to drop a hot one on your number at Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon. Add cheap Lone Star and tunes from Dale Watson, and it's the perfect Sunday.



### Roller Derby

With sassy, punny monikers like Dusty Doublewide and Loretta Sin, these ladies kick butt and take names like nobody's business in this hard-hitting sport.



### 360 Christmas Trees

If you have to sit in traffic, at least you can enjoy some holiday spirit. Every December, folks decorate the trees that line Capital of Texas Highway (aka 360) with tinsel and ornaments. It makes for a festive commute in West Austin.



### Cathedral of Junk

They say one man's trash is another man's treasure, and this funky South Austin haven is a refuge for re-users. Stop by for a visit and be amazed by the junk-as-art concept.

Top Picks

## Photo Ops

Looking for the perfect spot to take a quintessential Austin photo? Head to these six places for postcard shots.



### I Love You So Much graffiti

On the side of Jo's Coffee on South Congress



### "Hi, How Are You" mural

Off The Drag at 21st Street



### Stevie Ray Vaughan statue

On the hike-and-bike trail, near South First Street



### Willie Nelson statue

In front of The Moody Theater



### The Oasis

Overlooking Lake Travis



### Austin postcard mural

On the side of Roadhouse Relics, South First Street

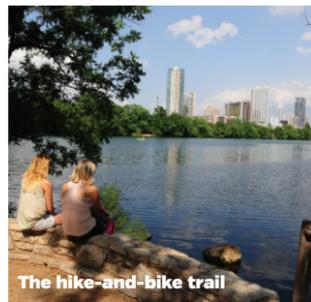
## Off-Leash Areas

Your pup will love visiting these 12 parks

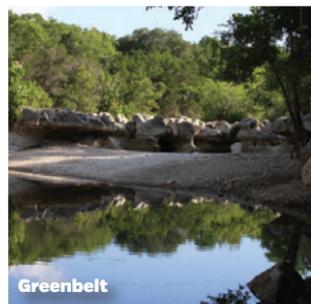
- Auditorium Shores
- Davis White Northeast District Park
- Emma Long Park
- Onion Creek District Park
- Shoal Creek Greenbelt
- West Austin Park
- Walnut Creek District Park
- Zilker Park
- Red Bud Isle
- Far West
- Mary Moore Searight Metro Park
- Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metro Park



Hamilton Pool



The hike-and-bike trail



Greenbelt

### Swimming Holes

When the thermometer hits 100 degrees, you'll want to cool off in one of the city's swimming holes. Try out **Barton Springs, Hamilton Pool, Deep Eddy** and **Krause Springs**—you'll quickly find a favorite.

### Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail

During the few months of merciful weather, there's no better place to get your workout in than the trail at Lady Bird Lake. While burning calories, you can also admire the city skyline, watch kayakers and stand-up paddleboarders and people-watch.

### Greenbelt

Who says Texas is flat? Thanks to this more than 7-mile stretch of limestone cliffs, dense foliage and shallow bodies of water, you can rock-climb, catch a quick dip and go for a hike, all in one afternoon.

## Kid Central

Five places guaranteed to entertain little ones



**Thinkery**  
This children's museum in the Mueller development focuses on STEAM: science, technology, engineering, arts and math.



**Peter Pan Mini-Golf**  
What's not to love about two 18-hole courses featuring bright colors and quirky characters like a giant T-Rex? Even better: It's BYOB for the adults.



**Zilker Zephyr**  
Hop on board: Kids go crazy for this miniature train that takes 25-minute rides through Zilker Park.



**Alamo Drafthouse Kids' Camp**  
Every summer, certain Drafthouse theaters show kids' movies Monday through Thursday mornings. Tickets are free; hot chocolate chip cookies and milkshakes are not.



**Central Market North Lamar playscape**  
Sit on the huge, shaded deck, sipping a coffee or eating a gelato while your tykes burn off some energy as they climb, slide and scurry through tunnels.

PHOTOS BY: THINKERY, JON SHAPLEY; CENTRAL MARKET, CORY RIVADEMAR. PHOTOS COURTESY: HAMILTON POOL, PETER PAN MINI-GOLF, ZILKER ZEPHYR, DRAFTHOUSE. SUBJECTS: HIKE-AND-BIKE TRAIL AND GREENBELT, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE. DOG PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK.



## Zilker Park

This 351-acre South Austin landmark is the perfect place to bring your pups, play soccer or have a picnic. It's also home to many big annual events throughout the year, including Blues on the Green, the Kite Festival, ACL Music Festival and Trail of Lights.

# Sunshine State

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Spending time outside is a big part of life in Austin. It doesn't matter if you hike, bike, swim, walk or run, there are plenty of cool places to explore in this town. So what are you waiting for?

**“If you happen to see Matthew McConaughey walking down the street, please refrain from quoting *Dazed and Confused* lines to him.”**



**Philip Speer**  
Director of culinary operations, Uchi/Uchiko

**“Don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty: Dig through the fresh-from-the-garden vegetables at the local farmers’ markets. You’ll not only look like a local, but you’ll soon be cooking and eating like one, too.”**



**Stéphane Beaucamp**  
Executive Chef, Lake Austin Spa Resort

**“Ignore the cranky protectionists and crackpots who want to make you feel badly about moving here. Instead, fit into our culture and sustain what makes Austin different with this simple approach: When possible, shop and dine local, see live music, support the arts and volunteer for an Austin nonprofit you believe in. We’ve become a city great at balancing old and new: The Driskill and W Austin, Threadgill’s and Franklin, Hut’s and Hopdoddy, the Paramount and ACL Live, Willie Nelson and Shakey Graves. Be part of that equation—find what you love about old Austin while also embracing something new.”**



**Andy Langer**  
KGSR DJ and writer for *Esquire*, *Texas Monthly* and more

**“Get the kids hooked on queso early, so you always have an excuse to order it.”**



**Lois Kim**  
Executive Director, Texas Book Festival

**“To adapt a Waller Creek Conservancy slogan: There’s Old Austin and New Austin. And then there’s Our Austin. Try to live in Our Austin, the one we all share.”**



**Michael Barnes**  
Out & About social columnist, *Austin American-Statesman*

**“The scoreboard in Austin isn’t about what is biggest and flashiest; rather, it is who can make a difference and be interesting while doing it.”**



**Jim Ritts**  
Executive Director of the Paramount

**“It’s pretty much OK to wear flip-flops all the time. Even at night. Even to work. Even out to dinner.”**



**Jen Strickland**  
Co-owner, Home Slice Pizza

# How to Fit Right In

Advice on Austin from in-the-know locals

# The Big Events

## Newcomers' Guide

There are so many annual festivals, events, races and concert series in this town, it’s hard to keep track of them all. Here’s a comprehensive calendar to help you out.

June 2014						
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29	30					

- **X-Games** June 5-8
- **ATX Television Festival** June 5-8
- **Republic of Texas Biker Rally** June 12-15
- **Juneteenth Parade** June 21
- **Keep Austin Weird Fest & 5K** June 28

July 2014						
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27	28	29	30	31		

- **Austin Symphony Fourth of July Celebration** July 4
- **Austin Chamber Music Festival** July 10-27

August 2014								
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- **Ice Cream Festival** Aug. 9
- **Bat Fest** Aug. 23
- **Hot Sauce Festival** Aug. 24

September 2014						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- **Fantastic Fest** Sept. 18-25
- **Austin Pride** Sept. 20
- **Pecan Street Festival** Sept. 27-28

October 2014						
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- **Austin Comic Con** Oct. 2-4
- **ACL Music Festival** Oct. 3-5 & 10-12
- **SXSW Eco** Oct. 6-8
- **Austin Celtic Festival** Oct. 18-19
- **Austin Film Festival** Oct. 23-30
- **Austin Record Show** Oct. 24-26
- **Texas Book Festival** Oct. 25-26
- **Formula 1 Grand Prix** Oct. 31-Nov. 2

November 2014							
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

- **Fun Fun Fun Fest** Nov. 7-9
- **East Austin Studio Tour** Nov. 15-16 & 22-23
- **A Christmas Affair** Nov. 19-23

December 2014						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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- **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar** Dec. 16-24
- **Trail of Lights** Dates TBA

January 2015						
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- **Barton Springs Polar Bear Plunge** Jan. 1
- **Austin Gorilla Run** Date TBA

February 2015						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- **Chinese New Year** Feb. 19
- **Carnaval Brasileiro** Date TBA
- **Austin Marathon** Feb. 15
- **Texas Rollergirls season kicks off** Date TBA

March 2015						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- **Zilker Kite Festival** Date TBA
- **South by Southwest Edu** March 9-12
- **SXSW Film, Interactive and Music** March 13-22
- **Texas Relays** March 25-28
- **Urban Music Festival** Date TBA

April 2015						
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- **Capitol 10K** April 12
- **Fusebox Festival** Dates TBA
- **Moontower Festival** Dates TBA
- **Austin Food & Wine Festival** Dates TBA
- **Eeyore's Birthday** April 25
- **Blues on the Green** Dates TBA

May 2015						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- **Pecan Street Festival** May 2-3
- **Cinco de Mayo** May 5
- **RedFest** Dates TBA
- **West Austin Studio Tour** Dates TBA

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