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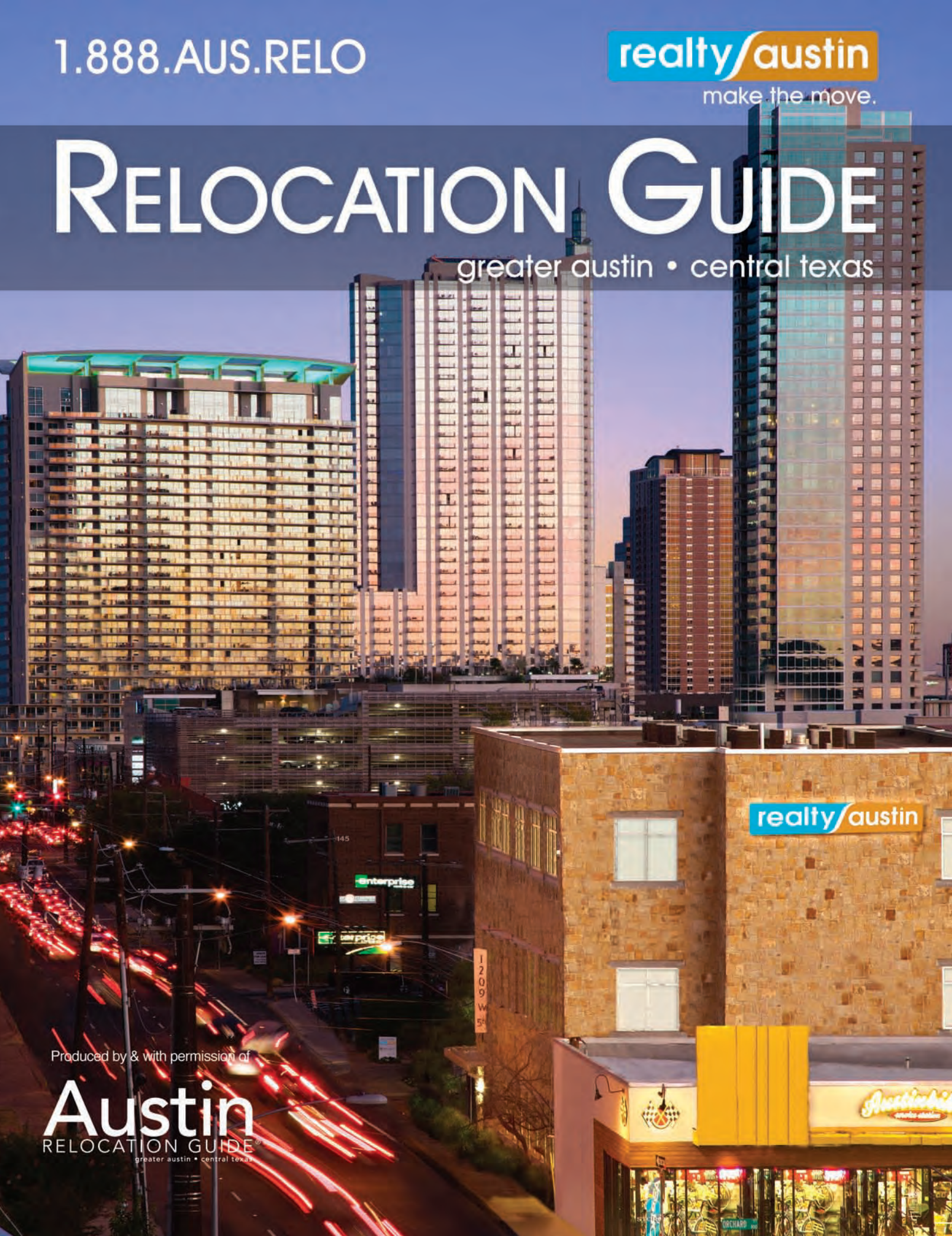
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# RELOCATION GUIDE

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**Austin**  
RELOCATION GUIDE  
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# Welcome to Austin, Texas

**W**hether it's the music, bats, food, or the University of Texas Longhorns, there's a reason why 17 million people each year choose Austin as their travel destination of choice – and why thousands more move here each year.

In fact, both the worldwide *Employee Relocation Council* and *Primacy Relocation, LLC* have each ranked Austin, Texas first in surveys of the country's "best large markets for relocating families."

Austin, Texas is the home of both the state capital and a million Mexican free-tailed bats who swoop nightly from underneath the Congress Avenue Bridge. The "Live Music Capital of the World" also boasts a funky mix of award-winning restaurants, mouth-watering barbeque, tattooed hipsters, a refreshing liberal culture, politics, and high technology.



In the end, Austin is like the oldest sibling – the one who paved the way so the rest of the kids had it easier – with a laid-back, take-it-or-leave-it kind of attitude that matches well with its fun and funky culture. Perhaps that’s why so many celebrities – including Sandra Bullock, Lance Armstrong, Robert Rodriguez and others – decide to move here. They won’t be bothered here – because, to be honest, no one cares.

### ANYTHING BUT FLAT

Located right about in the center of the state, Austin is about three hours south of Dallas; three hours west of Houston; and about 90 minutes north of San Antonio – depending on I-35 traffic, of course.

Austin’s geographic location is in south central Texas, where the Colorado River crosses the *Balcones Escarpment* – which separates the Texas Hill Country from the state’s blackland prairies to the east. The escarpment is also responsible for creating the city’s limestone cliff formations that define Austin’s anything-but-Texas surroundings.

Look around. You won’t find flat or desolate here. With its steep terrain, creeks, parks and the Colorado River, there’s no doubt that Austin is an outdoor city. Many visitors can’t believe they’re still in Texas. Instead, stunning vistas, massive hills, wildflowers, and a year-round outdoor lifestyle have earned Austin a reputation as one of the nation’s fittest cities. And both visitors and residents alike revel in the stunning beauty that combines the best of the Texas prairie with the scenic Hill Country.

The Colorado River only adds to that beauty – flowing through the heart of the city to create a series of lakes via dams that stretch for more than 100 miles. And its crown jewel is right in the center – it’s one of the dammed portions of the river and is known as *Lady Bird Lake*, in honor of Lady Bird Johnson. Surrounded by the



Photo By Robert H. McCaee

giant Zilker Park, the Lady Bird Lake is the epicenter of outdoor activity – from kayaking and rowing to the miles of running trails that circle it.

### WATERLOO: THE ORIGINAL AUSTIN

Originally settled by Indians, Austin’s first village was *Waterloo* – and it’s the one that was chosen to become the state’s capital of the new Republic of Texas.

The city was later named after Stephen F. Austin, “the father of Texas,” and its founders’ vision included a state capitol building that would look down from a hill over the city. Texas was annexed 1845, and the State Capitol was built in 1888 – on a hill, with stunning views of the city.

Built as a result of the largest barter transactions in history (the builders got 3 million acres in the Texas Panhandle, which later became the XIT Ranch – the largest cattle ranch in the world), the Texas State Capitol is one of the state’s most popular attractions with more than 1 million visitors each year.

Built from limestone and pink granite from nearby Marble Falls in the same architectural style as the nation’s Capitol, it’s actually taller than its distant D.C. sibling by seven feet – making it the largest state capital in the U.S.

Today, with a population of nearly 791,000, Austin is the fourth-largest city in Texas. The greater Austin area, which includes Travis, Williamson, Hays, Caldwell and Bastrop counties and stretches for 258.43 square miles, has a population of nearly 1.8 million.

### DEDICATED CITIZENS

Most people who have lived in Austin – no matter how long – say they wouldn’t live anywhere else but here – and for good reason.

The state capital of Texas inspires fierce hometown dedication to its rolling terrain, natural living, liberal attitudes, interesting people, quality of life, stellar educational opportunities, and thriving business community – among other qualities. The combination has attracted the attention of ▶



# WELCOME TO AUSTIN

Photo By H. Chase Seal



those relocating from all over the country and internationally – and plenty of accolades from multiple sources.

Consider that Austin ranked second among the 10 best cities to find a job in a survey (*Ajilon Professional Staffing, 2011*); that the city has been named one of the top 20 strongest-performing metropolitan areas (*Brookings Institution, 2011*); that Austin has the second-highest well-being of any metro area with more than 1 million residents (*Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, 2011*); and that *Fortune* ranked Austin as the “third-biggest brain magnet” (*Fortune, 2011*).

*MovieMaker* magazine ranks Austin fourth on its list of best cities to “live, work and make movies,” and the city regularly leads “best of” lists for places where your dollar goes farthest – which include such critical factors as affordable housing, gas prices, inflation, and job market. In fact, in 2011, *Business Review USA* named Austin as one of its “best American cities to live and work.”

The bottom line is that Austin has a lot to offer, and has been recognized for its stable median family income, per capita income and per capita disposable income levels, along with cost of living,

state and local tax burdens, family and individual poverty levels and unemployment rates by national relocation companies and surveys.

## AUSTIN'S INTERESTING MIX

Austin is a heady mix of technology, education, government, music, film and the arts. Austin residents – and visitors who want to be residents – have discovered a surprising combination that’s like no other city in the state, and it’s the kind of mix that’s hard to ignore.

Think authentic Tex-Mex and barbeque to elegant, four-star restaurants and nationally-known chefs; two-stepping and country music to jazz, modern and alternative rock; Longhorns and cowboy hats to shaved heads and tattoos; and a drag queen affectionately known as Leslie who once ran for mayor. With its friendliness, laid-back attitude and “anything goes” attitude, Austin is heavy on appeal.

## AUSTIN'S ARTS SCENE: MUSIC, FILM, TV AND CULTURE

The Austin area might be smaller than other big Texas cities, but there’s no doubt that it’s a vibrant center of Texas life and culture. The arts are thriving here, thanks in part to a longstanding creative community,

a passion for arts, music and everything creative, and the draw and influence of the University of Texas.

That influence is most evident with one of the city’s newest cultural gems: the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, which opened in May 2006. Housed near the UT campus, the Blanton is the largest university art museum in the country. It’s an 180,000-square foot, two building complex that contains all of UT’s 17,000 works of art – art that was previously kept in storage for lack of space.

Permanent collections include 300-plus European paintings (Baroque and Italian Renaissance by such masters as Sebastiano del Piombo, Rubens, Giulio Cesare Amidano and others); an American and Contemporary Art collection with more than 4,000 paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, and new media that cover the American West, early American modernism, Pop, Social Realism, Abstract Expressionism and more; a 2,000-plus Latin American art collection; more than 13,000 prints and drawings from such diverse artists as Rembrandt, Goya and Picasso; and much more.

Austin is also home to a number of public museums throughout the city and on the UT campus, as well as a host of private galleries, including the Austin Children’s Museum, Austin Nature and Science Center, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Elisabet Ney Museum, Mexic-Arte Museum, LBJ Library and Museum, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, and the Mexican-American Cultural Center. (Visit [www.inthegalleriesaustin.com](http://www.inthegalleriesaustin.com) for a complete list of cultural and creative visual arts venues.)

High culture is found with the *Austin Symphony*, *Ballet Austin* and *Austin Lyric Opera*, along with ongoing music, theater and dance presentations at *UT’s Performing Arts Center/Bass Concert Hall*, and *The Frank Erwin*



*Center*, both of which combine to bring great talent to Austin. The *Austin Music Hall*, which was torn down, expanded to a seating capacity of 4,400, and re-opened at the end of 2007, gave the city another much-needed live music venue.

The *Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts* opened in March 2008, giving residents a vibrant community arts center, featuring top musical, dance and dramatic performances for kids and adults alike, and the much-anticipated *ACL Live at the Moody Theater* – the performance venue for the famed Austin City Limits television show and associated music festival – opened in 2011, adjacent to the new W Hotel.

The historic *Paramount Theater* downtown and the *One World Theater* in the hills off Bee Caves Road host national, regional and local productions, and a huge variety of theater companies both small and large offer theater performances of every type, including the *Dougherty Arts Center*, *Zachary Scott Theatre*, *State Theatre*, *Scottish Rite Children’s Theatre*, the *Austin Playhouse at Penn Field*, *Esther’s Follies*, and the *Capital City Comedy Club*, just to name a few.

As the “Live Music Capital of the World,” music is, of course, synonymous with the city. The clubs on Sixth Street are a major attraction, as are major industry conferences like South by Southwest and NAMM – the trade association of the international music products industry, which held its annual conference in Austin in 2006 and 2007.

For more than 30 years, the national PBS series *Austin City Limits* has been filmed and produced on the UT campus by local public television station KLRU, showcasing the best of American music and the thriving Texas and Austin music scene for millions of viewers worldwide – and the Festival does the same for fans all over the

world who travel to Austin to get a taste of it in person.

The *Austin City Limits Music Festival*, launched in 2002, is a huge draw each fall at Zilker Park, attracting more than 70,000 fans on each day of the three-day festival that enjoy more than 130 bands on eight stages. Thanks to ACL, as it’s called, and to the many musicians who live, work and make music here, Austin more than lives up to its musical nickname.

Music clubs line both the popular Sixth Street entertainment district and the Fourth Street Warehouse District, as well as throughout the rest of the city. There’s an opportunity to hear live music any time of day here – from the local musicians who welcome visitors with daily concerts at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to the weekday lunchtime concerts in front of City Hall and the bars, restaurants, dance clubs and other entertainment options along and near Sixth Street and Congress Avenue, and the thriving Second Street District.

The city is also a center for filmmaking and television, nurturing local talents like now nationally known directors such as Richard Linklater, Robert Rodriguez and Mike Judge, and filmmaker Terence Malick. The variety of scenery and diverse natural environments in the area have made Austin the location for such Hollywood productions as *Miss Congeniality*, *Courage Under Fire*, *The Alamo*, *Hope Floats*, *Michael*, all of Rodriguez’ *Spy Kids* films, and the critically-acclaimed television series *Friday Night Lights*.

## **AUSTIN, TEXAS: A GREAT PLACE FOR BUSINESS**

Besides fun, recreation, music and great food, Austin also has a reputation as a thriving and vibrant business community. Companies here offer a virtual cornucopia of business and

industry, including technology (software, hardware, biotechnology and more), government, education, music, healthcare, and film – plus many other support services and industries.

While Austin, Texas is probably most known for its technology base and its reputation as the “Silicon Hills,” thanks to such major local employers as Dell, Inc., IBM, AMD, Applied Materials, National Instruments, Apple, and Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., among others, it’s also home to a huge government and public employment sector.

In fact, Austin, Texas is the site of a regional Internal Revenue Service office, and the University of Texas at Austin, the State of Texas, the Austin Independent School District and the Round Rock Independent School District. All rank among the area’s largest employers (see *specific large employer lists in this section for more information*).

The state in general – and Austin in particular – is also a magnet for new projects, expansions, and relocations, winning *Site Selection* magazine’s 2010 *Governor’s Cup* for new project activity and beating out 49 other states with a whopping 424 projects. Qualifying Texas projects include private sector capital investment of at least \$1 million in commercial facilities; and 50 or more new jobs or new construction of at least 20,000 square feet.

Besides a flourishing corporate business culture, Austin is also tops for those who want to start their own business venture, ranking first among cities where the “business opportunity is greatest for growing companies,” according to *Expansion* magazine. Austin was also noted as leading the nation in “Small Business Vitality” rankings, according to *The Business Journals On Numbers* (2011) – and that’s great news for entrepreneurs. ►



## WELCOME TO AUSTIN

Known as an incubator for countless homegrown enterprises, Austin boasts several stellar resources for many startup companies, including Austin Ventures – one of the region’s most active venture capital firms with \$3.9 billion under management across 10 funds – and in terms of total deals, Austin ranked fourth (*CB Insights, Q1 2010*). Multiple Austin companies have also made the Deloitte *Texas Technology Fast 50* list in past years, as well as Inc. magazine’s annual list of the *500 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in the U.S.*

And, as the home to the *University of Texas* – the fifth-largest in the country with an enrollment of 48,167 in spring 2011, including 38,549 undergraduates – as well as such other distinguished colleges and universities as *St. Edward’s University*, *Southwestern University* in Georgetown, and *Texas State University* in San Marcos, there’s no shortage of a talented and highly educated employee and entrepreneur base.

### OUTDOOR LIVING

The Austin area gives first-time visitors a striking impression with its rolling hills, lush greenery, and no tumbleweeds in sight. It’s that natural beauty that is another reason for the city’s appeal – and that has nurtured an active outdoor lifestyle, including beautiful places to swim, jog, cycle, boat, play golf, and much more.

The city’s natural surroundings invite residents to take part in a vast range of outdoor and sports activities – and they certainly do, thanks to about 300 days of sunshine per year, normal average daily temperatures of about 65 degrees (and about 95 degrees in the hottest months of July and August), and an average annual rainfall of 33.78 inches. Of course, there’s a saying in Texas that if you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute. It might be hot one day and freezing the next, but it’s just a part of the charming

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“{Austin’s} natural surroundings invite residents to take part in a vast range of outdoor and sports activities – and they certainly do, thanks to about 300 days of sunshine per year...”

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dichotomy that residents have learned to love – or at least tolerate.

Love parks? Well, you’ve come to the right place. Austin is truly “a city within a park” with more than 15,000 acres of parkland that include more than 220 parks and 24 greenbelts, plus a number of nearby state parks. The city itself has more than 32 miles of inner city trails, including the 10-mile hike & bike trail around Lady Bird Lake, which is busy with walkers, runners and cyclists nearly every hour of every day.

Like to swim? There are 47 public pools throughout the city that keep residents “in the swim,” while Lake Austin on the west side of town and nearby Lake Travis offer even more aquatic activities. Don’t miss Austin’s jewel – Barton Springs, a natural spring that stays a refreshingly cool 68 degrees year-round. Hamilton Pool is another favorite, as are Deep Eddy and other local swimming holes.

Avid golfers will feel right at home in Austin with its six municipal courses and a host of private links and country clubs, including a number of world-class courses designed by Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and others.

Prefer spectator sports? The area is home to several professional sports clubs: the

Round Rock Express Triple-A baseball team and the Texas Stars hockey team. And, in recent developments, Austin will soon be the host to Formula One racing – with an agreement to serve as the host city of the *Formula 1 United States Grand Prix* from 2012 through 2021.

Of course, there’s no question that the University of Texas Longhorns are high on the list of most popular sports events here, and there’s also a host of top NCAA college athletic events throughout the school year, including UT’s football team, baseball team, basketball team, and men’s and women’s soccer and volleyball teams.

The city is also home to golf legends such as Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite and the late Harvey Penick, famed football players like Earl Campbell and Ty Detmer, UT coach Darrell Royal, and cyclist and seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

### FINE FOOD AND ECLECTIC SHOPPING

When you’re out and about in Austin, you’re bound to get hungry after all that activity. That’s good, because dining in Austin is a delight. A cornucopia of restaurants offer such delicious local fare as Mexican food, barbecue and Southern-style cooking, as well as everything from sushi bars to Italian bistros



to fine French cafés and sumptuous steakhouses.

Try Guero's Taco Ba on South Congress or Chuy's Tex-Mex (multiple locations) for casual, Mexican fare; The Salt Lick or County Line for barbecue; or Aquarelle, Hudson's on the Bend, Jeffrey's, Uchi or Vespaio for the best in fine dining.

Once you've satisfied your appetite, it's off to do some shopping. The city's newest retail paradise is The Domain, in northwest Austin. With Austin's first Neiman-Marcus setting the tone, The Domain's luxury shops, boutiques and restaurants include Barney's CO-OP, Tiffany & Co., David Yurman, Louis Vuitton, Michael Kors, Tumi, the Apple store, and more.

There's also the Hill Country Galleria – 152 acres of expansive natural beauty in Bee Cave with eclectic shopping, dining and entertainment, as well as office and residential space. Surrounded by a lush nature preserve, wildflowers, native trees and rocky streams, the Hill Country Galleria is an ideal way to spend an afternoon.

Major malls in the Austin area include Lakeline Mall in Cedar Park (Macy's, Dillard's, Sears and J.C. Penney); Hill Country Galleria and Barton Creek Square Mall (Macy's, Dillard's, Sears, J.C. Penney, and Nordstrom). There's also the Arboretum, which is home to national chains such as The Gap, Pottery Barn, and Barnes & Noble, as well as boutique stores and spas.

Don't miss the charming boutiques and shops on South First, the Second Street District and more, or the vintage and antique shops located on South Congress, South Lamar, North Loop, Burnet Road, and Guadalupe Street (also known as "The Drag," on the UT campus).

For outlet shopping, this area can't be beat, whether you head to the brand-new Round Rock Outlets just north of town, or the Premier and Tanger Outlet Malls in San Marcos - just 30 minutes south of downtown on Interstate 35. Austin is also home to a 250,000-square foot IKEA store in Round Rock, and is the place to go for hip, inexpensive European choices in home décor for every room in the house.

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME

There's no doubt that Austin's a great city – the "hippest in the Southwest," according to travel reviews in The New York Times and other national publications, but what ultimately makes the city – and any city – feel like home is its many and varied neighborhoods.

Choose from charming inner city history to minimalist downtown loft living to lush gated communities around the city to quiet suburban neighborhoods – there's no shortage of diverse housing in Austin.

It's also relatively inexpensive to live here. During a time when many cities are still recovering from the aftereffects of the recession and a sluggish housing market, Austin had price gains, with the median new home price as of February 2011 coming in at \$241,500, an increase from \$229,750 from February 2010.

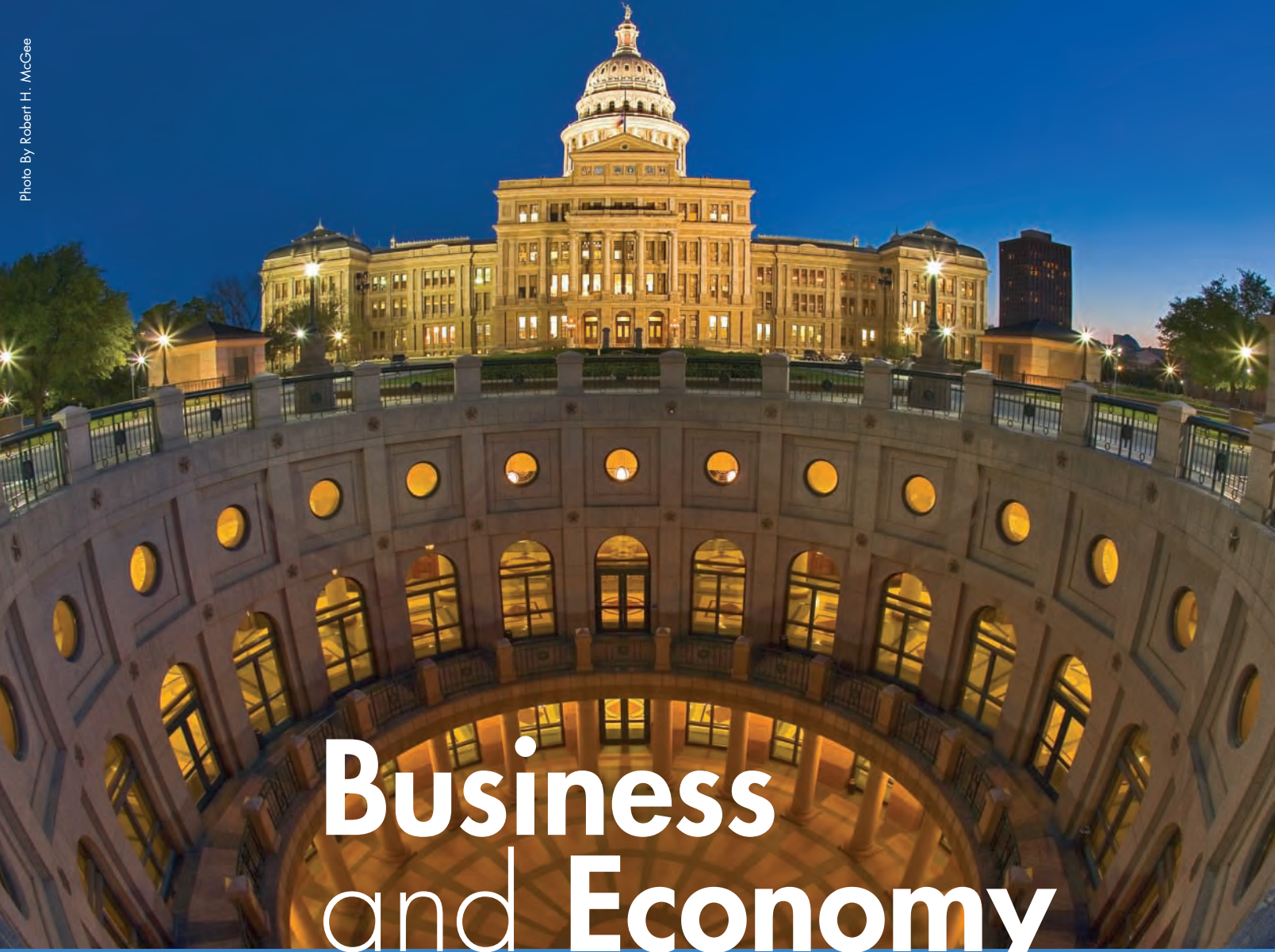
Offerings range from classy downtown condos, elegant old homes, modern showplaces, friendly suburban neighborhoods, countryside ranches and farmhouses on the outskirts of town. Wherever you choose to live in Austin, Texas you will always find the friendly and neighborly atmosphere that pervades the entire community.

Welcome to a city that residents and visitors adore – and that you will, too. As you explore the *Austin Relocation Guide* and the city that it represents, it's easy to see that there's a lot to love about Austin – and that it's a great place to live, enjoy life, and be successful. ■



Photo By: H. Chase Seal





# Business and Economy

**K**nown as one of Forbes' magazine's *Best Places for Business and Careers* for the last several years, Austin offers wide appeal for the businesses and employees who relocate here. With many Austin-area companies ranked on both the Fortune 500 and on the Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing companies – including Dell Inc., IBM, AMD, and Whole Foods – there's no doubt that the city is a great place to live and work.

In fact, Freescale Semiconductor, Whole Foods, Dell, and National Instruments are just a few of the major companies who have chosen Austin, Texas as their corporate home, while many other businesses have moved their research and development, manufacturing, and back-office facilities here.

Austin's labor force is just one reason companies make the move here – and why the city has been consistently ranked among the "hottest labor markets" in the country by BizJournals.com, which analyzes annual employment trends in the nation's 100 largest labor markets — looking primarily at job growth and unemployment.

It's not surprising that the city's high percentage of college graduates are fueling its successful business economy, especially considering the number of top colleges and universities that are based in Central Texas, including the *University of Texas at Austin*; *St. Edwards University*, *Huston-Tillotson University*; *Southwestern University* in Georgetown, and *Texas State University* in San Marcos.

Consider that the latest U.S. Census found that nearly 40 percent of Austin area residents age 25 and over hold a bachelor's degree – well over the national average of 27.5 percent. The engineering, business and law schools at the University of Texas have all been ranked among the *Top 10 Schools for Hispanics* by *Hispanic* magazine, and the magazine also named Austin the *Top City for Hispanics*. It's clear that talented young graduates appreciate Austin's many opportunities – not to mention its quality of life – so recruiting prospective employees is a win-win for both companies and employees.

Research and development thrive here, too, and that has also helped to attract talent from all over the U.S. and internationally. The University of Texas has been ranked number one of more than 400 major research universities worldwide in a Milken Institute study that looked at the ability of universities to produce patents from their biotechnology research.

Not surprisingly, the city has also been able to build a formidable reputation as a hub for biotech research and companies. In fact, in a testament to that reputation, the *Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Organization (CTSIO)*, a not-for-profit industry trade organization "committed to the commercialization and global adoption of clean technologies and sustainable industry practices," created a new branch here, naming it the new global headquarters of the organization.



## LABOR, UNEMPLOYMENT & RELOCATIONS: AUSTIN IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE

Statewide, Texas is in a good place. While the national unemployment rate climbed to 9 percent in May 2011, Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent. And, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas' unemployment rate has consistently remained well below the national rate for the past year and, overall, the Texas labor market continues to make positive gains with the addition of jobs and a decline in the unemployment rate – including job gains occurred across most major industry sectors

That good news includes Austin, Texas. Even in challenging economic times, the city has still experienced steady job, economic and income growth – and all have contributed to a thriving business climate. The unemployment rate here was 6.8 percent as of March 2011 – putting it far below the national average and 1.3 percentage points below the state average.

And, according to recent numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Austin

ranked eighth among the top 50 best-performing metro areas with an increase of more than 777,000 non-farm jobs – a 13,900 increase from March 2010 to March 2011 – and positive net growth of 1.8 percent.

That kind of positive news has people and businesses from around the country headed to Austin for its lower overall cost of living, fair tax structure, lower cost of doing business, and competitive environment. In fact, the Austin area was named number one in *Expansion Management's Top Metros for Future Business Locations* in 2006, and number one again in 2007 as the *City Where Business Opportunity is Greatest for Growing Companies*.

Austin company relocations and expansions in 2011, including either creating, relocating or expanding facilities, encompassed such companies as Apple, Inc., Farmers Insurance, Oracle, PayPal, IBM, Samsung, St. Jude Medical, Borland Software, Demand Media, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Motorola, National Instruments, TECO-Westinghouse, and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, among other organizations. ►



Besides the city's beautiful and scenic surroundings, Austin's cost of living is a lot less than many major cities – and that's yet another reason companies are attracted to the area. According to the annual ACCRA *Cost of Living Index*, Austin has a composite index of 93.3 (as of the third quarter 2011) – on par with Atlanta (98.8), Dallas (96.4) and Raleigh (93.3), but far below Boston (137.2) and San Diego (130.8) in terms of the cost of grocery, housing, utilities, transportation and healthcare. (See chart in this section for a full picture of Austin's ACCRA *Cost of Living Index* ranking.)

It's affordable to live here, too. According to the National Association of Realtors, the median home price in Austin was \$187,400 in 2009, while the national median was \$173,200. Texas also doesn't have either a personal or corporate income tax, adding to its relocation appeal. In fact, overall, Texas has one of the lowest state and local tax burdens in the nation, ranking 47th among the 50 states in taxes paid per \$1000 of personal income.

Because we've remained an affordable place to live and work, growth in the Austin MSA has skyrocketed – increasing by 17 percent since 2000 and expected to double in the next 25 years – to 2,780,504 by 2030. In particular, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties have been consistently ranked among the top 100 fastest-growing counties in the country since 2000 – and all expect double-digit growth for the next 20 years.

### AUSTIN & INDUSTRY: HIGH TECH THRIVING

The rise, fall and rise again of Austin's technology industry has proved that the city is resilient when it comes to starting, growing and nurturing successful businesses – even in a down economy.

Consider that, back in 2008 – even as the recession gathered steam – Texas saw

the second largest high-tech employment gains in the nation. The addition of 14,600 high-tech jobs brought the industry total to 492,400 in 2008 – with the largest tech employment gains in computer systems design and related services; engineering services; and R&D and testing labs.

Even today, Texas remains the second-largest "cyberstate" in terms of total technology industry employment, behind California and ahead of New York. Consider that, according to recent numbers from the Texas Workforce Commission, the Professional and Business Services industry (which includes technology) led Texas' job growth in March with an increase of 10,800 jobs – and positive monthly growth for the past year with a total employment increase of 53,800 jobs.

In 2010, Austin, Texas ranked second among the country's 200 largest metropolitan areas on the Milken Institute's *Best Performing Cities* list, which ranks cities according to metrics like job creation and salary and technology growth. The city was ranked fourth on the list in 2008 – proof positive that this continues to be a great city for growing successful companies.

Top technology employers in Austin include such nationally known companies as Samsung, Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), Apple, Inc., Applied Materials, Cisco Systems, Dell, Inc., Freescale Semiconductor, IBM, Intel, and 3M, plus numerous startup companies. Most of these businesses are also either based in Austin, or they've chosen to locate large portions of their operations here.

In fact, Fast Company magazine has named Austin, Texas a *Startup Hub* on its annual *30 Fastest Cities in the World* list, with criteria that included "a culture that nurtures creative action and game-changing enterprise, innovation and energy."

We've also been ranked among the *Top 10 Hottest Wireless Cities*, with about 11 free wireless hotspots for every 100,000 residents. Austin's ranking is credited to a strong grassroots wireless movement, especially the Austin City Wireless Project ([www.austincitywireless.org](http://www.austincitywireless.org)).

### ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AND HOMEGROWN COMPANIES

The entrepreneurial spirit is still very much a part of Austin's business philosophy, and we have the accolades to prove it. *Entrepreneur* magazine has ranked the University of Texas at Austin ninth on its list of *Best Graduate Programs for Entrepreneurs*, and the *Wall Street Journal* named UT's Executive MBA Program the 12th best among business schools.

The *Austin Technology Incubator*, the *University of Texas' IC2 Institute*, the *Central Texas Angel Network*, the *Austin Technology Council*, and *Capital Factory* – a technology incubator program in which companies apply for cash, support and mentoring sessions with experienced, successful and local entrepreneurs – have all made it possible for young companies to be successful.

*The Daily Beast* ranked Austin seventh on its *America's Smartest Cities* list, and it's the range of talent and ideas here that have made Central Texas one of the top targets for venture capital investment in the country. In fact, one of the largest venture investments in the country in the last eight years was made in an Austin-based company – vacation home rental site HomeAway.com – which received \$250 million in venture funding in November 2008.

Prime investment sectors in the last several years have included biotechnology, business products and services, computers and peripherals, consumer products and services, electronics/instrumentation, financial, healthcare and IT services, media and entertainment, medical devices

and equipment, semiconductors, software, networking and related equipment, retailing and distribution, and telecommunications.

Austin is also home to several nationally known companies that have their roots firmly planted here. *GSD&M Idea City*, a national advertising agency founded in 1971 by six University of Texas students, had billings of more than \$1 billion in 2010. *Whole Foods Market, Inc.*, the world's largest retailer of natural and organic foods, is also based here. Founded in 1980 and consistently named among *FORTUNE* magazine's annual *Best Places to Work* list, the company has more than 270 stores in the U.S. and the United Kingdom, employs about 55,000, and had sales of more than \$8 billion at the end of fiscal year 2009. And *Dell, Inc.*, founded by Michael Dell out of his University of Texas dorm room in 1984, has about 96,000 employees and reported revenues of nearly \$15.4 billion in November 2010.

**ENTERTAINMENT: MUSIC, FILM, TOURISM AND DIGITAL MEDIA**

Austin's reputation as the "Live Music Capital of the World," plus tourism, film, gaming/digital media, television, and other entertainment industries have made a considerable impact when it comes to business economics. Events like the *South by Southwest Music, Film and Interactive Festivals and Conferences (SXSW)*, *Rodeo Austin*, the *Austin City Limits Music Festival*, and the *Texas Relays* – among other events, have all combined to produce significant economic gains for the city – more than \$166 million in March 2010.

**Come Visit! Austin Tourism**

For starters, tourists bring a lot of business to Austin, they come to see the State Capitol, the LBJ Library and the Texas State History Museum – in fact, Austin is the fourth most-visited city in Texas. And, every year, more than 100,000 people



flock to the Congress Avenue Bridge to watch 1.5 million Mexican freetail bats emerge for nightly feedings.

In fact, an analysis of Austin's tourism industry by *Global Insight* found that the number of travelers that come to Austin for leisure and business rises each year – as much as 19 million in 2006 – with an economic impact of more than \$3 billion.

**Guitars & Songwriters: Austin's Music Scene**

Live music is part of Austin – and it draws millions of tourists and local fans each year. With Sixth Street, the South by Southwest music and film festival each March, the Austin City Limits Music Festival each September, plus other music-related industry events like the International Music Products Association (NAMM) and the International Folk Alliance conferences, "music tourism" is a major industry.

In fact, SXSW draws more than 100,000 attendees to downtown Austin for two weeks every March, and generates an

estimated \$95 million in economic impact. Film and music registrations have remained steady despite the past economic downturn, and in 2011, Interactive registrations increased almost 40 percent as a result of the convergence between music, film and consumer interest on the Internet.

**Ready, Action!: Austin's Film Industry**

Moviemakerdigital.com has ranked Austin fourth among its 2011 list of the *Top 10 Best Movie Cities* – and for good reason. The site says "Texas' unofficial film capital," has been a "thriving, moviemaker-friendly community for years, and home to the country's most exciting auteurs" – and that's the absolute truth.

In the last 10 years, more than 600 major features, made-for-television movies, television series' and short films have been produced here, in addition to hundreds of commercials and independent projects. Productions have included all three *Spy Kids* films, *The Life of David Gale*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *School of Rock*, *The Alamo*, ►



*Miss Congeniality, Courage Under Fire, The Alamo, Hope Floats, Michael,* and the critically-acclaimed television series *Friday Night Lights*.

The city's vibrant music and film community has also earned it high rankings by *MovieMaker* magazine as one of the top American cities to be a filmmaker – including the top honor on the magazine's *Top 10 U.S. Cities to Live, Work and Make Movies* list – citing Texas' statewide incentive program that offers rebates for filming here.

Our studios, experienced work crews, variety of scenery, diverse natural environments, and such acclaimed directors as Robert Rodriguez, Richard Linklater, Mike Judge, filmmaker Terence Malick, and others have helped to firmly establish Austin's film business – bringing business from Los Angeles and growing the city's economic impact from the film and television industry.

The total economic impact of Austin's film and visual media sector has totaled nearly \$2 billion in the last 10 years, including the many productions filmed at *Austin Studios* – the city's major film studio that's housed in old airplane hangars at the former Mueller Airport; at Rodriguez' *Troublemaker Studios*; and at *Austin Studios' Ranch Studios* project in nearby Kyle, which offers space for 257 acres of sets, equipment and production offices.

### **Game On!: Austin's Gaming & Digital Media Scene**

Across Texas, the gaming industry is estimated to put \$177 million back into the economy, according to the Texas Film Commission – and a lot of that is because of what's going on right here in Austin. With hundreds of gaming and digital media companies here, it's an exciting sector of the entertainment industry that's also one of the fastest growing. It's no surprise that the Interactive segment of the

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“Every home Longhorn football game attracts more than 40,000 out-of-town visitors and generates an estimated economic impact of more than \$24 million, according to Angelou Economics...”

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annual South by Southwest Festival has grown by leaps and bounds since the festival began – with the Interactive portion of the festival selling out in 2011 and with registrations that increased by more than 40 percent.

In fact, Austin's billion-dollar gaming industry is home to more than 130 game developers including the industry's biggest names: Disney Interactive's Junction Point, and Electronic Arts' subsidiaries Pogo.com and BioWare. There are also more than 100 startup companies, and they all combine to create thousands of interactive games, iPhone applications, console games, massive multiplayer Internet games, and much more.

### **AUSTIN SPORTS: LONGHORNS AND MORE**

The closest Major League sports team might be in San Antonio (the Spurs), Dallas (the Cowboys), or Houston (the Texans), but sports are big business in Austin. The University of Texas (itself a major employer) and other universities, University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions, the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays (a national collegiate track championship sponsored by UT and named after the school's legendary track coach), USA Volleyball sanctioned junior tournaments, and the NCAA Division I regional basketball finals bring more than \$50 million to Austin each year.

Every home Longhorn football game attracts more than 40,000 out-of-town

visitors and generates an estimated economic impact of more than \$24 million, according to Angelou Economics, a local economic development and consulting firm. That doesn't include ticket sales or extras. Out-of-town fans buy more than 40 percent of all season tickets. Including single-game attendees, about 245,000 fans contribute to local hotels, restaurants, retail stores and transportation systems.

Austin's terrain and outdoor-friendly weather also attracts competitors from all over the world for major running events, including the Austin Marathon and the Capitol 10,000. Both races attract race competitors and spectators who add to Austin's revenue via hotels, restaurants and retail. In fact, the city established the Austin Sports Commission to recruit professional, collegiate and amateur sporting events to the city.

### **GOVERNMENT AND TEXAS POLITICS**

Austin's status as the state capital means that government is another major industry, supporting more than 130,000 government workers in local, state and federal positions. In fact, the direct economic impact of the 140 days every two years that the State Legislature meets is more \$27 million per session.

No matter what industry, it's clear that Austin is an exciting and vibrant place to do business with a thriving entrepreneurial spirit and opportunities of all kinds. ■



# TOP 25 EMPLOYERS

YOUR CAREER  
is WAITING

Photo Courtesy of Dell

**G**reater Austin is not just the geographic metropolitan center of Texas, it also occupies a central place in the state's great economic health as a hotbed for the hi-tech industries and—as the state capital—government jobs from the local all the way to the federal levels. The Capital Area is often dubbed the “Silicon Hills,” and for good reason. Just some Fortune 500 companies that have operations in the region include 3M, Apple Inc., Hewlett-Packard, Google, AMD, Applied Materials, Cirrus Logic, Cisco Systems, eBay, PayPal, Bioware, Blizzard Entertainment, Hoover's, Intel Corporation, National Instruments, Samsung Group, Silicon Laboratories, Oracle Corporation, Hostgator and United Devices.

Needless to say, there's a veritable cornucopia of employment opportunities for those relocating here, with an astonishing

array of great companies to choose from—all of which have chosen to establish operations in Greater Austin for its high quality of life, plentiful housing opportunities and relatively low cost of living. It accounts for much of all tech-related revenue in Texas – second only to its technology sister, the Dallas/Fort Worth Metro Area.

Real estate and tourism are other major industry sectors in both Dallas and Fort Worth. The following are lists of the Top 25 largest employers—both private and government/municipal—as provided by the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

## 1. Dell

Employees: 14,000  
1 Dell Way  
Round Rock, TX 78682  
512-338-4400  
www.dell.com  
One of the top developers, sellers and

supporters of computers and related products and services in the world, information technology giant Dell is based in Round Rock. The company is one of the largest technological corporations in the world, and is listed at #38 on the Fortune 500. As of 2009, the company sells personal computers, servers, data storage devices, network switches, software, and computer peripherals. It also sells HDTVs, cameras, printers, MP3 players and other electronics built by other manufacturers.

## 2. Seton Family of Hospitals

Employees: 11,500  
1345 Philomena Street  
Austin, TX 78723  
512-324-1776  
www.seton.com  
Its began as a grass roots effort in 1902 by citizens of Austin, who asked the Daughters of Charity of St. ▶



Vincent de Paul to construct a hospital to take care of the sick and poor. Now part of the Ascension Health network of nonprofit medical facilities, Seton Family of Hospitals provides healthcare for more than 1.8 million Central Texas residents, with a special regard for the sick and poor. A Catholic health organization, Seton provides millions of dollars in charity care for the uninsured every year.

### 3. H-E-B

Employees: 10,904  
6929 Airport Boulevard #176  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-412-1000  
www.heb.com

H-E-B is a supermarket chain with more than 315 stores throughout Texas and northern Mexico. It is ranked thirteenth on *Forbes'* 2010 list of "America's Largest Private Companies," and was named Retailer of the Year in 2010 by *Progressive Grocer*. The twenty-fifth largest retailer in the United States, it donates five percent of pre-tax profits to charity.

### 4. St. David's Healthcare Partnership

Employees: 6,600  
98 San Jacinto Center #1800  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-708-9700  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's HealthCare includes the region's leading hospitals located throughout Central Texas. Each features a certified Chest Pain Emergency Center, the latest technology and a team of talented physicians, nurses and staff providing the most specialized services. Ranked in 2007, 2008 and 2009 as the top Austin-area employer among large companies at the Austin Business Journal's annual "Best Places to Work" event, St. David's HealthCare recently received the Texas Award for Performance Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the State of Texas based upon world-class quality measures. The organization provided



Photo Courtesy of TxDOT

more than \$271.6 million in free care last year to people who could not otherwise afford to pay.

### 5. IBM Corp

Employees: 6,239  
11500 Burnet Road  
Austin, TX 78758  
512-838-2138  
www.ibm.com

The iconic International Business Machines (IBM) multinational technology and consulting firm manufactures and sells computer hardware and software, and it offers infrastructure, hosting and consulting services in areas ranging from mainframe computers to nanotechnology. In 2010, it was ranked the 20th largest firm in the U.S. by *Fortune* and the 33rd largest globally by *Forbes*. IBM holds more patents than any other U.S.-based technology company and has nine research laboratories worldwide. Its employees have garnered five Nobel Prizes, four Turing Awards, nine National Medals of Technology, and five National Medals of Science.

### 6. Freescale Semiconductor

Employees: 4,336  
6501 W. William Cannon Drive  
Austin, TX 78735  
512-895-2000  
www.freescale.com

Once a division of Motorola, Freescale Semiconductor began in 1949 as one of the first semiconductor companies in the world and has made the automotive and networking its main leadership areas. It is now the largest semiconductor supplier to the automotive industry and, until 2006, it was a microprocessors for Apple Computer's source of PowerPC for Apple Computer's PowerBooks and Mac mini products until the Apple-Intel transition.

### 7. AT&T

Employees: 3,450  
400 W. 15th Street #1000 J  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-870-2528  
www.att.com

Headquartered in San Antonio, the AT&T/SBC merger in 2005 created one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world. It is the largest provider of fixed and mobile telephone in the United States, with more than 210 million total customers.

### 8. Apple

Employees: 3,000  
12545 Riata Vista Circle  
Austin, TX 78727  
512-674-2000  
www.apple.com

As the designers and marketers of consumer electronics, computer software,

and personal computers Apple has always been at the forefront of innovation. Among many other products, it is best-known for its Macintosh line of computers; as well as the iPod, the iPhone and the iPad; Mac OS X operating system; and iTunes media browser. As of 2010, it operated 301 retail stores in ten countries, and an online store.

**9. Advanced Micro Devices**

Employees: 2,933  
 7171 Southwest Parkway  
 Austin, TX 78735  
 512-602-1000  
 www.amd.com  
 Best known under its acronym, AMD, Advanced Micro Devices develops computer processors and related technologies for commercial and consumer markets. Its main products include microprocessors, motherboard chipsets, embedded processors and graphics processors for servers, workstations and personal computers, and processor technologies for handheld devices, digital television, automobiles, game consoles, and other embedded systems applications

**10. Applied Materials**

Employees: 2,250  
 9700 Highway 290 E  
 Austin, TX 78724  
 512-272-1000  
 www.appliedmaterials.com  
 Applied Materials is a capital equipment producer serving the semiconductor, TFT LCD display, Glass, WEB and solar (crystalline and thin film) manufacturing industries. It creates and commercializes nanomanufacturing technology used in the production of semiconductor (integrated circuit) chips for electronic gear, flat panel displays for computers and television, glass coatings for homes and buildings, web (flexible substrate) coatings for industry and photovoltaic solar cells and modules using both thin film and crystalline (aka wafer or bulk) photovoltaic technology.

**11. National Instruments**

Employees: 2,200  
 11500 North MoPac Expressway  
 Austin, TX 78759  
 512-683-0100  
 www.ni.com  
 A producer of automated test equipment and virtual instrumentation, National Instruments is headquartered in Austin. Their products include software (LabVIEW, LabWindows/CVI, TestStand and Multisim), hardware (VXI, VMEbus, and PXI frames and modules; interfaces for GPIB, I<sup>2</sup>C, and other industrial automation standards) and real-time embedded controllers (Compact FieldPoint and CompactRIO).

**12. Seton Medical Center (Seton Healthcare)**

Employees: 2,038\*  
 1201 West 38th Street  
 Austin, TX 78705  
 512-324-1000  
 www.seton.net  
 A part of the Seton Family of Hospitals (see above), Seton Medical Center is Austin's largest medical/surgical acute care center, as well as being the only hospital in Central Texas that performs heart transplants. It is one of four Magnet hospitals in the Seton Family of Hospitals, and offers comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for both inpatients and outpatients. Its regional specialty programs include the Seton Heart Specialty Care and Transplant Center, Shivers Cancer Programs and the Marialice Shivers Regional Neonatal Center. Seton Medical Center Austin was also one of the first two hospitals in Texas to receive certification as a Primary Stroke Center.

**13. Girling Health Care**

Employees: 1,952  
 1703 West 5th Street #800  
 Austin, TX 78703  
 512-458-3090  
 www.girling.com  
 Girling Healthcare has a long history of

providing the highest quality health care in the home. With operations in nine states, it strives to meet the healthcare and personal care needs for patients and clients using a team approach. Its services range from skilled nursing care and rehabilitation, to personal care and living assistance services. Its goal is to provide a variety of professional and non-professional services that will enable its clients to receive the care they need right in their homes.

**14. Flextronics**

Employees: 1,875  
 12455 Research Boulevard  
 Austin, TX 78759  
 512-425-4100  
 www.flextronics.com  
 Flextronics is an electronics manufacturing services provider that offers services to original equipment manufacturers (OEM). It also provides supporting supply chain services, including packaging and transportation throughout the world, as well as design and after-sales. Flextronics in 2009 was ranked, according to VentureOutSource.com, as the second global Electronics Manufacturing Services by revenue.

**15. Time Warner Cable Co.**

Employees: 1,765  
 12012 MoPac  
 Austin, TX 78758  
 512-485-6100  
 www.timewarnercable.com  
 A spin-off company of media giant Time Warner, Time Warner Cable is an American national cable television company that operates in 28 states and has 31 operating divisions. Independent from its parent company since 2009, as of that time it served 14.6 million basic cable subscribers, 8.8 million digital cable subscribers, 8.7 million Road Runner residential subscribers, 2.5 million DVR subscribers, and 4 million residential digital phone subscribers. ▶



### 16. St. David's Medical Center

Employees: 1,736\*\*  
 919 East 32nd Street  
 Austin, TX 78705  
 512-476-7111  
[www.stdavids.com](http://www.stdavids.com)

St. David's Medical Center has provided quality medical care to the residents of Central Texas since 1924. A part of St. David's Healthcare Partnership (see above), it provides comprehensive care with special expertise in neurology and neurosurgery, cardiac services, bariatric surgery, orthopedics, maternity and newborn services and rehabilitation. St. David's Medical Center is both a Primary Stroke Center and a Certified Chest Pain Center, and has the largest Level III Neonatal Intensive Care unit in Central Texas. Its staff includes more than 1,600 physicians representing every specialty.

### 17. Austin Energy

Employees: 1,700  
 721 Barton Springs Road  
 Austin, TX 78704  
 512-322-6002  
[www.austinenergy.com](http://www.austinenergy.com)

Austin Energy is the public utility providing electrical power service to a 421-square-mile area including Austin and parts of the surrounding area in Travis and Williamson counties. It has been owned by the City of Austin since its inception in 1893, and owns all or part of five different power plants.

### 18. Whole Foods Market

Employees: 1,694  
 550 Bowie Street  
 Austin, TX 78703  
 512-477-4455  
[www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)

Whole Foods Market is a foods supermarket chain headquartered in Austin that emphasizes natural and organic products. As of September 2009, the company operates 302 stores and is consistently ranked

among the most socially responsible businesses. It placed third on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of Top 25 Green Power Partners.

### 19. University Medical Center at Brackenridge (Seton Healthcare)

Employees: 1,639\*  
 601 East 15th Street  
 Austin, TX 78701  
 512-324-7000  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Another Seton Healthcare facility (see above), University Medical Center Brackenridge is at the forefront of academic medicine. Its Clinical Education Center uses high-fidelity interactive mannequins and a vast array of leap-ahead technology to train clinicians in the latest procedures working with state-of-the-art equipment. It's also home to the region's first nursing residency program, and recently celebrated its 75th year of graduate medical education. Its nationally renowned Brain & Spine Center is engaged in pioneering research and treatment of injuries and diseases of the spine, brain, and cardiovascular system.

### 20. Lower Colorado River Authority

Employees: 1,544  
 3700 Lake Austin Road  
 Austin, TX 78703  
 512-473-3200  
[www.lcra.org](http://www.lcra.org)

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is a nonprofit public utility created in November 1934 by the Texas Legislature to protect people, property and the environment by providing public services in Central and Southeast Texas. These services include electricity, water, flood management, water and wastewater utilities, public parks along the Highland Lakes and lower Colorado River, and community and economic development services to rural and suburban communities.

### 21. Wells Fargo Bank Texas

Employees: 1,455  
 111 Congress Avenue  
 Austin, TX 78701  
 512-344-7000  
[www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com)

As one of the "Big Four" banks in the United States, Wells Fargo is the fourth largest in the country by assets and the second largest by market capitalization. It also is the second largest in deposits as well as home mortgage and debit card servicing. In 2007 it was the only U.S. bank to be rated AAA by S&P, and in 2010 it had 6,335 retail branches, 12,000 automated teller machines, 280,000 employees and over 70 million customers nationwide.

### 22. Austin Regional Clinic

Employees: 1,408  
 4515 Seton Center Parkway #215  
 Austin, TX 78759  
 512-419-0707  
[www.austinregionalclinic.com](http://www.austinregionalclinic.com)

Austin Regional Clinic is one of the largest multispecialty health care groups in Central Texas. Its focus is on primary care, including family practice, pediatrics and general internal medicine with an emphasis on the importance of long-term doctor/patient relationships and the coordination of care.

### 23. JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Employees: 1,400  
 221 West 6th Street  
 Austin, TX 78701  
 512-479-1581  
[www.jpmorganchase.com](http://www.jpmorganchase.com)

JPMorgan Chase is a major provider of financial services, with assets of \$2 trillion, and is the U.S. banking institution having the second largest market capitalization and third largest domestic deposit base. It possesses the largest hedge fund in the United States with \$53.5 billion in assets as of the

end of 2009. It formed in 2000, when Chase Manhattan Corporation merged with J.P. Morgan & Co.

**24. Sears Customer Care**

Employees: 1,400  
 1308 Louis Henna Boulevard  
 Round Rock, TX 78664  
 512-248-7990  
 www.searsholdings.com  
 Sears Customer Care is the customer service division of Sears Holdings, the nation’s fourth largest broadline retailer with over 4,000 full-line and specialty retail stores in the United States and Canada. Sears Holdings

is the leading home appliance retailer as well as a leader in tools, lawn and garden, consumer electronics and automotive repair and maintenance.

**25. St. David’s North Austin**

**Medical Center**  
 Employees: 1,382\*\*  
 12221 North MoPac  
 Austin, TX 78758  
 512-901-1000  
 www.stdavids.com  
 St. David’s North Austin Medical Center is another of the St. David’s Healthcare family of facilities (see

above). It is a full-service hospital offering comprehensive healthcare services, including exceptional programs for women’s services, emergency care, surgery, heart and vascular care, and kidney transplant surgery. ■

\*Employee numbers also reflected in Seton Family of Hospitals

\*\*Employee numbers also reflected in St. David’s Healthcare Partnership

Sources: Austin Chamber of Commerce, Company Websites, Wikipedia

**TOP 25 GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYERS**

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES	PHONE	WEBSITE
State of Texas	69777	512-463-2000	www.governor.state.tx.us
University of Texas at Austin*	25313	512-475-7348	www.utexas.edu
City of Austin	12000	512-974-7870	www.ci.austin.tx.us
Federal Government	11991	N/A	N/A
Austin Independent School District*	10672	512-414-1700	www.austinisd.org
Round Rock Independent School District*	5743	512-464-5000	www.roundrockisd.org
Travis County	4700	512-854-9000	www.co.travis.tx.us
U.S. Internal Revenue Service**	4500	512-460-7193	www.irs.gov
Leander Independent School District*	4086	512-570-0000	www.leanderisd.org
Texas State University-San Marcos*	3817	512-245-2111	www.txstate.edu
Hays Consolidated Independent School Distirct*	2500	512-268-2141	www.hayscisd.net
Pflugerville Independent School District*	2065	512-594-0000	www.pflugervilleisd.net
Austin Community College*	1785	512-223-7000	www.austincc.edu
Georgetown Independent School District*	1665	512-943-5000	www.georgetownisd.org
Williamson County	1600	512-943-1100	www.williamson-county.org
Capital Metro Transportation Authority***	1500	512-389-7400	www.capmetro.org
Eanes Independent School District*	1283	512-732-9000	www.eanes.k12.tx.us
San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District*	1200	512-393-6767	www.san-marcos.isd.tenet.edu
Del Valle Independent School District*	1072	512-386-3000	www.del-valle.k12.tx.us
Bastrop Independent School District*	1038	512-321-2292	www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu
St. Edward’s University*	969	512-448-8400	www.stedwards.edu
Hays County	850	512-393-2205	www.co.hays.tx.us
City of Round Rock	838	512-218-5400	www.roundrocktexas.gov
Austin State Hospital	900	512-452-0381	www.dshs.state.tx.us
ACS State Healthcare	780	512-421-3000	www.acs-inc.com

\*Employee totals also reflected in State of Texas employee total. \*\*Employee total also reflected in Federal Government employee total. \*\*\*Employee total also reflected in City of Austin employee total.





**S**o, you like what Austin, Texas has to offer and you've decided to make the big move to the Lone Star State. Good for you! Now it's time to jump those hurdles and make it happen. Assuming you're not moving to start your own business, one of the most important hurdles is the question, "Where am I going to work?" The answer is just a few clicks away.

Most, if not all, of the Web sites owned by Austin-area businesses and associations, from the local drug store to government to Fortune 500 international conglomerates and beyond, have on them, pages dedicated to profiling available employment positions, along with instructions or applications enabling people to throw their names into the employment hat, so to speak. If you are interested in employment with a specific company, seeing what jobs are available is little more than a quick search through its Web site: follow the links entitled "jobs" or "employment" and you're there!

In doing so, keep in mind that there are as many ways to organize a Web site as there are businesses, so employment pages are easier to find on some business sites than others. If an employment link is not readily obvious, most sites have "search" boxes that online visitors can use to look for specific items or information using keywords, such as, in the case of work, the aforementioned "jobs" or "employment."

Should one's employment desires in Greater Austin be less particular in terms of what company one works for, there are many Web sites whose main purpose is employment, where businesses can post ads about open positions that perspective employees can search and apply. While each of them is set up differently, most work in much the same way. Jobs are organized into several searchable categories, such as location, professional category ("healthcare," "marketing" or "arts," to name a few), keyword, income, frequency of work (part- or full-time, per diem, temporary, etc.), and the like. One can opt

for a simple search (location, professional category, and/or keyword) or an advanced search, which can be tailored any number of ways to fit the searcher's needs.

There is a wide degree of variation in the employment submission process, from a simple e-mail with one's resume attached to extensive online applications that can include competency tests. However, most online employment presences, be it corporate-specific or an employment clearing house, have on them methods by which potential employees can save and edit their initial applications, thereby saving time and effort with future job applications should initial employment requests not pan out.

Below is a short listing of major employment sites one can explore to find open employment positions in the Austin, Texas area. It is by no means all-inclusive, but rather is meant as a springboard to launch one's foray into the Austin job market. A good strategy would be to visit several employment sites during one's job search to more effectively blanket an area. While some overlap does occur, it's worth it to wade through jobs that appear on multiple sites to find those unique gems. ■

**▶ EMPLOYMENT SITES**

**www.careerbuilder.com** | A very comprehensive national employment site, it can be used for city-specific searches.

**www.monster.com** | Another well equipped and organized national employment site, it is also affiliated with Austin's main newspaper, The Austin American-Statesman.

**www.jobing.com** | An easy-to-use site, one need only type in a city and state or zip code to gain access to region-specific jobs. The company behind Jobing.com also organizes and hosts periodic job fairs featuring many of its corporate clients in the cities and regions it services.

**www.craigslist.org** | Usually associated with buying and selling goods, Craig's List is often an overlooked source of employment opportunities. The site may not be as flashy as others, but it can offer local opportunities not found on other sites.

**www.twc.state.tx.us** | Official website of the Texas Workforce Commission. Register for work, apply online, match jobs and build resumes.

AUSTIN AREA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE			
Austin Asian American Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-407-8240	<a href="http://www.austinaacc.org">www.austinaacc.org</a>
Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-330-1002	<a href="http://www.aglcc.org">www.aglcc.org</a>
Austin Young Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-322-5654	<a href="http://www.austinycc.com">www.austinycc.com</a>
Bastrop Chamber of Commerce	Bastrop	512-303-0558	<a href="http://www.bastropchamber.com">www.bastropchamber.com</a>
Buda Chamber of Commerce	Buda	512-295-9999	<a href="http://www.budachamber.com">www.budachamber.com</a>
Burleson County Chamber of Commerce	Caldwell	979-567-0000	<a href="http://www.burlesoncountytx.com">www.burlesoncountytx.com</a>
Burnet Chamber of Commerce	Burnet	512-756-4297	<a href="http://www.burnetchamber.org">www.burnetchamber.org</a>
Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Lockhart	512-398-9600	<a href="http://www.lockharthispanicchamber.org">www.lockharthispanicchamber.org</a>
Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-459-1181	<a href="http://www.capcitychamber.org">www.capcitychamber.org</a>
Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce	Cedar Park	512-260-7800	<a href="http://www.cedarparkchamber.org">www.cedarparkchamber.org</a>
Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce	Dripping Springs	512-858-1526	<a href="http://www.drippingspringstx.com">www.drippingspringstx.com</a>
Four Points Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-551-0390	<a href="http://www.fourpointschamber.com">www.fourpointschamber.com</a>
Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce	Fredericksburg	830-997-6523	<a href="http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com">www.fredericksburg-texas.com</a>
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce	Georgetown	512-930-3535	<a href="http://www.georgetownchamber.org">www.georgetownchamber.org</a>
Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-478-9383	<a href="http://www.austin-chamber.org">www.austin-chamber.org</a>
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-476-7502	<a href="http://www.hagcc.org">www.hagcc.org</a>
Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce	Elgin	512-285-4515	<a href="http://www.elgintxchamber.com">www.elgintxchamber.com</a>
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce	New Braunfels	800-572-2626	<a href="http://www.nbcham.org">www.nbcham.org</a>
Hutto Area Chamber of Commerce	Hutto	512-759-4400	<a href="http://www.huttochamber.com">www.huttochamber.com</a>
Johnson City Texas Chamber of Commerce	Johnson City	830-868-7684	<a href="http://www.johnsoncity-texas.com">www.johnsoncity-texas.com</a>
Kyle Chamber of Commerce	Kyle	512-268-4220	<a href="http://www.kylechamber.org">www.kylechamber.org</a>
La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce	La Grange	979-968-5756	<a href="http://www.lagrangetx.org">www.lagrangetx.org</a>
Lago Vista & Jonestown Area Chamber of Commerce	Jonestown	512-267-7952	<a href="http://www.lagovista.org">www.lagovista.org</a>
Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce	Austin	512-263-5833	<a href="http://www.laketravischamber.com">www.laketravischamber.com</a>
Lampasas Chamber of Commerce	Lampasas	512-556-5172	<a href="http://www.lampasaschamber.org">www.lampasaschamber.org</a>
Leander Chamber of Commerce	Leander	512-259-1907	<a href="http://www.leandercc.org">www.leandercc.org</a>
Liberty Hill Chamber of Commerce	Liberty Hill	512-548-6343	<a href="http://www.libertyhillchamber.org">www.libertyhillchamber.org</a>
Luling Chamber of Commerce	Luling	830-875-3214	<a href="http://www.lulingcc.com">www.lulingcc.com</a>
Lockhart Chamber of Commerce	Lockhart	512-398-2818	<a href="http://www.lockhartchamber.com">www.lockhartchamber.com</a>
Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce	Marble Falls	877-638-3927	<a href="http://www.marblefalls.org">www.marblefalls.org</a>
Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce	Pflugerville	512-251-7799	<a href="http://www.pfchamber.com">www.pfchamber.com</a>
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce	Round Rock	512-255-5805	<a href="http://www.roundrockchamber.org">www.roundrockchamber.org</a>
San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce	San Marcos	512-393-5900	<a href="http://www.sanmarcostexas.com">www.sanmarcostexas.com</a>
San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	San Marcos	512-722-6109	<a href="http://www.sanmarcoshispanic.com">www.sanmarcoshispanic.com</a>
Taylor Chamber of Commerce	Taylor	512-352-6364	<a href="http://www.taylorchamber.org">www.taylorchamber.org</a>
Temple Chamber of Commerce	Temple	254-773-2105	<a href="http://www.templetx.org">www.templetx.org</a>
Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives	Austin	512-320-8223	<a href="http://www.tcce.org">www.tcce.org</a>
Westlake Chamber of Commerce	Austin	N/A	<a href="http://www.westlakechamber.com">www.westlakechamber.com</a>
Williamson County African American Chamber of Commerce	Cedar Park	512-426-4911	<a href="http://www.african-americanchamber.org">www.african-americanchamber.org</a>
Wimberley Chamber of Commerce	Wimberley	512-847-2201	<a href="http://www.wimberley.org">www.wimberley.org</a>
Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas	Austin	512-338-0839	<a href="http://www.womenschambertexas.com">www.womenschambertexas.com</a>





**A**n anyone who has ever relocated to another city knows that number crunching before packing up the moving van is the first step. After all, knowing how far your paycheck can stretch once you're in your new city is an

important consideration for any relocating family.

If you're used to affordable housing prices, reasonable grocery bills, and inexpensive health care, you don't

want to be surprised if your new city is much pricier. The good news for relocating families is that the Austin area still ranks among one of the most affordable large metropolitan cities to live, work, play, and do business.

### COST OF LIVING: AUSTIN BY THE NUMBERS

When it comes to overall cost of living, Austin is still an affordable place to live and work. Here's how the Austin area ranked in comparison to other major U.S. cities (in the last four quarters ending in Q3 2011).

CITY	COMPOSITE	GROCERY 13.31%	HOUSING 29.27%	UTILITIES 10.22%	TRANSPORTATION 9.86%	HEALTHCARE 4.23%	MISC. 33.11%
Atlanta, GA	98.8	106.1	89.2	96.4	102.5	101.1	103.7
<b>Austin, TX</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>101.2</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>97.7</b>
Boston, MA	137.2	117.8	157.8	146.6	110.6	120.9	134.0
Chicago, IL	114.4	115.7	133.6	99.0	113.1	107.3	102.9
Dallas, TX	96.4	99.0	75.5	107.3	104.7	105.1	107.1
Denver, CO	105.0	102.6	114.2	89.5	94.0	105.4	106.8
Houston, TX	90.7	79.5	84.6	89.4	94.3	100.3	98.5
Los Angeles, CA	131.1	105.8	192.1	112.4	106.3	110.1	103.3
New York, NY	223.9	148.9	426.5	131.4	127.5	127.1	144.4
Raleigh-Cary, NC	93.3	100.9	75.0	104.7	97.3	107.9	99.8
San Diego, CA	130.8	106.3	189.1	112.8	107.3	111.6	104.1
San Francisco, CA	161.3	118.8	278.2	90.4	108.8	110.7	119.0

Statistics Source: ACCRA,

**HOW AUSTIN MEASURES UP**

When compared to cities that are similar – in terms of major industries and population, among other factors – your hard-earned dollar stretches much further here. In fact, you’ll likely pay less for transportation, utilities, health care, and other critical goods and services like groceries (Texas doesn’t tax unprepared food items) and housing – and we’ve got the stats to prove it.

ACCRA is a national organization dedicated to economic development and policy research, and it published an annual *Cost of Living Index* that ranks a range of living expenses in major cities. The index measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, minus taxes and non-consumer expenditures.

It also measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. The average for a participating place—both metropolitan and non-metro— is 100, and each city’s index is read as a percentage of the average for all places. See the chart below to see how Austin ranks against other large metro areas, and you’ll see that it’s much less expensive, in just about every category measured, to hang your hat right here.

For example, when comparing the ACCRA *Cost of Living Index* for the last several years, housing in the Austin, Texas area has consistently been one of the most affordable metropolitan markets in the U.S. With an average 2010 score of 84.9, housing in the Austin area is well below the U.S. average of 100.

Whether you’re thinking about moving here, or have just made the move, it’s easy to see that the Austin area is a thriving community that measures up not only with its quality of life – but also with its affordability. And that’s good news from any perspective. ■



**FROM ONE PAYCHECK to the NEXT**

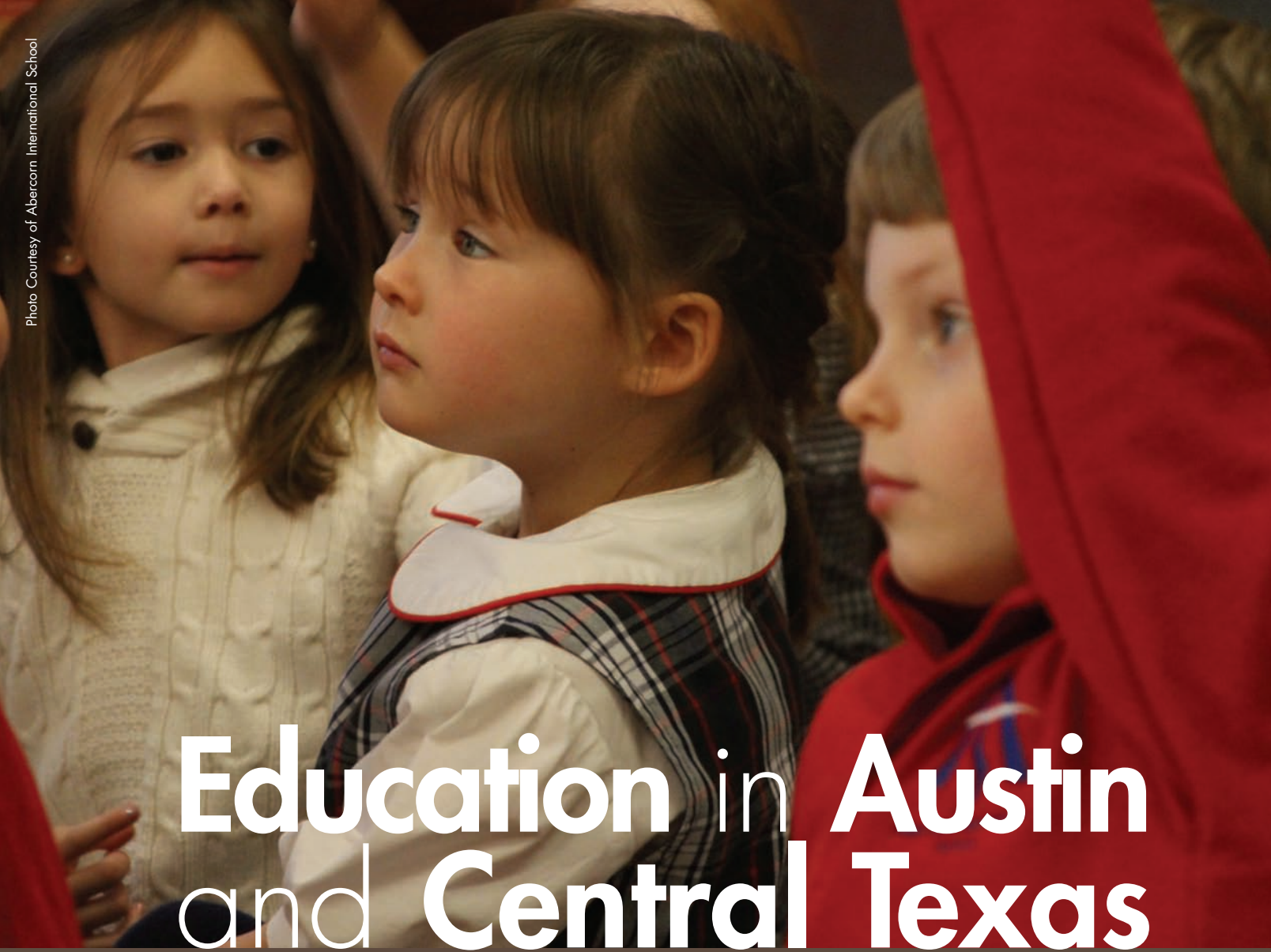
Want to know how living in the Austin area compares to other cities? Assuming a \$60,000 salary in the city you’re moving from and that you’d own a house here, we used a salary/cost of living calculator to help figure out the rest.

If you made \$60,000 in Detroit, for example, your salary could decrease to \$57,675 in Austin – and you’d still maintain the same standard of living. See the table below for the results from a sampling of other cities. Want more info? Visit CNN’s Money website for percentages on such basics as housing, groceries, healthcare and more: <http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/costofliving/costofliving.html>.

MOVING FROM HERE...	YOU’D NEED TO MAKE...
Phoenix	\$56,958
Detroit	\$57,703
San Francisco	\$34,981
Boston	\$33,277
Denver	\$55,577
Miami	\$54,056
Pittsburgh	\$62,622
Houston	\$62,214
Dallas	\$62,418
Seattle	\$47,277
Philadelphia	\$45,332
Atlanta	\$60,000
Baton Rouge	\$59,687
New York City	\$31,570
Los Angeles	\$42,070
Chicago	\$49,058
Las Vegas	\$56,286
Portland	\$51,528
St. Louis	\$63,384
Raleigh	\$58,409
Cincinnati	\$61,087

*Statistics Source: CNNMONEY.com. CZER,*





# Education in Austin and Central Texas

Education has always been a central concern for Austin residents, but that could be because the city's such an educated town. With scores of national accolades and strong community support, Austin's a win-win proposition for education.

*Forbes* has designated Austin as one of the U.S.'s biggest "brain magnet" cities – the result of the magazine's analysis of the 50 largest metropolitan areas and ranking them by gains in those with college educations compared to the population over 25 years of age between 2007 and 2009. Austin was one of the top cities with gains, scoring high marks all around.

*CNN Money* has named Austin sixth in its *America's Smartest Cities* (2010) list, and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* included UT Austin on its 2011 list as one of the "best values in public education." And the Austin Independent School District outperformed many of the nation's schools in science, according to results of the *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)* – where Austin ISD fourth and eighth-graders did better in science than other urban districts across the nation.

We've also been recognized as one of the country's "top five intellectual capitals," and we've been ranked among the top five cities in Forbes annual "Best Place for Business and Careers" listing for the last several years, in part because of a highly educated workforce.

**GROWTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

It's not surprising that the city's growth in recent years has had a considerable

impact on education. School districts have doubled in size to accommodate more students, with residents consistently approving bond packages in Austin and surrounding communities to renovate and build new schools.

The business community is also committed to education, with alliances like *Austin Partners in Education* ([www.austinpartners.org](http://www.austinpartners.org)) – a collaboration between the Austin Independent School District and the Greater

Austin Chamber of Commerce in which business community partners are matched with schools or districts, providing volunteer services, in-kind contributions, or cash donations. A nonprofit organization, the group offers schools support with technology and other necessary resources.

Other partnerships include the *Skillpoint Alliance* ([www.skillpointalliance.org](http://www.skillpointalliance.org)) – a program that promotes workforce ►

**NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**

No matter where you're moving, knowing the facts about a city's educational system and options for families is critical. The following is a list of national general education, private school, charter school, and homeschooling resources.

**GENERAL EDUCATION**  
**National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences**  
*U.S. Dept. of Education*  
 1990 K Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20006  
 202-502-7300  
<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS**  
**The Association of Boarding Schools**  
 4455 Connecticut Avenue,  
 Suite A-200  
 Washington, D.C. 20008  
 202-966-8705  
[www.tabs.com](http://www.tabs.com)

**Association of Christian Schools International**  
 731 Chapel Hills Drive  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80920-1027  
 719-528-6906 or 800-367-0798  
[www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org)

**Foundation for Educational Choice**  
[www.edchoice.org](http://www.edchoice.org)

**National Association of Independent Schools**  
 1620 L Street NW, Suite 1100  
 Washington, DC 20036-5695  
 202-973-9700  
[www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)

**NCA Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement**  
 Arizona State University  
 PO Box 873011  
 Tempe, AZ 85287-3011  
[www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org)

**National Commission for Exceptional Schools (NCES)**  
 4617 West County Road, #2  
 Berthoud, Colorado 80513  
[www.nationalcommission.org](http://www.nationalcommission.org)

**National Private School Association Group**  
 10th Floor Lenox Towers  
 3390 Peachtree Road NE  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
[www.npsag.com](http://www.npsag.com)

**Private School Review**  
[www.privateschoolreview.com](http://www.privateschoolreview.com)

**HOMESCHOOLING**  
**Homeschool Central**  
[www.homeschoolcentral.com](http://www.homeschoolcentral.com)  
 A national organization that features comprehensive, online resources for homeschooling families, Homeschool Central has served the homeschool community since 1996.

**Homeschool Reporting**  
[www.homeschoolreporting.com](http://www.homeschoolreporting.com)  
 This national resource helps families with the necessary recordkeeping required with a homeschool curriculum via its *Homeschool Reporting Online* solutions.



## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

development in such in-demand industries as technology (especially semiconductor, information technology and digital media); healthcare; and construction.

### AUSTIN RANKS HIGH ON QUALITY OF LIFE, EDUCATION

No matter where you're moving, or even whether or not you have children in school, education is an important consideration for anyone considering relocation. After all, the quality of education in a community affects everything from resale value to neighborhood schools.

One of the many reasons people are drawn to Austin is that it's a vibrant place to be. *Money* magazine has consistently named Austin among its "Top 10 Best Big Cities" in its annual *Best Places to Live* ranking, which is based on family income, home price, schools and job growth. And, the Worldwide Employee Relocation Council and Primacy Relocation, LLC, have each ranked Austin tops in surveys of the country's best large markets for relocating families – and one of the factors is great schools.

In 2007, four of the Austin area's major public school systems were named

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“In 2007, four of the Austin area's major public school systems were named among the best in the country in *Expansion Management* magazine's annual "Metro Public Schools Quotient" rankings, including Eanes, Round Rock, Austin, and nearby San Marcos.”

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among the best in the country in *Expansion Management* magazine's annual "Metro Public Schools Quotient" rankings, including Eanes, Round Rock, Austin, and nearby San Marcos. Also in 2007, 15 regional schools were honored in *Newsweek's* "Top of the Class" list, including those in Austin, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Lake Travis, Leander, Pflugerville, and Round Rock.

Austin is also tops for higher education – and area schools are just one of the

reasons many people move here and decide to stay well past graduation. The *American Institute for Economics Research* has named Austin its number two "mid-size metro college destination." The rankings are based on three categories, including academic environment, quality of life, and professional opportunities. Each addresses the larger learning environment according to objective criteria.

The University of Texas' business, law and engineering schools have also been recognized among the "top 10 schools for Hispanics" by *Hispanic Business* magazine, and the school's Executive MBA program has been named the 12th best by the *Wall Street Journal*.

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

No matter what your education needs – public, private, charter, higher education or trade schools – there are a wealth of options for those who choose to make Austin their home.

The Austin area has 29 public school districts in the surrounding five-county Central Texas MSA, which include Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop and Caldwell counties. The area also offers



more than 100 private schools that serve students from kindergarten through 12th grade; plus 17 charter schools, 8 top-ranked colleges and universities – including the 50,000-student University of Texas, St. Edward’s University, Huston-Tillotson University,

Southwestern University, Texas State University and others; and numerous trade and specialty schools.

We’ve included a list of the Austin area’s largest school districts, largest private schools, representative charter

schools, a roundup of area colleges and universities, and a listing of top area trade, technical and specialty schools. Browse through the Austin Relocation Guide’s Education section for a listing of schools, rankings, and much more – and welcome to Austin! ■

## ▶ UNDERSTANDING TEXAS EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

For those new to the area and to the state, understanding the state educational testing system can be a bit overwhelming. Which tests will your child take, and at which grade level? We’ve included brief descriptions of each from the *Texas Education Agency (TEA)* website; for more detailed information and any questions, contact TEA’s *Student Assessment Division* at 512-463-9536, or visit [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

**Texas Assessment of Knowledge & Skills (TAKS)** | The **TAKS** test measures the statewide curriculum in reading for Grades 3-9; in mathematics for Grades 3-10 and in exit level math; in writing for Grades 4 and 7; at Grades 10 and at the exit level in English Language Arts; in science at Grades 5, 10, and at the exit level; and social studies at Grades 8, 10, and at the exit level. The Spanish TAKS is administered at Grades 3 through 6. Satisfactory performance on the TAKS at Grade 11 is prerequisite to a high school diploma. Spanish-version TAKS assessments are also available for Grades 3–5 reading; Grades 3–5 mathematics; Grade 4 writing; and Grade 5 science. The TAKS test also includes an accommodated form called **TAKS (Accommodated)** for special education students who meet eligibility requirements for certain accommodations. The TAKS (Accommodated) form includes such format accommodations as larger font and fewer items per page, and doesn’t include any embedded field-test items. TAKS (Accommodated) is also available for all English- and Spanish- version TAKS assessments.

**TAKS–Modified (TAKS–M)** | TAKS–M is an alternate assessment based on modified academic achievement standards and is designed for students receiving special education services who meet participation requirements for TAKS–M, but for whom TAKS isn’t appropriate. The test is administered in English for the same grades and subjects as TAKS; Spanish-version TAKS–M assessments are not available.

**TAKS–Alternate (TAKS–Alt)** | TAKS–Alt is based on alternate academic achievement standards and is designed for students with significant special needs who meet the participation requirements. Unlike other statewide assessments, TAKS–Alt is not a traditional paper or multiple-choice test. Instead, teachers observe students as they complete teacher-designed activities that link to the grade-level curriculum. TAKS–Alt is administered in the same grades and subjects as TAKS.

**End-of-Course (EOC)** | The newest student assessment test, the **End-of-Course (EOC)** assessment is designed to test student knowledge in specific, secondary-level courses – including Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, English I, English II, English III, world geography, world history, and United States history. EOC assessments for lower-level courses determine readiness for advanced coursework, while the assessments for higher-level courses are designed to measure college readiness and the need for developmental coursework in higher education. The student’s score on each EOC assessment is also worth 15 percent of the student’s final grade for that course. The purpose of the new EOC assessments is to measure students’ academic performance in core high school courses; the EOC assessments will become part of the graduation requirements starting with the freshman class of 2011–2012.

**Linguistically Accommodated Testing (LAT)** | The **LAT** assessment is a special administration of TAKS for LEP-exempt recent immigrants that allows for linguistic accommodations to help students overcome language barriers and offer a meaningful assessment of academic knowledge and skills.

**Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)** | TELPAS is designed to assess the progress of limited English proficient (LEP) students in learning the English language.



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## TOP SCHOOL DISTRICTS: *Passion for Excellence*

Photo Courtesy of AISD

**A**ustin's ongoing and steady growth has an impact on education, with public school districts that boast strong reputations for both academic and extracurricular programs, and whose students consistently score high on state-mandated assessment tests and college entrance exams.

The area's overall growth has also meant that many school districts have rapidly expanded to accommodate larger enrollments. For example, Travis and Williamson counties alone have 10 major public school districts, and there are many other smaller districts throughout Central Texas. The largest independent school districts (ISDs) in Central Texas are: **Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Leander, Pflugerville** and **Round Rock**.

The following is an overview of school districts in Austin and surrounding areas. We've included a brief description of each district, including number of students,

number of schools, coverage area, average SAT/ACT scores, student/teacher ratio, and the percentage of students who passed the TAKS test at the exit level, where available. Many districts have their own websites; if available, those are also listed with the district information.

**NOTE:** The following public school district statistics are based on the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) most recent *Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) District Reports* (2010-2011 school year). For comprehensive information on each district, contact the district, the Texas Education Agency at (512) 463-9734, or log on to [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

### **Austin ISD**

Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent  
1111 West Sixth Street  
Austin, TX 78703  
512-414-1700  
[www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org)

81 elementary schools; 18 middle schools; 16 high schools; 9 special campuses  
The largest school district in the Austin area enrolled 85,273 students for the 2010-2011 school year. The district had an average SAT score of 1027; an average ACT score of 20.9; and a teacher/student ratio of 14.1. Actual per pupil expenditure was \$8,139, and 91 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### **Bastrop ISD**

Steve Murray, Superintendent  
105 Loop 150 W., Ste. J  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
512-321-2292  
[www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu)  
6 elementary schools; 2 intermediate schools; 2 middle schools; 2 high schools; 2 alternative schools  
Located about 30 miles southeast of Austin, Bastrop ISD enrolled 9,043 students for the 2010-2011 school year.

Actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,106, and the average overall student/teacher ratio was 14.7. The average SAT score was 964, average ACT score was 20.8, and 96 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Blanco ISD**

Dr. Buck Ford, Superintendent  
 814 Eleventh Street  
 Blanco, TX 78606  
 830-833-4414  
 www.blancoisd.com  
 1 elementary school; 1 middle school; 1 high school  
 Blanco ISD is located primarily in Blanco County, but also includes parts of Hays, Comal, Kendall and Gillespie counties. The district served 966 students during the 2010-2011 school year. Student/teacher ratio was 10.6; the

average SAT score was 999; the average ACT score was 20.4; per pupil expenditures were \$10,738; and 96 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Burnet Consolidated ISD**

TBA, Superintendent  
 208 E. Brier  
 Burnet, TX 78611  
 512-756-2124  
 www.burnet.txed.net  
 4 elementary schools; 1 middle school, 1 high school; 1 alternative school  
 Burnet ISD enrolled 3,343 students for the 2010-2011 school year. Actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,822, the average SAT score was 969, average ACT score was 21.4, student/teacher ratio was 15.1, and 94 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Coupland ISD**

Gary W. Chandler, Superintendent  
 P.O. Box 217  
 620 S. Commerce  
 Coupland, TX 78615  
 512-856-2422  
 www.coupland.isd.org  
 1 elementary/middle school serving grades K-8  
 Coupland is a small community in Williamson County. Coupland ISD served 124 students during the 2010-2011 school year. Student/teacher ratio was 8.6; actual per student expenditure was \$8,513; and the TEA rated the district Recognized.

**Del Valle (“Dell Valley”) ISD**

Dr. Kelly K. Crook, Superintendent  
 5301 Ross Road  
 Del Valle, TX 78617  
 512-386-3000  
 http://delvalle.tx.schoolwebpages.com  
 8 elementary schools; 3 middle schools; 1 high school; 1 opportunity center; 1 alternative school  
 Del Valle is located in southeast Austin, and the district served 10,673 students during the 2010-2011 school year, including the communities of Montopolis, Frontier Valley, Sundridge Park and Pleasant Valley, and the rural communities of Garfield, Creedmore, Mustang Ridge, Elroy, Pilot Knob, Webberville, and Hornsby Bend. Student/teacher ratio was 14.0; average SAT score was 888; average ACT score was 18.1; per student expenditure was \$7,726; and 91 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Dripping Springs ISD**

TBA, Superintendent  
 510 West Mercer  
 Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
 512-858-4905  
 www.dripping-springs.txed.net  
 3 elementary schools; 1 middle school; 1 high school  
 Located 19 miles west of Austin, Dripping

**ACADEMIC TESTING IN TEXAS**

Tests are part of school life, and it’s no different here in Texas. According to the Texas Education Agency, Texas has had statewide assessments program in place for more than 25 years. Over time, changes to state and federal statutes, and to the state-mandated curriculum – the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) – have naturally resulted in the assessment program’s expansion.

Today, student educational skills are assessed via state tests for general education, special education, and bilingual/English as a Second Language programs to help them reach their full academic potential. Current testing includes the **Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)**; **TAKS-Modified (TAKS-M)**; **TAKS-Alternate (TAKS-ALT)**; **End-of-Course (EOC)** assessments; and **Linguistically Accommodated Testing (LAT)**. (See related sidebar for a description of each test.)

Students enrolled at private schools don’t take the TAKS test. In most cases, private schools set their own admission and graduation requirements; check with the admissions office at each school for more information on specific requirements.

For more information about educational testing in Texas, contact the Texas Education Agency’s (TEA) Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536, or visit [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

Springs ISD enrolled 4,468 students for the 2010-2011 school year. The average student/teacher ratio was 15.8; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,451; 98 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level; the average SAT score was 1116; and the average ACT score was 24.2. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

### Eanes ISD

Nola H. Wellman, Superintendent  
601 Camp Craft Rd.  
Austin, TX 78746  
512-732-9000  
[www.eanes.k12.tx.us](http://www.eanes.k12.tx.us)

6 elementary schools; 2 middle schools;  
1 high school

Eanes ISD, whose boundaries include parts of Austin, Rollingwood and West Lake Hills, enrolled 7,691 students for the 2010-2011 school year. The average student/teacher ratio was 13.4; actual per pupil expenditure was \$8,523; the average SAT score was 1215; average ACT score was 26.9; and 99 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Exemplary.

### Elgin ISD

Bill G. Graves, Superintendent  
900 West 2nd Street  
Elgin, TX 78621  
512-281-3434  
[www.elginisd.net](http://www.elginisd.net)

4 elementary schools; 1 middle school; 1 high school; and 1 alternative school  
Elgin ISD covers more than 168 square miles in portions of Bastrop, Lee, and Travis Counties and served 3,943 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 931; the average ACT score was 19.4; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,123; the student/teacher ratio was 15.5; and 71 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Florence ISD

Karla Moyer, Superintendent  
306 College Avenue  
Florence, TX 76527  
254-793-2850  
<http://florence.tx.schoolwebpages.com>  
1 elementary, 1 middle school; 1 high school

Covering most of Williamson and part of Burnet and Bell Counties, Florence ISD served 984 students in grades K-12 during the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 932; the average ACT score was 20.5, actual per pupil expenditures were \$8,987; the student/teacher ratio was 12.5; and 96 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The Texas Education Agency rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Georgetown ISD

Joe Dan Lee, Superintendent  
603 Lakeway Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
512-943-5000  
[www.georgetownisd.org](http://www.georgetownisd.org)

3 PreK-2 schools, three 3-5 schools, three K-5 schools, 3 middle schools, 1 ninth-grade campus, 1 high school, 1 alternative school

Located about 25 miles north of Austin in Williamson County, Georgetown enrolled 10,411 students for the 2010-2011 school year. The average overall student/teacher ratio was 12.6; actual per pupil expenditure was \$8,179; the average SAT score was 1055; the average ACT score was 23.0; and 95 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

### Granger ISD

Steve White, Superintendent  
300 North Colorado  
Granger, TX 76530  
512-859-2173  
[www.grangerisd.net](http://www.grangerisd.net)

1 elementary/middle school; 1 high school  
Granger ISD, located in Williamson County, served 409 students in grades pre-K-12 during the 2010-2011 school year. Student/teacher ratio was 10.8; actual per pupil expenditure was \$8,949; the average SAT score was 910; the average ACT score was 18.7; and 92 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.



Photo Courtesy of AISD





Photo Courtesy of Bellterra

## Hays Consolidated ISD

Dr. Jeremy Lyon, Superintendent  
21003 IH 35  
Kyle, TX 78640  
512-268-2141  
www.hayscisd.net

13 elementary schools; 5 middle schools;  
2 high schools; 2 alternative schools  
Located 17 miles south of Austin, Hays CISD enrolled 15,262 students from Hays County and parts of Caldwell and Travis Counties for the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 961, average ACT score was 20.0, student/teacher ratio was 14.7, actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,161, and 93 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

## Hutto ISD

Dr. Douglas Killian, Superintendent  
200 College  
Hutto, TX 78634  
512-759-3771  
www.hutto.txed.net

5 elementary schools; 2 middle schools;  
2 high schools

Located 7 miles east of IH-35 on Highway 79, Hutto ISD is bounded by Round Rock to the west and Taylor to the east. During the 2010-2011 school year, the district served 5,394 students in grades Pre-K-12; the average SAT score was 973; the average ACT score was 20.4; the student/teacher ratio was 14.8; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,850; and 91 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

## Jarrell ISD

John Rouse, Superintendent  
312 North 5th Street  
Jarrell, TX 76537  
512-746-2124  
www.esc13.net/jarrell

1 elementary; 1 middle school; 1 high school  
Located just north of Austin, Jarrell ISD served 975 students in grades pre-K-12 in Williamson and Bell Counties during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 12.7; the average SAT score was 1000; the average ACT score was 22.0; actual per pupil expenditures were \$10,101; and 95 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

## Lago Vista ISD

Matt Underwood, Superintendent  
8039 Bar-K Ranch Road  
Lago Vista, TX 78645  
512-267-8300  
www.lagovistaisd.net

1 elementary school; 1 middle school, 1 high school

Lago Vista ISD is located in Travis County on the north shores of Lake Travis and served 1,276 students in grades Pre-K-12 from the cities of Lago Vista, Point Venture and South Jonestown Hills during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 13.0; the average SAT score was 1009; the average ACT score was 20.8; actual per pupil expenditures were \$9,543; and 98 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

## Lake Travis ISD

Susan Bohn, J.D., Interim Superintendent & General Counsel  
3322 Ranch Road 620 South  
Austin, TX 78738  
512-533-6000  
www.laketexas.txed.net

5 elementary schools; 2 middle schools;  
1 high school

The Lake Travis Independent School District encompasses 118 square miles along the southwest shore of Lake Travis and served 6,546 students in grades K-12 during the 2009-2010 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 15.0; the average SAT score was 1124; the average ACT score was 24.0; per pupil expenditure was \$7,556; and 98 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Exemplary.

## Leander ISD

Bret A. Champion, Superintendent  
400 S. West Street  
Leander, TX 78646  
512-434-5000  
www.leanderisd.org

23 elementary schools; 7 middle schools;  
5 high schools; 2 alternative schools ▶

## UNDERSTANDING TEXAS DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency does not rank schools based on performance; instead it assigns each school an accountability rating that takes performance into consideration. The *Accountability Rating System* uses data collected by the AEIS to rank Texas schools and districts according to a specific set of criteria. You can tailor your search by district, county, region, state and more.

Reports rate the district and each school within the district, classifying either the district or the school as Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable (see sidebar for an explanation of each rating). The reports also have information on how the school, or the district, performed on various standardized tests, such as the SAT, ACT and TAKS test.

The **Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS)** collects a huge range of information on schools and districts in Texas and puts it into reports that are released each fall (see the *Public School District listing in this section for a brief synopsis of each district's AEIS report*). These performance indicators include:

- Results of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS\*); by grade, by subject, and by all grades tested;
- Participation in the TAKS tests;
- Exit-level TAKS Cumulative Passing Rates;
- Progress of Prior Year TAKS Failures;
- Results of the Student Success Initiative;
- English Language Learners Progress Measure;
- Attendance Rates;
- Annual Dropout Rates (grades 7-8, grades 7-12, and grades 9-12);
- Completion Rates (4-year longitudinal);
- College Readiness Indicators;
  - Completion of Advanced / Dual Enrollment Courses;
  - Completion of the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program;
  - Participation and Performance on Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Examinations;
  - Texas Success Initiative (TSI) – Higher Education Readiness Component;- Participation and Performance on the College Admissions Tests (SAT and ACT), and
  - College-Ready Graduates

Performance on each of these indicators is shown disaggregated by ethnicity, sex, special education, low-income status, limited English proficient status, at-risk status, and, beginning in 2008-09, by bilingual/ESL (district, region, and state, in section three of reports). The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, finances, programs, and student demographics. Parents can access school and district AEIS reports via the Texas Education Agency website at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) in the Testing/Accountability section of the site.

Leander ISD, whose boundaries include Leander, Cedar Park, Jonestown and parts of Northwest Austin, enrolled 32,034 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The average student/teacher ratio was 14.5; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,530; the average SAT score was 1056; the average ACT score was 23.7; and 96 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

### Liberty Hill ISD

Dr. Rob Hart, Superintendent  
14001 W. Highway 29  
Liberty Hill, TX 78642  
512-260-5580  
[www.libertyhill.txed.net](http://www.libertyhill.txed.net)

2 elementary schools; 1 intermediate school; 1 junior high school; 1 high school  
Liberty Hill is a rural community in the Hill Country about 30 minutes northwest of Austin in Williamson County; the district served 2,705 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 14.3; the average SAT score was 993; the average ACT score was 22.1; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,754; and 92 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

### Lockhart ISD

Dr. Jose L. Parra, Superintendent  
105 South Colorado  
Lockhart, TX 78644  
512-398-0000  
[www.lockhartisd.org](http://www.lockhartisd.org)

1 kindergarten; 4 elementary schools; 1 junior high; 1 freshman campus; 1 high school; 2 alternative schools  
Lockhart ISD, located in Caldwell County about 30 miles south of Austin, enrolled 4,684 students for the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 990, average ACT score was 19.9, actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,057, student/teacher ratio was 14.2, and 94 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized.

**Luling ISD**

Marc A. Puig, Superintendent  
 212 E. Bowie  
 Luling, TX 78648  
 830-875-3191  
 www.luling.txed.net

1 pre-K & K school, 1 primary school, 1 elementary school, 1 junior high school, 1 high school  
 Luling ISD, located in Caldwell County, served 1,458 students in grades K-12 during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 14.3; the average SAT score was 910; the average ACT score was 19.7; actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,411; and 92 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Unacceptable.

**Manor ISD**

Andrew Kim, Superintendent  
 312 Murray Avenue  
 Manor, TX 78653  
 512-267-8300  
 www.manorisd.net

7 elementary schools; 2 middle schools; 1 high school; 1 alternative school; 1 technology high school  
 The city of Manor is located 12 miles east of the University of Texas at Austin on U.S. Hwy 290, and Manor ISD served 7,173 students in Pre-K through 12th grade during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 14.5; the average SAT score was 862; the average ACT score was 16.4; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,831 and 81 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable

**McDade ISD**

Bill R. Kelly, Superintendent  
 156 Marlin Street  
 McDade, TX 78650  
 512-273-2522  
 www.mcdadeisd.net

1 elementary school, one middle school, one junior high school  
 McDade ISD is located about 40 miles east of Austin in Bastrop County; the district served

186 students in grades pre-K-8 during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 11.9, and actual per pupil expenditures were \$10,776. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Pflugerville ISD**

Charles E. Dupre, Superintendent  
 140 W. Pecan Street  
 Pflugerville, TX 78660  
 512-594-0000  
 www.pflugervilleisd.net

2 primary schools (one Pre-K-2; one Pre-K-5); 16 elementary schools; 5 middle schools; 3 high schools; 2 alternative schools  
 Located just north of Austin, Pflugerville ISD served 22,657 students from Austin, Pflugerville, Coupland, Hutto, Manor and Round Rock during the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 997; average ACT score was 21.4; student/ teacher ratio was 15.1; per pupil expenditures were \$6,749; and 93 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Prairie Lea ISD**

Jesus Lopez III, Superintendent  
 6910 Highway 80  
 Prairie Lea, TX 78661  
 512-488-2328  
 www.prairielea.txed.net

1 school serving pre-K-12  
 Prairie Lea is a small rural school district in Caldwell County that served 232 students in grades Pre-K-12 during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 10.9; the average SAT score was 896; the average ACT score was 18.8; actual per pupil expenditures were \$9,369; and 100 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

**Round Rock ISD**

Jesus H. Chavez, Ph.D., Superintendent  
 1311 Round Rock Avenue  
 Round Rock, TX 78681  
 512-464-5000  
 www.roundrockisd.org

31 elementary schools; 10 middle schools; 5 high schools; 2 alternative learning centers ▶

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE RATINGS**

School districts and elementary and secondary schools are rated for performance, according to the following accountability designations:

**Exemplary:** At least 90 percent of all students and each student group passed TAKS reading, writing, math, social studies and science; less than 0.2 percent dropout rate; at least 94 percent attendance rate.

**Recognized:** At least 70 percent passed TAKS reading, writing, math, social studies and science; 0.7 percent or less dropout rate; at least 94 percent attendance rate.

**Academically Acceptable:** At least 60 percent passed TAKS reading, writing and social studies; at least 40 percent passed math; and at least 35 percent passed science; 1 percent or less dropout rate; at least 94 percent attendance rate.

**Academically Unacceptable (Low-Performing Campus):** Less than 40 percent passing any TAKS test in any subject area; greater than 6 percent dropout rate; at least 94 percent attendance. An academically unacceptable or low-performing rating will not apply if attendance falls below 94 percent and is the only substandard indicator.



## ENROLLING YOUR CHILD: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Parents need the following to enroll a child in an Austin area school:

- A birth certificate, or a certified copy of the birth certificate
- Past school records
- A physician or clinic certification of immunization
- Proof of tuberculin screening (The Texas Education Code requires that all students have immunizations against diphtheria, rubella, polio, measles, tetanus and mumps.)

For specific information for each district, contact the Texas Education Agency at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us), or call 512-463-9734.

Round Rock ISD enrolled 44,590 students from southwest Williamson County and northwest Travis County during the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 1106, average ACT score was 24.1, student/teacher ratio was 14.6, actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,378, and 96 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### San Marcos Consolidated ISD

Mark E. Eads, Superintendent  
501 South LBJ Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-393-6700  
[www.smcisd.net](http://www.smcisd.net)  
6 elementary schools; 2 middle schools; 1 high school; 1 alternative school  
San Marcos is located 30 minutes south of Austin in Hays County. The San Marcos Consolidated ISD enrolled 7,377 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The average SAT score was 973; average ACT score was 18.9; student/teacher ratio was 13.6; actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,475; and 89 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Smithville ISD

Dr. Rock E. McNulty, Superintendent  
901 NE 6th Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-2487  
[www.smithville.isd.org](http://www.smithville.isd.org)  
1 primary school; 1 elementary school; 1 junior high school; 1 high school  
Located 42 miles southeast of Austin in Bastrop County, Smithville ISD served 1,735 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 13.3; the average SAT score was 1035; the average ACT score was 20.7; actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,617; and 99 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Taylor ISD

Jerry Vaughn, Superintendent  
602 West 12th  
Taylor, TX 76574  
512-365-1391  
[www.taylorisd.org](http://www.taylorisd.org)  
3 elementary schools; 1 middle school; 1 high school; 1 co-op school  
Located in eastern Williamson County 30 miles northeast of Austin, Taylor ISD served 3,074 students during the 2010-

2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 13.2; the average SAT score was 941, the average ACT score was 19.1; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,071; and 89 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Thrall ISD

Tommy Hooker, Superintendent  
201 S. Bounds Street  
Thrall, TX 76578  
512-898-5193  
[www.thrallisd.com](http://www.thrallisd.com)  
1 elementary school; 1 middle school; 1 high school  
Thrall is 45 miles east of Austin in Williamson County and served 660 students in the small communities of Thrall, Beakiss, Shiloh, Noack, Hare, Structure, Sandoval, and Circleville during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 15.2; the average SAT score was 971, the average ACT score was 19.4; actual per pupil expenditure was \$7,316; and 94 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Academically Acceptable.

### Wimberley ISD

Dwain York, Superintendent  
14401 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
512-847-2414  
[www.wimberley.txed.net](http://www.wimberley.txed.net)  
1 primary school; 1 intermediate school; 1 junior high school; 1 high school; 1 alternative campus  
Wimberley, located just outside of Austin in Hays County, served 2,002 students during the 2010-2011 school year. The student/teacher ratio was 13.4; the average SAT score was 1094; the average ACT score was 23.6; actual per pupil expenditures were \$7,891; and 99 percent of students passed the TAKS test at the exit level. The TEA rated the district Recognized. ■



Photo Courtesy of Anderson Media Group

# AUSTIN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

**A**s in all progressive cities, education is important to the people who live there – and it is an especially important consideration for those relocating to a new city. That emphasis on quality education has translated into a wealth of choices for private and parochial schools – offering more options for parents and children – and Austin is no exception.

According to U.S. Department of Education statistics, private schools have slowly become a more popular alternative – even in the face of recession and curbed spending. In fact, studies show that enrollment has risen by 9 percent in the last 25 years.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates that private school enrollment figures dropped about 2.5 percent from 2006 to 2009 – but that they're on the rise again.

Recent figures from a National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) survey found that while enrollment dipped less than 1 percent nationally, it's still higher than it was five years ago.

Today, the Department of Education estimates that 6 million students attend the country's 33,000 private schools – about 11 percent of all American elementary and high school students. These private schools run the gamut – from elite preparatory academies that cost more than \$20,000 annually to less pricey parochial schools where tuition is often offset by generous donations. According to the NAIS survey, parents paid an average of \$16,115 for first grade and \$20,995 for 12th grade in 2010.

## AUSTIN'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Given the city's accolades as an educat-

ed community with lots of brainpower, it's not surprising that there are more than 300 private schools in Austin and in surrounding Central Texas communities, with enrollment that ranges from pre-K through 12th grade.

The total enrollment for all private schools in the area is more than 11,000, and student tuition ranges from \$300 per month to \$18,000 per school year. Austin also has an active home school and charter school community (see the list of *Austin Charter Schools* in this section).

The following is a list of the 25 largest private schools in the Austin area – including the most recent enrollment figures (as of May 2011), grades served, address, contact information and website, where available. We've also included a general sample of other private schools in the ►

## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

area to give you an idea of the depth and variety the Austin area offers for private education.

For a more comprehensive listing of other area private schools and more detailed information about each school – including tuition, admissions requirements, maps, reviews, and the ability to search by price, location, and more – please refer to the *Local Private School Resources* list. And, for national educational resources, including additional private school information, please refer to our listing of *National Education Resources for Parents* in this section.

### AUSTIN'S 25 LARGEST PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The following is a list of the 25 largest private schools in the Austin area – including the most recent enrollment figures (as of May 2011), grades served, address, contact information and website, where available. We've also included a general sample of other private schools in the area to give you an idea of the depth and variety the Austin area offers for private education.

#### 1. Regents School of Austin

*Grades K-12; Enrollment: 900+*  
3230 Travis Country Circle  
512-899-8095  
[www.regents-austin.com](http://www.regents-austin.com)

Focus is “a classical and Christian education in the service of both God and man.”

#### 2. St. Andrew's Episcopal School

*Grades 1-12; Enrollment: 850*  
*Lower & Middle Schools – Grades 1-8*  
1112 West 31st Street  
512-299-9800  
*Upper School – Grades 9-12*  
5901 Southwest Parkway  
512-299-9700  
[www.sasaustin.org](http://www.sasaustin.org)  
Episcopal school focused on well-rounded education of community service, academics, and social skills.

#### 3. Brentwood Christian School

*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 713+*  
11908 N. Lamar Blvd.  
512-835-5983  
[www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org)  
“Christ-centered education” at Church of Christ school.

#### 4. St. Stephen's Episcopal School

*Grades 6-12; Enrollment: 665+*  
2900 Bunny Run  
512-327-1213  
[www.sstx.org](http://www.sstx.org)  
Rigorous academics/college prep school; sports, fine arts activities; boarding optional.

#### 5. Hyde Park Baptist School

*Grades K-12; Enrollment: 540+*  
3901 Speedway  
512-465-8331  
[www.hpbs.org](http://www.hpbs.org)  
Academic excellence, Christian values, college prep curriculum; Affiliated with Hyde Park Baptist Church

#### 6. Redeemer Lutheran School

*Grades K-8; Enrollment: 500+*  
1500 West Anderson Lane  
512-451-6478  
[www.redeemerschool.net](http://www.redeemerschool.net)  
“Christ-centered environment dedicated to developing the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially.”

#### 7. St. Michael's Catholic Academy

*Grades 9-12; Enrollment: 540+*  
3000 Barton Creek Blvd.  
512-328-2323  
[www.smca.com](http://www.smca.com)  
College prep school; “academic excellence combined with faith formation.”

#### 8. Hill Country Christian School of Austin

*Grades K-12; Enrollment: 525+*  
12124 RM 620 North  
512-331-7036  
[www.hccsa.org](http://www.hccsa.org)  
Christ-centered college prep school with “classical teaching methodology”

#### 9. Holy Family Catholic School

*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 465+*  
9400 Neenah Avenue  
512-246-4455  
[www.holyfamilycs.org](http://www.holyfamilycs.org)  
Catholic, Christ-centered school with a “nurturing environment that fosters the growth of the whole child”

#### 10. St. Theresa's School

*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 420+*  
4311 Small Drive  
512-451-7105  
[www.sttheresa.org](http://www.sttheresa.org)





“According to U.S. Department of Education statistics, private schools have slowly become a more popular alternative – even in the face of recession and curbed spending.

In fact, studies show that enrollment has risen by 9 percent in the last 25 years.”

School's mission is to “develop elementary/middle school students to their full potential by educating them in a Catholic and academically excellent environment.”

- 11. **St. Gabriel’s Catholic School**  
*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 415+*  
 2500 Wimberly Lane  
 512-327-7755  
[www.sgs-austin.org](http://www.sgs-austin.org)  
 St. Gabriel’s Catholic School “celebrates the individuality of each child and cultivates virtue, excellence, leadership, and service.”
- 12. **Trinity Episcopal School**  
*Grades K-8; Enrollment: 375+*  
 3901 Bee Cave Road  
 512-472-9525  
[www.trinitykids.com](http://www.trinitykids.com)  
 A school in which students are “engaged spiritually, physically, intellectually, and academically;” daily chapel services.
- 13. **Austin Waldorf School**  
*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 370+*  
 8700 South View Road  
 512-288-5942  
[www.austinwaldorf.org](http://www.austinwaldorf.org)

Grades K-12; Focus on balancing “academic, artistic and practical disciplines”

- 14. **Round Rock Christian Academy**  
*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 370+*  
 301 N. Lake Creek Drive  
 512-255-4491 (Main office);  
 512-716-1354 (Secondary office)  
[www.rrca-tx.org](http://www.rrca-tx.org)  
 Curriculum includes chapel, Bible study, music, fine arts, learning centers and creative play
- 15. **St. Louis Catholic School**  
*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 340+*  
 2114 St. Joseph Blvd.  
 512-454-0384  
[www.st-louis.org/school.htm](http://www.st-louis.org/school.htm)  
 Catholic school and community of faith; affiliated with St. Louis King of France Catholic Church
- 16. **The Children’s School**  
*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 340+*  
 2825 Hancock Drive  
 512-453-1126  
[www.thechildrensschool.org](http://www.thechildrensschool.org)  
 Montessori-based curriculum, open since 1979

- 17. **Summit Christian Academy**  
*Grades PK-12 (Cedar Park campus) and PK-6 (Leander campus); Enrollment: 319*  
 2121 Cypress Creek Road;  
 512-250-1369 (Cedar Park)  
 1303 Leander Drive;  
 512-259-4416 (Leander)  
[www.summiteagles.org](http://www.summiteagles.org)  
 Curriculum includes “rigorous academics, training in Biblical character, and engagement in servanthood;” affiliated with Shoreline Christian School at the high school level.
- 18. **Austin Montessori School**  
*Grades: Preschool-8; Enrollment: 280*  
 5006 Sunset Trail (Main campus)  
 512-892-0253  
 6817 Great Northern Blvd.  
 (Great Northern campus)  
 512-450-1940  
 5676 Oak Blvd. (Adolescent community)  
[www.austinmontessori.org](http://www.austinmontessori.org)  
 Ages 14 months–9 years; Association Montessori Internationale curriculum
- 19. **Shoreline Christian School**  
*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 275+*  
 15201 Burnet Road  
 512-310-7358  
[www.shorelinechristianschool.org](http://www.shorelinechristianschool.org)  
 Christian-based education; school partnered with Summit Christian Academy as start of effort to create a Christian school district
- 20. **St. Ignatius Martyr School**  
*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 266*  
 120 West Oltorf Street  
 512-442-8547  
[www.st-ignatius.org/school/](http://www.st-ignatius.org/school/)  
 School is a “Christian environment where students, teachers and parents build a community of faith, hope and love.”
- 21. **Strickland Christian School**  
*Grades PreK-8; Enrollment: 225+*  
 7415 Manchaca Road  
 512-447-1447  
[www.stricklandschool.com](http://www.stricklandschool.com) ▶

## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

School's mission is to "equip students to be lovers of Jesus and His Word and to emulate Christ's character, purpose and ministry."

### 22. St. Austin Catholic School

*Grades K-8; Enrollment: 200+*

1911 San Antonio Street

512-477-3751

[www.staustinschool.org](http://www.staustinschool.org)

Elementary/middle school opened in 1917; affiliated with St. Austin church.

### 23. St. Martin's Lutheran

**Day School**

*Grades 18 months-K; Enrollment: 190*

606 West 15th Street

512-476-4037

[www.saintmartins.org/school](http://www.saintmartins.org/school)

Balanced, integrated education programs; music, art, computers and Spanish.

### 24. All Saints Episcopal School

*Grades PreK3-K; Enrollment: 170+*

209 West 27th Street

512-472-8866

[www.allsaints-austin.org/aseds.htm](http://www.allsaints-austin.org/aseds.htm)

Episcopal school that is focused on "learning through active exploration."

### 25. St. Paul Lutheran School

*Grades PK-8; Enrollment: 165+*

3407 Red River Street

512-472-3313

[www.stpaulaustin.org](http://www.stpaulaustin.org)

Elementary/middle school; opened in 1893; affiliated with St. Paul Lutheran Church.

## OTHER AUSTIN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Austin is diverse – and so are its private school options. Here's a general sampling of other private schools in the area to give you an idea of the depth and variety that the Austin area offers for private education.

## LOCAL PRIVATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Austin's Children's Educational Opportunities Foundation  
(Austin CEO Foundation)  
[www.ceoatx.org](http://www.ceoatx.org)

Austin Private Schools  
[austinprivateschools.com](http://austinprivateschools.com)

Austin Home School Information  
[www.geocities.com/austinareahomeschoolers/online](http://www.geocities.com/austinareahomeschoolers/online)

GreatSchools.org – Austin  
[www.greatschools.org/texas/austin/private/schools](http://www.greatschools.org/texas/austin/private/schools)

Texas Charter Schools  
[www.txcharterschools.org](http://www.txcharterschools.org)

Texans for Parental Choice in Education  
<http://txpce.com>

### Abercorn International School

*Grades PreK-6*

601 Ranch Road 620 South

Lakeway, TX 78734

512-263-8160

[www.aberncorninternational.org](http://www.aberncorninternational.org)

Abercorn International is a private international school for boys and girls ages two-and-a-half to 11 years old – offering a global curriculum, personal attention, a child- and student-centered atmosphere, music, dance, and an emphasis on language skills (including both Mandarin and Spanish) and technology in a comfortable, energetic environment.

Founded in London more than 25 years ago, Abercorn also operates a sister school in New York, as well as in north Austin. The school is dedicated to hiring and carefully selecting highly qualified, compassionate teachers and learning assistants. Class sizes are small to guarantee individualized attention for each child, and all classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboard technology and computer stations.

### Austin International School

*(formerly Lycee Francais d'Austin)*

*Grades PreK-5; Enrollment: 160+*

12001 Oak Knoll Drive

Austin, TX 78759

512-331-7806

[www.austininternationalschool.org](http://www.austininternationalschool.org)

The Austin International School offers an "international education based on solid academic foundations, lifelong social skills and a positive forward-thinking outlook, allowing students to thrive in the world of today and tomorrow."

The school's curriculum is delivered in three languages and built on a French curriculum framework and is designed to develop students' critical thinking and intellectual curiosity to prepare them for academic success in French, American, and international institutions – as well as preparation for the International Baccalaureate (IB) or the French International Baccalaureate diplomas.

### Austin Waldorf School

*Grades K-12; Enrollment: 380+*

8700 South View Road

Austin, TX 78737

512-288-5942

[www.austinwaldorf.org](http://www.austinwaldorf.org)

Focus on balancing "academic, artistic and practical disciplines," the Austin Waldorf School was established in 1980 and serves students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The school's guiding values are a "lifelong love of learning, creative thinking and self-confidence, a sympathetic interest in the world and the lives of others, and an abiding sense of moral purpose."

## **Brentwood Christian School**

*Grades PK-12; Enrollment: 713+*  
11908 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, TX 78753

512-835-5983

[www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org)

Brentwood Christian School is a Church of Christ school offering a Christian preschool, elementary, and secondary education alternative to Austin families. Founded as a kindergarten and first grade in 1963, the school has grown to be one of the largest private schools in Austin, offering a complete K-12 educational experience. Today, more than 713 students attend Brentwood Christian, and 2011 marked the graduation of the school's 24th class of seniors.

## **Cathedral School of St. Mary**

*Grades PreK-8; Enrollment: 190+*  
910 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, TX 78701

512-476-1480

[www.smcschoolaustin.org](http://www.smcschoolaustin.org)

The elementary/middle school of St. Mary's Cathedral Catholic church, the Cathedral School of St. Mary "enriches students spiritually, academically and socially by fostering a diverse community through, with and in the teachings of Jesus Christ. As Christian educators we, jointly with each parent, share the privilege and responsibility of facilitating the growth of the whole child. Through our religious and academic program, we help to form the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical development of every student entrusted to us." The Cathedral School of St. Mary is accredited by the Texas Catholic Education Department, and all faiths are welcome.

## **Fellowship Christian Academy**

*Grades K-3; Enrollment: 200+*  
3379 Gattis School Road

Round Rock, 78664

512-255-5265

[www.fellowshipfc.org](http://www.fellowshipfc.org)

The Fellowship Christian Academy's focus is on "Christ-centered educational experi-

ence" that meets individual needs of each child to help children grow physically, academically, emotionally and spiritually. The school "strives to offer excellent programs to promote Christian principles and support for children and their families in our community."

## **Girls' School of Austin**

*Grades K-8; Enrollment: 80+*

2007 McCall Road

Austin, TX 78730

512-478-7827

[www.thegirlsschool.org](http://www.thegirlsschool.org)

This all-girls school with special emphasis on math, science and technology also offers a liberal arts program that includes visual and performing arts (classes in music and drama), and Spanish beginning in Kindergarten, with "girl-centric classrooms that make it easier for students to focus on academics in a community of like-minded peers."

## **The Griffin School**

*Grades 9-12; Enrollment: 60+*

710 East 41st Street

Austin, TX 78751

512-454-5797

[www.griffinschool.org](http://www.griffinschool.org)

The Griffin School features a rigorous college prep curriculum with focus on the arts; all students are taught one year of Latin and ancient Roman culture. Seniors create an individual "senior project" that demonstrates their accumulated academic skills and interests through the production of a significant project of their own design. There's also a focus on developing students' personal learning and organizational systems, test-taking skills for the SAT, and support in the college application process.

## **The Khabele School**

*(formerly Learning Community School)*

*Grades 6-12; Enrollment: 150+*

801 Rio Grande

Austin, TX 78701

512-480-8142

[www.tksaustin.org](http://www.tksaustin.org)

The Khabele School provides "progressive college preparatory education for 6th through 12th grade students that emphasizes academic integrity as well as the development of creative, physical, social, and emotional intelligence." The school's mission is to "cultivate learning communities in which each and every student, parent, and staff member realizes their profound beauty, falls in love with learning, and lives with courage and authenticity."

## **Parkside Community School**

*Grades PreK-6; Enrollment: 140+*

1701 Toomey Road

Austin, TX 78704

512-472-2559

[www.parksidecommunityschool.org](http://www.parksidecommunityschool.org)

Parkside Community School serves three-year-olds to twelve-year-olds (primary through upper elementary). Parkside offers a strong *Association Montessori Internationale* curriculum, while "cultivating social skills and a strong sense of community through school-wide activities and outdoor experiences," and is committed to "providing academic excellence and rich social experiences to nurture the child, family and community."

## **Rawson-Saunders School**

*Grades 1-8; Enrollment: 100+*

2614A Exposition Blvd.

Austin, TX 78703

512-476-8382

[www.rawson-saunders.org](http://www.rawson-saunders.org)

Founded in 1997, Rawson-Saunders School is the only full-curriculum school in Central Texas specifically for students with dyslexia and related language-based learning disorders. The school is "dedicated to excellence in education through which bright learners with dyslexia can develop to their fullest intellectual, emotional and social potential," with a challenging curriculum that includes multi-sensory instruction in small classroom environments. ■



Photo Courtesy of Austin Children's Museum



# AUSTIN CHARTER SCHOOLS

## ALTERNATIVES *for* ALL

**E**ducational alternatives are everywhere in Austin, and one of the fastest-growing areas is charter schools. These unique schools are public schools with a twist, with a lot of freedom in terms of curriculum and philosophy that are appealing to many parents. For example, in Austin alone, there are charter schools for specific skills, like gymnastics or technology,

as well as numerous opportunities for self-directed and experiential learning.

A good resource for more information on charter schools in Austin and around the state is the San Antonio-based *Resource Center for Charter Schools*. Call the Center at 210-348-7890; visit at 40 NE Loop 410, Suite

408, San Antonio, Texas 78216; or log on to [www.charterstexas.org](http://www.charterstexas.org) for more information.

There's also the *Texas Charter Schools Association* ([www.txcharterschools.org](http://www.txcharterschools.org)); parents can search for schools and get more information (see *listing of National Educational Resources in*

*this section*). Another resource is the *Austin CEO Foundation*, which has sections on charter, public and private schools (see sidebar in *Education section for more information*). Visit [www.ceoatx.org](http://www.ceoatx.org) for more information, or call 512-291-9120.

There are more than 390 charter schools statewide that educate more than 120,000 students, and about 100 in Austin. The following is a sampling of Austin's charter schools.

### **American YouthWorks (AYW) Charter School**

1901 E. Ben White Blvd.

Austin, TX 78741

512-744-1900

[www.AmericanYouthWorks.org](http://www.AmericanYouthWorks.org)

Opened: 1996

Sponsoring Entity: American YouthWorks

Grades: 9-12 (ages 16-21)

Enrollment: 200+

Mission/Philosophy: A fully accredited public high school, the focus of the AYW Charter School is to "recover youth who have dropped out of school, are at risk of dropping out, or who are seeking a different way of learning." AYW was the first charter school in the U.S. named a National Service Learning Leader School, and has been recognized as a national model charter school by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Austin Can! Academy Charter School**

2406 Rosewood Avenue

Austin, TX 78702

512-477-4226

[www.americacan.org](http://www.americacan.org)

Opened: 2002

Sponsoring Entity: Texans Can!/

America Can!

Grades: 9-12

Enrollment: 350+

Mission/Philosophy: The focus of the Austin Can! Academy is on "at-risk, 16- to 21-year-old students who have been

unsuccessful in traditional educational settings," and to "empower young, disadvantaged Texans and their families to break the cycle of failure, poverty, hopelessness and economic dependency through education and training."

### **Austin Discovery School**

8509 FM 969, Suite 200

Austin, TX 78724

512-674-0700

[www.austindiscoveryschool.org](http://www.austindiscoveryschool.org)

Opened: 2005

Sponsoring Entity: Our Lady's Catholic Church

Grades: K-6

Enrollment: 315+

Mission/Philosophy: At Austin Discovery School, "caring, sharing, helping, and empathizing are actively encouraged.

Taking the time to teach children to be caring individuals is not at the expense of academics, but will enhance academic success through increasing the student's comfort level, thereby increasing their brain's learning capacity."

### **Cedars International Academy**

8416 N. Interstate 35

Austin, TX 78723

512-419-1551

[www.cedars-academy.org](http://www.cedars-academy.org)

Opened: 2001

Sponsoring Entity: Our Lady's Catholic Church

Grades Served: K-7

Enrollment: 215+

Mission/Philosophy: A small, private school environment in northeast Austin, Cedars International Academy features small class sizes, low student/teacher ratios and heavy parental involvement. Curriculum includes Saxon math, Shurley English, a science lab for all grades, and a gardening program integrated into science; the TEA has also named it a Recognized school.

### **Eden Park Academy**

6215 Manchaca Rd, Building D

Austin, TX 78745

512-383-0613

[www.EdenParkAcademy.com](http://www.EdenParkAcademy.com)

Opened: 1998

Sponsoring Entity: Eden Park Academy

Board of Trustees

Grades: K-8

Enrollment: 190+

Mission/Philosophy: Classes are inspired by Howard Gardner's "Theory of Multiple Intelligences," with a curriculum that includes "integrated thematic instruction, individual learning plans, instruction that recognizes that children are differently ▶



## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

gifted, instruction based on real-world experiences, smaller classrooms, and an extended day program.”

### Harmony Schools of Excellence

(Includes Harmony Science Academy – Austin; Harmony School of Science – Austin; and Harmony Science Academy – North Austin)

930 East Rundberg Lane (Harmony Science Academy; Grades K-8)

Austin, 78753

512-835-7900

11800 Stonehollow Drive, Ste. 100

(Harmony School of Science, Austin; Grades K-8)

Austin, 78758

512-821-1700

1421 Wells Branch Parkway West, Suite 200 (Harmony Science Academy, North Austin; Grades 6-12)

Pflugerville, 78660

512-251-5000

www.hsaaustin.org

Sponsoring Entity: Cosmos Foundation

Enrollment: 1,100+ (includes all schools)

Mission/Philosophy: With a motto of “rigor, relevance and relationships,” Harmony Schools offers a competitive academic environment to “encourage a lifelong love of learning.” There are 14 campuses across Texas, including the three Austin Harmony Science Academy locations, which promotes local and international science, math and computer technology fairs, competitions, and Olympiads. The Texas Education Agency has also recognized the schools as *Exemplary* campuses.

### KIPP Austin Public Schools

8509 FM 969, Building C

Austin, TX 78724

512-637-6870

www.kippaustin.org

Opened: 2002

Sponsoring Entity: KIPP Austin College Preparatory School, Inc.

Grades: Full charter district offering K-12 education at five different schools



Enrollment: 500+

Mission/Philosophy: Founded in July 2002, *KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Austin Public Schools* is a charter school district of free, open enrollment, college-preparatory public schools that “empowers a new generation to transform their futures and make a difference in their world.” *KIPP Austin College Prep*, open since 2002, is a middle school that serves grades five through eight; *KIPP Austin Collegiate* is a high school that currently serves grades 9-11; it will expand to grade 12 in the next year. In 2009, the district opened its second middle school, *KIPP Austin Academy of Arts & Letters*, which serves grades 5-8, and also operates two elementary schools: *KIPP Austin Comunidad (K-4)*; and *KIPP Austin Connections (K-4)*.

### NYOS Charter School, Inc.

12301 N. Lamar Blvd.

Austin, TX 78753

512-583-6967

www.nyos.org

Opened: 1998

Sponsoring Entity: NYOS Charter School, Inc.

Grades: Pre-K-12

Enrollment: 500+

Mission/Philosophy: NYOS (“Not Your Ordinary School”) Charter Schools, Inc. operates *NYOS Elementary* and *NYOS Secondary*, which offer limited student/teacher ratios in all classes, modeled lifelong learning, individualized learning plans for each student, the same classroom and teacher for multiple years (called “looping”), and a year-round school calendar. NYOS Charter School “ensures that every child realizes their maximum potential through the mastery of an innovative curriculum that corporate outside world and creates highly motivated, critical thinkers, prepared for the world of work and a successful life.”

### Premier High School of Austin

1701 West Ben White

Austin, TX 78704

512-444-1266

austin.premierhighschools.com

Opened: 1998

Sponsoring Entity: Eagle Academies of Texas

Grades: 9-12

Enrollment: 300+

Mission/Philosophy: A partnership with Austin Community College, the national Premier High School program offers dual enrollment through the Early College Start



Program and participates in an Advanced Placement Grant, as well as the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Grant (T-STEM Grant).

### Star Charter School

1901 Fleischer Drive

Austin, TX 78728

512-989-2672

[www.stararterschool.org](http://www.stararterschool.org)

Opened: 1997

Sponsoring Entity: Chaparral Star Academy, Inc.

Grades: K-12 (*Lower School: K-6; Middle School: 7-8; Upper School: 9-12*)

Enrollment: 200+

Mission/Philosophy: To provide an educational environment which exceeds the standards for public education, and to foster a desire for advancement and achievement among all of our students and teachers.

### Texas Empowerment Academy

3613 Bluestein Drive

Austin, TX 78721

512-494-1076

[www.txempower.com](http://www.txempower.com)

Opened: 1998

Sponsoring Entity: T.A. Unlimited

Grades: K-9

Enrollment: 100+

Mission/Philosophy: The Texas Empowerment Academy was founded as a mechanism to provide children with an innovative alternative for educational excellence in grades K-9. Since its inception, The Academy has "grown into a jewel in East Austin where primarily African-American students of all labels (i.e., "at risk," "special education," "gifted and talented," "economically disadvantaged," "Title I," and all those other students that other school districts had written off as "unteachable") have been able to thrive at both academic and social excellence."

### Trinity Charter School

8305 Cross Park Drive

Austin, TX 78754

512-706-7564

[www.trinitycharterschools.org](http://www.trinitycharterschools.org)

Opened: 2004

Sponsoring Entity: Trinity Charter School

Grades: girls, 4th-12th grades

Enrollment: 250+

Mission/Philosophy: Headquartered in Austin, Trinity Charter Schools operates four Texas campuses, all of which serve troubled youth who have severe emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. These children have been placed in a psychiatric hospital or at secure residential treatment centers due to the intense level of care they require. The Austin campus – *New Life* – serves female students in 4th through 12th grades in a safe and therapeutic learning environment.

### University Charter School

8701 North Mopac, Suite 350

Austin, TX 78759

512-471-5652

[www.utexas.edu/cee/charter](http://www.utexas.edu/cee/charter)

Opened: 1998

Sponsoring Entity: The University of Texas at Austin

Grades: PreK-12

Enrollment: More than 1,200 (all campuses)

Mission/Philosophy: The University Charter School (UCS) educates students at 15 residential treatment centers and 2 day schools at elite gymnastics facilities. "By meeting each child at his or her instructional level

and providing a challenging curriculum designed to accelerate instruction, the educational staff at UT-UCS provide students the opportunity to work toward high school graduation, personal growth, and successful integration into the adult workforce." Instruction is a self-paced, independent learning environment.

### University of Texas Elementary

2200 E. 6th Street

Austin, TX 78702

Phone: 512-495-9705

[www.utelementary.org](http://www.utelementary.org)

Opened: 2003

Sponsoring Entity: University of Texas Elementary

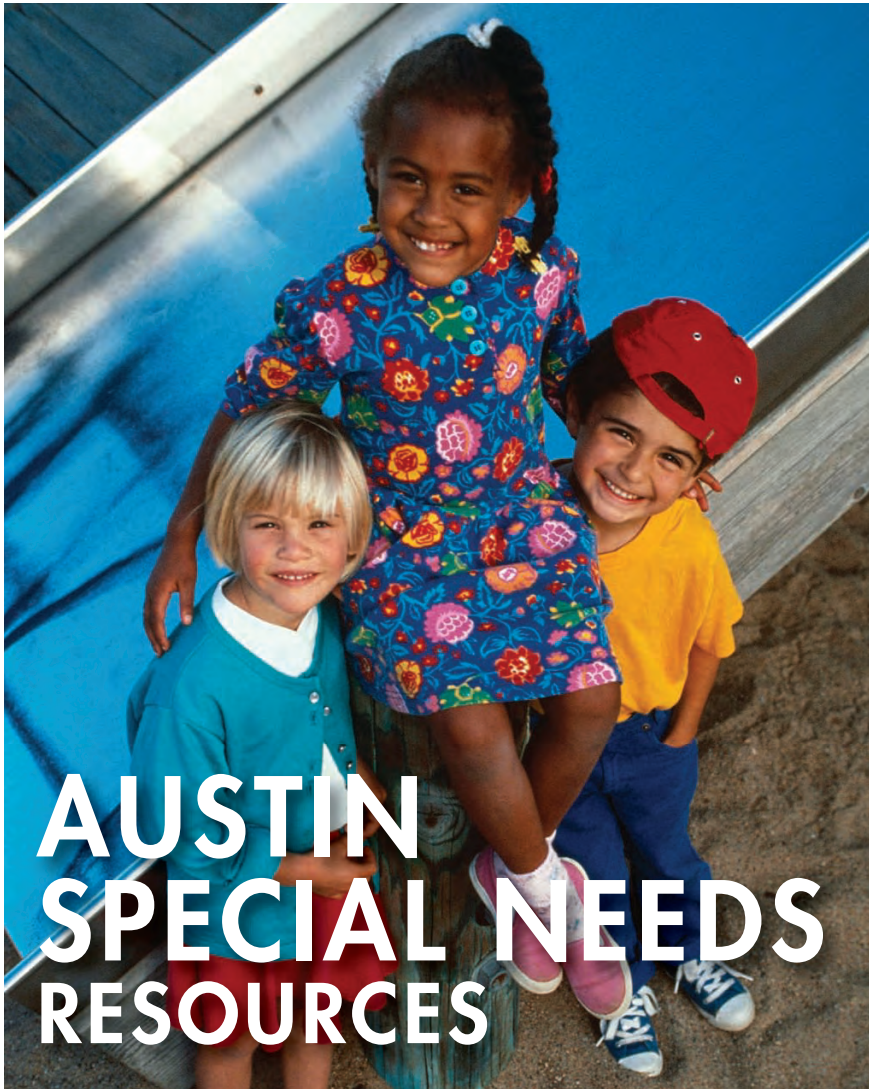
Grades: PreK-5

Enrollment: 225+

Mission/Philosophy: The University of Texas Elementary School is a research-based demonstration school in the heart of East Austin with an 8-year track record of success serving urban children. Founded in 2003 as part of the UT System's *Every Child, Every Advantage* initiative to support P-16 education, UT Austin operates UT Elementary as an open-enrollment campus, free to students, with a lottery-based admission system. The school pre-kindergarten class has 20 students and all other grades kindergarten-through-fifth have two classes of 20. ■



Photo Courtesy of Austin Children's Museum



**P**arents who have children with special needs will find a wealth of resources in Austin to ensure that kids get the care they need to thrive and succeed.

Not only does each and every Austin area school district have special education resources within the school system, there are also specialized schools and centers across the city for those with learning disabilities, visual, speech, or hearing impairments, autism, mental retardation, orthopedic impairments, traumatic brain injuries, or other special needs. The following is a list of schools and resources for Austin parents.

**CLASS**  
877-438-5658  
**MRLA**  
483-5800

Both these services provide funding for therapies, assisted/supported living, home modifications, nursing, and more. Waiting lists are years long, so parents should sign up as soon as possible.

**Austin Travis County Mental Health  
Mental Retardation**  
512-472-4357

Links families to other support services and wait lists, respite, in-home and family support, and case-management.

**Children with Special Healthcare Needs**  
800-252-8023

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn/default.shtm)  
Department of Health - provides case management and supports family-centered, community based strategies for improving quality of life for children with special health care needs.

**Medically Dependent Children's  
Program (MDCP)**

877-438-5658 (waiting list)  
Department of Human Services – provides a variety of services.

**SSI (Supplemental Security Income)**

512-916-5404 – Austin/Travis County  
800-772-1213

Monthly payment and/or Medicaid; dependent on income and disability.

**Texas Department of Assistive and  
Rehabilitative Services**

DARS Inquiries line: (800) 628-5115  
[www.dars.state.tx.us](http://www.dars.state.tx.us)

Advocacy for Texans of all ages who are deaf or hard of hearing. Also provides services and programs for Texans of all ages who are blind or visually impaired, including transition services for those aged 13-22, as well as assistance in vocational rehabilitation and job counseling for Texans with disabilities (all ages).

**Family Support Cooperative**

512-414-0955  
Support and informational meetings every Tuesday night during the AISD school semester at Rosedale School that includes free pizza, free childcare, and sibling activities.

**Parent & School Support Team – AISD**

512-414-0955  
Referral information, problem-solving between schools and families, help with transitions.

**ARC of the Capital Area**

512-476-7044  
Respite, parent-to-parent matches, food and clothing pantry, case-management.

### **ARCIL, Inc. (Austin Resource Center for Independent Living)**

512-832-6349

Advocacy and referrals for all ages, independent living skills and transition assistance for teens (14 and up).

### **ECI (Early Childhood Intervention)**

*DARS Inquiries line: (800) 628-5115*

[www.dars.state.tx.us](http://www.dars.state.tx.us)

A division of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, ECI is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services. Services are provided by a variety of local agencies and organizations across Texas.

### **First Call for Help**

512-324-1899

Comprehensive, confidential information and referral program with a computerized database of services for Travis County residents.

### **GAFE (Grupo De Apoyo Para Familias Especiales)**

512-385-8839

Advocacy and support services to Spanish-speaking families. (512)

### **McBeth Recreation Center**

512-974-9011

Provides programs and recreation participation opportunities for children, teens, and adults who have developmental and/or physical challenges.

### **Path Project**

512-292-8135

Assists with special education laws, regulations and ARDs.

### **Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program) at SafePlace**

512-267-7233

[www.austin-safeplace.org](http://www.austin-safeplace.org)

Abuse prevention and education for

teachers, parents and students with disabilities.

### **Texas Parent to Parent**

512-458-8600 or (866) 896-6001

[www.txP2P.org](http://www.txP2P.org)

A statewide non-profit developed for parents by parents: provides parent to parent matches, support, information, website, resources, newsletter, training.

### **WorkSource - Child Care Solutions**

512-302-0710

Assists with childcare funding for families who are financially eligible and are working, in school, or in training.

## **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **SSI (Supplemental Security Income)**

800-772-1213

Monthly payment and Medicaid; based on family income and resources if child is under age 18; based on individual if over 18.

### **NICHY (National Information Center for Children and Youth w/ Disabilities)**

800-695-0285

[www.nichy.org](http://www.nichy.org)

Disability library and information on related services; produces state resource sheet.

### **Exceptional Parent Magazine**

800-247-8080

[www.eparent.com](http://www.eparent.com)

Monthly magazine for parents and professional; National website includes resources for parent to parent programs; information and referral centers, disability library, services, products and much more.

### **Family Village**

[www.familyvillage.wisc.edu](http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu)

A global community that integrates information, resources, disabilities library and communication opportunities on the Internet.

### **NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders)**

800-999-6673

[www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)

Information and referrals on rare disorders.

### **MUMS**

**(Mothers United for Moral Support)**

909-336-5333

[www.netnet.net/mums/](http://www.netnet.net/mums/)

National parent-to-parent network; provides information and emotional support to parents whose child has a rare disorder.

### **NIH (National Institute of Health)**

301-402-4336

[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

Stephen Groft at the office of rare diseases provides information on which hospitals and physicians are doing research or clinical trials on any disease.

### **NAMI**

**(National Association for Mental Illness)**

800-950-6264

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

Provides information and training programs for caregivers of individuals with mental health issues or brain disorders.

## **INTERNET RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES**

**Advocacy Inc.**

[www.advocacyinc.org](http://www.advocacyinc.org)

**The ARC of Texas**

[www.thearcotexas.org](http://www.thearcotexas.org)

**IDEA 2004**

<http://idea.ed.gov/>

**NICHY (National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities)**

[www.nichy.org](http://www.nichy.org)

**TEA (Texas Education Agency) – Special Education**

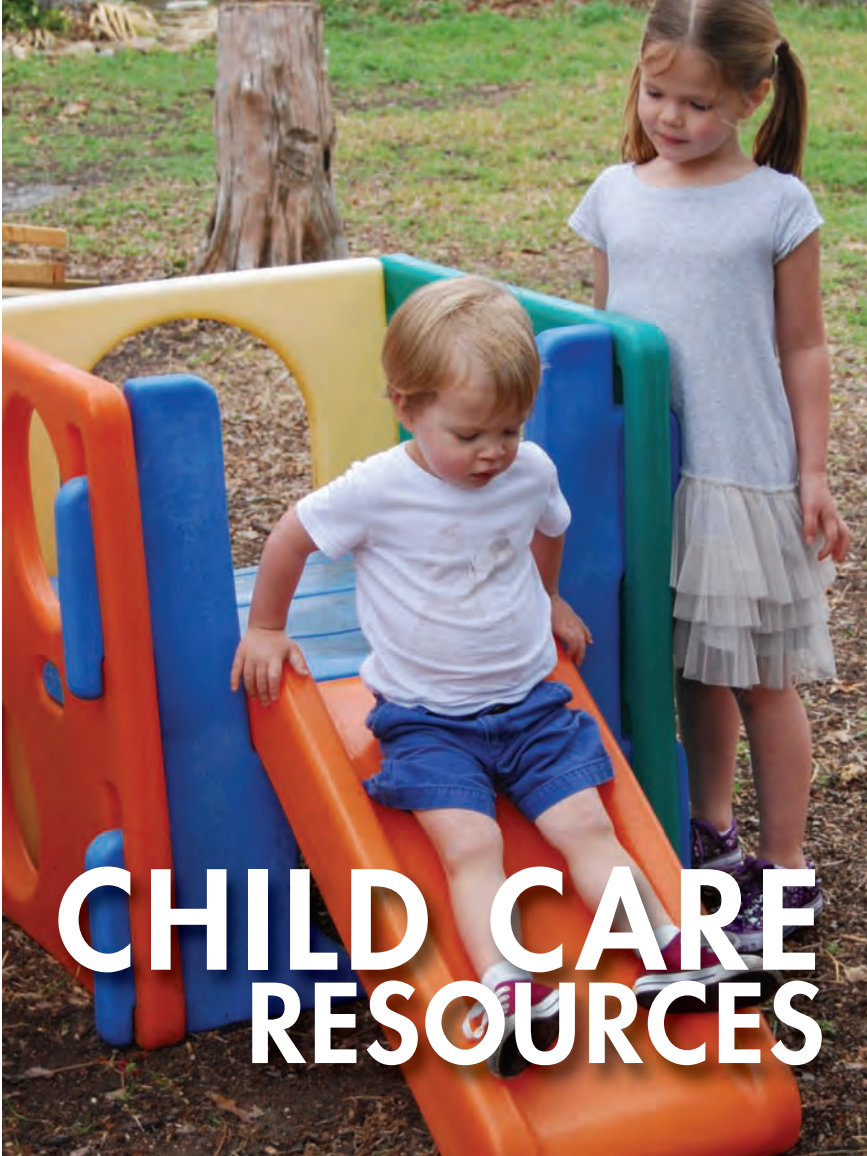
[www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/)

*(See Educational Programs, then Special Programs.)*

**State Regulations and Commissioner's Rules**

[www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/rules) ■





# CHILD CARE RESOURCES

**A**nycne with children knows that finding a balance between working and raising children is always challenging, and part of that balance usually includes some type of childcare. Luckily, there are many organizations that help families ease the burden of finding safe, quality care for their children.

The Austin area has hundreds of childcare facilities, including nonprofit, church and other community childcare centers; private centers; and company-sponsored childcare. Waiting lists tend to be long at some

centers and preschools, so make visiting facilities, narrowing down options, and getting on waiting lists a priority when you first move into town.

Parents can get information on individual childcare facilities (i.e. licensing, accreditation) through the *National Association for the Education of Young Children* and information about specific providers in your area through the *Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)*. The most helpful DFPS tool for parents is the online database and search form on

the DFPS website that helps families locate nearby providers. On the form, parents can select from options that fit your family's needs, such as:

- **Type:** Preference for a center or a home-based operation;
- **Age:** Whether your child is newborn, toddler, preschool or school age;
- **Need:** Whether your child requires special care; or
- **Hours:** Help after school, part-time, or on weekends

Parents can then enter their ZIP code and get a list of providers that are close to home or work. For more information, call the daycare information hotline at 800-862-5252 or visit [www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Care](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care). For general information and childcare resources, visit [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us).

The DFPS website also lists childcare standards and regulations, as well as protects children against abuse or neglect. Report suspected abuse issues by calling 800-252-5400, or through the secure DFPS website: [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org).

### CHILDCARE INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONS

The following are resources for local and national childcare information and organizations. For additional information – and to see a more comprehensive listing of area childcare resources and preschools – visit [www.savvysource.com/preschools/c\\_preschools\\_in\\_austin\\_tx](http://www.savvysource.com/preschools/c_preschools_in_austin_tx).

#### Austin Child Guidance Center

810 West 45th Street  
Austin, TX 78751  
512-451-2242

[www.austinchildguidance.org](http://www.austinchildguidance.org)

Focused on the mental health and well being of children, the Austin Child Guidance Center has been helping children under 18 and their families gain the emotional skills to meet life's challenges

since 1951. With a sliding fee scale, children and families from all income levels can access the professional, high-quality services they need and deserve.

#### The Center for Successful Fathering

13740 Research Blvd., Suite B-4  
Austin, TX 78750  
512-335-8106 or 800-537-0853  
www.fathering.org

The Center for Successful Fathering was founded in 1995 by Dr. Ron Klinger “as a response to the growing number of children growing up without a father in their lives.” Today, the Center offers local fathering and parenting skills workshops, family counseling and many other parenting services, as well as works with dads across the country through workshops and other initiatives.

#### Child Care Aware

800-424-2246; TTY: 866-278-9428  
www.childcareaware.org

A program of the *National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies* (see listing below), *Child Care Aware* is a national initiative to “help parents find the best information on locating quality child care and child care resources in their community by connecting parents with the local agencies best equipped to serve their needs.”

#### Child, Inc.

818 East 53rd Street  
Austin, TX 78751  
512-451-7361; 800-222-4051  
www.childinc.org

Child, Inc. is an early childhood education program that provides Head Start and Early Head Start services – comprehensive child development programs serving low-income children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families.

#### Extend-A-Care for Kids

55 N. IH-35  
Austin, TX 78702  
512-472-9402  
www.eackids.org ►

## ▶ PARENT TIPS FOR CHOOSING CHILDCARE

The *Texas Department of Family and Protective Services* offers the following tips for choosing childcare:

- Once you have narrowed down a list of providers, get details about their license to provide care. Each childcare facility’s regulatory history of inspections and reports is available online.
- Visit the facilities. It is always polite to schedule a time with the director for your initial facility tour, but make a second visit to observe a classroom when you are not expected. See how well the caregiver provides a safe and healthy environment. Once you place your child in care, remain involved and keep asking questions.
- Look carefully at home or apartments that have a pool or are near lakes, creeks or other bodies of water. The caregiver can explain how she ensures the safety of children in and around these bodies of water.
- Discuss any concerns with the caregiver. Respect the caregiver’s time—her main responsibility is working with the children. Don’t be offended if the caregiver can’t spend much time talking with you when you drop off or pick up your child. If you need more time to talk about your child, set up a conference.
- It’s normal for children to have some fears and misgivings about starting childcare outside the home. Children need time to get used to new situations. Prepare your child for the change as far in advance as possible. Discuss his or her concerns. It is important to let the caregiver know about things at home that may affect how your child is doing while in care.
- Talk to your child about his or her experiences in care. Watch for a time each day when your child is quiet and feeling secure and protected.
- Gently ask questions about how he or she is doing. Share their excitement about new friends, skills and abilities. Above all, listen to their concerns, and give them a chance to boast about their achievements.



Extend-A-Care for Kids offers on-site, after-school childcare at elementary schools in Austin, Del Valle and Hays Consolidated ISDs. The program includes outdoor and indoor activities including time for reading and homework, supervised sports, field trips, creative arts, table games, math and science projects, music, dramatic play, cooking, and health and safety.

**Institute for Child Care Excellence**  
*(formerly The Fund for Childcare Excellence)*  
P.O. Box 90723  
Austin, TX 78709  
512-301-5557  
www.naccp.org

Created by the Austin city council in 1999 to address childcare quality and affordability, the former Fund for Child Care Excellence became the Institute for Child Care Excellence in 2005 and is now part of the National Association of Child Care Professionals (NACCP). The ICEE "provides a system to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care." Programs include college scholarships for childcare workers, fellowships for experienced childcare staff, community wide director training, awards ceremonies, and family-friendly business awards.

**National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA)**  
3101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 350  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-341-4100  
www.naccrra.org

NACCRRA is a national network of more than 800 childcare resource and referral centers (CCR&Rs) to ensure that "families in every community have access to high-quality, affordable childcare."

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**  
1313 L St. N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
800-424-2460  
www.naeyc.org

NAEYC is focused on "the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8," including improving professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education; supporting early childhood programs by working to achieve a high-quality system of early childhood education; and building an organization of groups and individuals who are committed to promoting excellence in early childhood education for all young children."

**National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)**  
5202 Pinemont Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84123  
800-359-3817  
www.nafcc.org

NACCRRA is a national organization "dedicated to strengthening the profession of family childcare by promoting high quality, professional early care and education and strengthening communities where providers live and work."

### **The SavvySource for Parents**

www.savvysource.com

Launched in 2006 by a California mom, the SavvySource website helps parents sort through the maze of preschools/ childcare options in their area to find the right one for their child. Austin is one of many cities with listings, with more than 100 schools listed. The site's most popular feature, however, is the parent ratings, where parents with experience at a school can go online and weigh in on the quality of teaching, development of social skills, discipline, safety and much more. There are also listings for area camps, educational toys, books, activities, classes and more.

**Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**  
866-TX-CHILD (892-4453)

www.taccrra.net

The Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (TACCRRRA) supports Texas' young children, parents and early education providers through a variety of services, including helping parents find childcare, advocating for and improving the quality of care, promoting early childhood education, and collaborating with community organizations.

### **Workforce Solutions – Capital Area**

6505 Airport Blvd., Suite 101-E  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-597-7100

www.wfscapitalarea.com

A private, publicly-funded non-profit organization, Workforce Solutions - Capital Area is the leadership and governing body for the regional workforce system and is responsible for the planning, oversight, and evaluation of workforce development activities in the Austin/Travis County area – including offering such services as childcare referrals for low- to moderate-income families, job training, placement, and more. ■





# HIGHER EDUCATION

## TOP SCHOOLS, IN-DEMAND PROGRAMS

**F**ortune magazine once named Austin one of the country's top five "intellectual capitals," and it's no wonder. Forbes has ranked Austin the third-biggest "brain magnet" city, and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranks UT Austin among its "Best Values in Public Colleges" list. And, according to an *American Community Survey*, Austin ranks fifth in the number of college graduates, with 45 percent of the population holding a degree.

Many of those degrees are awarded right here in Central Texas. That's because Austin's thriving intellectual capital attracts students from across the country and internationally to attend one of the city's noted colleges and universities. In fact, the business, law and engineering schools at the University of Texas have all earned regular spots on *Hispanic Business* magazine's lists of top ten schools for Hispanics.

Getting a quality education outside the area is easy, too, with many prestigious colleges and universities within 100 miles of Austin. These schools include Baylor University (Waco); Texas A&M University (College Station); Trinity University (San Antonio); Central Texas College (Killeen); Texas Lutheran University (Seguin); University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Belton); Our Lady of the Lake University (San Antonio); Texas State Technical College ▶

## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

(Waco) St. Mary's University, (San Antonio); University of Texas at San Antonio (San Antonio); Temple College (Temple); and the University of Texas Health Science Center (San Antonio).

Add these schools to what's already here in Austin, and it's easy to see how more than 100,000 undergraduate students and more than 18,000 degrees conferred each year are right here in Central Texas.

The following is an overview of Austin's major colleges and universities, including school history, degree programs and enrollment, tuition and fees (not including room/board), and contact information. See you around campus!

### **Austin Community College**

5930 Middle Fiskville Road  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-223-4ACC (4222)

[www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu)

The Austin Independent School District established Austin Community College in 1973. Now governed by an independent board, ACC has grown to six campuses, plus the Highland Business Center and Downtown Center, as well as 40 teaching locations throughout Austin and surrounding areas. ACC also provides contracted training to many local high tech companies, and the school's Highland Business Center and Downtown Center are involved in the development of course work and training specifically designed for Austin industries like high tech, government and manufacturing. ACC offers 235 degrees and certificates, including two-year Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in 30-plus university transfer majors, and Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates in more than 80 technical fields, as well as an Associate of Arts in Teaching program. ACC is also the leading source of transfer students to the University of Texas-Austin and Texas State University-San Marcos, and is the top choice for high school graduates and adults who enter college.



Photo Courtesy of St. Edwards University

ACC enrolls more than 44,000 credit students, with an additional 15,000 students enrolled in noncredit classes. One-year tuition and fees (30 credits) is \$1,740 in-district, and \$4,980 for out-of-district tuition.

### **Baylor University Executive MBA**

Oak Creek Plaza  
3107 Oak Creek Drive, Suite 240  
Austin, TX 78729

[www.baylor.edu/AEMBA](http://www.baylor.edu/AEMBA)

Baylor University offers a 21-month Executive MBA Program in Austin, admitting up to a maximum of just 40 industry professionals each year. Classes are held on Monday and Thursday evenings, and the Baylor EMBA program is AACSB-accredited. Senior faculty members, department chairs, deans, and industry leaders all have years of experience as instructors.

Baylor executive MBA graduates complete 48 credit hours over five semesters and 21 months in a curriculum designed to strengthen analytical and managerial skills. Areas of study include finance, economics, management, accounting, strategy, and more. Students also take a 9-day trip for to Asia unique perspective on the global marketplace.

The cost of the Baylor Executive MBA Program in Austin for those entering in August 2011 is \$73,500, which includes

a \$2,000 non-refundable deposit (the deposit is also "deferrable" for one year to include entry in fall 2012). The cost includes graduate tuition and student fees for 48 credit hours, a week-long residency program in Waco (including hotel and meals), a fully-configured laptop computer and wireless Internet access, all books, case studies, and other instructional materials, a 5-day trip to Washington, D.C. (including air, lodging and most meals), a 9-day international trip to Asia (including lodging and most meals, as well as the flight between two cities in the middle of the trip), parking and meeting facilities at the Austin campus, and meals and snacks each class evening.

### **Concordia University**

11400 Concordia University Drive  
Austin, TX 78726  
512-313-3000

[www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu)

Concordia University at Austin is a small, private liberal arts and sciences school offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Founded in 1926, Concordia University is part of the Concordia University System and focuses on quality, Christ-centered, Lutheran higher education for lives of service to Church and community; the school's mission is to develop Christian leaders. Concordia is affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; however, all faiths are welcome

Concordia offers 18 undergraduate majors in four colleges: Business, Education, Liberal Arts, and Sciences, as well as a Master of Education and Master of Business Administration graduate degrees. Concordia also offers both adult degree and distance learning programs for part-time and adult returning students.

Enrollment was approximately 2,100 (as of May 2011). Off-campus tuition and fees for the fall and spring semesters was \$22,920; room and board for the fall and spring semester was \$8,460; and the on-campus total for the fall and spring semesters was \$31,380.

### Huston-Tillotson University

900 Chicon St.  
Austin, TX 78702-2795  
512-505-3000  
www.htu.edu

Huston-Tillotson University is an independent, church-based, historically black school that is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Negro College Fund. The school's mission is to "provide opportunities to a diverse population for academic achievement with an emphasis on academic excellence, spiritual and ethical development, civic engagement, and leadership in a nurturing environment."

The Austin campus is located on 23 acres near downtown Austin; the college also owns 12 acres of property adjacent to the campus for future expansion and development, as well as a biological field station south of the city that faculty and students use for environmental research.

The school awards four-year undergraduate degrees in business, education, the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, science, and technology. The general college curriculum is focused on providing "a diverse student body with an exemplary education that is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, balanced with

professional development, and directed to public service and leadership."

The average class size is 24, and classes are intentionally small to provide personalized attention to students. Enrollment as of May 2011 was 785. Annual in-tuition and fees for full-time undergraduates in 2009-2010 was \$11,434; books and supplies were \$800; on-campus room and board was \$6,744; and miscellaneous expenses totaled \$2,252.

### Park University

10415 Morado Circle,  
Avallon II, Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-385-PARK (7275)  
www.park.edu (main);  
www.park.edu/austin (Austin campus)

Founded in 1875 with its main campus in Parkville, Missouri, Park University is part of the University's *School for Extended Learning*. An independent, private, Christian school offering students a four-year, liberal arts education in a co-educational environment, Park University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Park University has 43 campus centers in 21 states, as well as an extensive online program.

The Austin campus was established in 1975 at the former Bergstrom Air Force Base, founded to meet the educational needs of primarily military members and their dependents, as well as civilians. That's still the case today; the Austin campus is part of the *Park University School for Extended Learning*, which offers online classes and flexible schedules.

Park University offers several online degree options, including two-year associate of science degrees (computer science, management and management/accounting); four-year bachelor of science degrees (computer science, management, management/accounting, management/computer information

systems, management/human resources, management/marketing, and social psychology), plus six graduate programs, also online.

Tuition is \$316/credit hour at all campuses and \$441/credit hour for graduate school. Active duty military tuition ranges from \$193-\$210/credit hour, and the school's nursing program is \$20,437 per year. Internet courses are \$316/credit hour for civilians; \$210/credit hour for active duty military; and \$441/credit hour for online graduate courses.

### St. Edward's University

3001 S. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-448-8400  
www.stedwards.edu

St. Edward's University is a private, Catholic liberal arts college that was founded in 1885 by the Reverend Edward Sorin, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, who also founded the University of Notre Dame.

St. Edward's emphasizes critical thinking, ethical practice, an international perspective, and a liberal arts education, as well as small classes, personal attention, study abroad programs, and service-learning opportunities. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the school as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the last eight years; *Forbes* and the Center for College Affordability have also named St. Edward's among "America's Best Colleges."

St. Edward's offers undergraduate degrees in more than 50 areas and five schools, including humanities, education, natural sciences, management and business, and behavioral and social sciences, as well as 10 graduate degree programs. The school also offers programs in pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, engineering and physical therapy, as well as elementary, secondary and bilingual/bicultural education certifications. ►



## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

Enrollment for 2011 was about 5,300. The school's full-time (12-18 credit hours) flat rate per semester for undergraduate tuition in fall 2011-spring 2012 was \$14,150.

### Southwestern University

1001 E. University Avenue  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-863-6511  
[www.southwestern.edu](http://www.southwestern.edu)

Located just 28 miles north of Austin in Georgetown, Southwestern University was the first institution of higher learning in Texas, chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1840. Affiliated with the United Methodist church, Southwestern is an independent four-year undergraduate national liberal arts college whose mission is to "foster a liberal arts community whose values and actions encourage contributions toward the well-being of humanity."

Southwestern was also the second university in Texas to sign the *Talloires Declaration*, a green and sustainable practice initiative that includes a green residence hall, computer-based effluent water irrigation systems, alternative transportation programs, use of sustainable/recycled products, low/no maintenance building finishes and products, low-volume shower heads, and LEED certification on new construction projects.

The school is known for its solid liberal arts curriculum, including the Brown College of Arts and Sciences and the Sarofim School of Fine Arts. The university also has pre-professional programs in engineering, medicine, law, business, education and theology.

Degrees offered include a bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of music, and bachelor of fine arts; no graduate degrees or programs are offered. Enrollment as of 2010-2011 was 1,301, and annual tuition and fees for full-time students (12 credit hours) was \$31,630.



### Texas State University – San Marcos

601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-245-2111  
[www.txstate.edu](http://www.txstate.edu)

Texas State University is located in San Marcos - a scenic Hill Country community about halfway between Austin and San Antonio on the San Marcos River. Formerly known as Southwest Texas State University, the school was founded in 1899 as Southwest Texas Normal College, in response to the state's need for trained public school teachers. The school changed its name to Texas State University – San Marcos in 2003 and is the fifth-largest public university in Texas with more than 32,000 students (including about 4,300 graduate students).

Texas State is also an NCAA Division I university (Division I-AA in football; 2005 Southland Conference champions) that supports 7 men's and 9 women's sports. The school has also been a regular on U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" list for the last several years.

The school offers 97 bachelor's, 89 master's, and nine doctoral degree programs in nine colleges, including applied arts, business administration, education, fine arts and communication, health professions, liberal arts, science, University College (general studies), and the Graduate College. Fulltime (12 hours), in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees for fall 2010 was \$3,390; fulltime, in-state, graduate tuition and fees for fall 2010 was \$3,900.

### University of Texas at Austin

1 University Station  
Austin, TX 78712  
512-475-7348  
[www.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu)

Founded in 1883, the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) is the largest component of The University of Texas System – a conglomerate of 15 academic and health institutions – and the largest institution of higher education in the Austin area. With more than 51,000 students (including 11,000 graduate students), and about 24,000 faculty and staff members, UT is one of the largest public universities in the U.S.

UT Austin offers more than 170 fields of study and 100 majors across undergraduate and graduate programs in 17 colleges and schools, awarding more than 12,000 degrees each year – including more than 8,700 bachelor's degree and 3,500-plus graduate degrees. Enrollment as of fall 2010 was 51,195, and annual tuition and fees were \$8,936 for in-state undergraduate students.

Besides top-notch research facilities, including the fifth-largest academic library in the country, UT Austin is also famous for Longhorns' sports and is a member of both the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference. In football, UT's a winner of four national titles (1963, 1969, 1970 and 2005) and ranks third in NCAA all-time victories. | **Cont'd on page 52** ►

# hook 'em horns

## AUSTIN'S BURNT ORANGE OBSESSION

Everything's big in Texas – including a certain school that favors burnt orange and white. The nationally known University of Texas at Austin is home to more than 51,000 students and more than 24,000 faculty and staff members and is one of the largest public universities in the U.S.

It's also the largest institution of the formidable University of Texas System – which boasts nine academic universities and six health institutions, has a combined enrollment of more than 211,000, and conferred more than 43,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees in 2010.

The fact is, that in a city recognized as a center for culture, politics, the arts, technology and music, the University of Texas is its crown jewel, offering an incredible educational resource and a world of opportunity for those who live here. The school's undergraduate and graduate programs rank among the best in the nation, and the school's faculty includes professors and researchers who have won the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize,



Photo by Robert H. McGee

MacArthur Fellowship, and many other honors. UT also leads the way in both research and education with a depth and diversity of resources unmatched by most other public universities.

With more than 12,000 degrees awarded annually, more than 300 degree programs, and such nationally renowned facilities as the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the McDonald Observatory, and the Blanton Museum of Art, the university's size is one of its biggest assets. In athletics, The University of Texas at Austin is a powerhouse with 47

national championships in its history, including the 2005 collegiate football championship.

As an enduring symbol of the spirit of Texas — big, ambitious and bold — the university drives economic and social progress in Texas and serves the nation as a leading center of knowledge and creativity. Hook 'em Horns! ■

### ▶ FACTS ABOUT UT AUSTIN

**President:** Wiliam Powers, Jr.

**Founded:** 1883

**Type of institution:** Public, four-year research university

**Student enrollment:** More than 51,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 foreign countries

**Faculty/staff:** More than 24,000

**Alumni:** About 450,000

**Degrees awarded yearly:** 12,000

**Continuing education enrollment:** 300,000

**Museums & libraries:** Seven museums and 17 libraries

**Colleges/schools:** 17

**Registered student organizations:** More than 900

**Operating budget:** \$2.14 billion for FY 2010

**Research funding:** \$644 million for 2009-2010

**Mascot:** Bevo, a Texas longhorn.

**Colors:** Burnt orange and white

## EDUCATION IN AUSTIN

### TRADE & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Whether you're looking for a better paying job, or are interested in options beyond four-year colleges, there's no question that more education is a good thing – and that translates into a better economic, financial and professional future.

According to the *Prospering Together* report from the Business Roundtable (2008), 85 percent of all new jobs require some level of postsecondary education. The report also found that 80 percent of the fastest-growing occupations require higher-level preparation – especially IT and other technical fields.

Austin is committed to supporting a strong, educated workforce, and has the education system to do just that with more than 100 trade and technical schools, not to mention a host of acclaimed two-and four-year schools (see Higher Education in this section for more details), to help students and professionals navigate the challenges of college and career. The following is a listing of Austin's major trade and technical schools, including contact information and programs offered.

#### The Art Institute of Austin

101 W. Louis Henna Blvd., Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78728

[www.artinstitutes.edu/austin](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/austin)

The Art Institute of Austin, a branch of the Art Institute of Houston, is a design, media arts, fashion, and culinary post-secondary school that offers a range of bachelor's and associate's degree programs in Advertising Design, Culinary Arts, Digital Media Production, Interactive Media Design, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interactive Media Design, Interior Design, Media Arts & Animation, Restaurant & Catering Management, and Video Production, among other creative fields. The Art Institute also offers certificates in Animation, Art of Cooking, Video Technology, and Web Design.



#### Austin Cosmetology Institute

2521 Rutland Drive, Ste. 500  
Austin, TX 78758

512-217-5404 or 512-903-3533

[www.austincosmetology.com](http://www.austincosmetology.com)

The Austin Cosmetology Institute offers quality, hands-on career training in the cosmetology and beauty industry, with a comprehensive program that includes hair cutting, styling and coloring; basic shampoo technique; scalp treatments; all aspects of skin and nail care; and assisting cosmetologists.

#### Baldwin Beauty School

8440 Burnet Road,  
Austin, TX 78757

512-458-4127

3005 South Lamar, 78704

512-441-6898

[www.baldwinbeautyschools.com](http://www.baldwinbeautyschools.com)

Owned and managed by husband and wife team, Randy and Wendi Baldwin, and founded by Randy's father, Ross Baldwin, the Baldwin Beauty School has maintained a reputation as the premiere beauty education and training program in Austin for more than 27 years. With a commitment to distinction and quality, the school gives aspiring stylists and beauty professionals the opportunity to get quality hands-on experience in student salons and offers comprehensive programs taught by top instructors with a dedication to artistic

excellence and technical skill, total client satisfaction, and a passion for the industry.

#### Center for Advanced Legal Studies

800-446-6931

Based in Houston, the accredited Center for Advanced Legal Studies specializes in paralegal education, with paralegal programs that are ABA Approved. Founded in 1987, the Center is known as a leader in paralegal education.

#### DeVry University – Austin

Stratum Executive Center  
1104 Research Blvd., Ste. B-100  
Austin, TX 78759

512-231-2500

[www.devry.edu/locations/campuses/loc\\_austin.jsp](http://www.devry.edu/locations/campuses/loc_austin.jsp)

DeVry University offers online and offline associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs in Business & Management, Engineering & Information Sciences, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Media Arts & Technology, as well as in Accounting or Finance, and in such top technology fields as Game & Simulation Programming.

#### Everest College – Austin

9100 E. Highway 290, #100

Austin, TX 78724

888-844-3583

[www.everest.edu](http://www.everest.edu)

[www.everest.edu/campus/austin](http://www.everest.edu/campus/austin)

Everest College is known for its online Healthcare, Business Administration, Information Technology, and trade skills programs, and also offers in-classroom education. The Austin location offers hands-on training in small work teams, attentiveness to student needs, real-world experienced instructors, and a dedicated Career Placement Services team to help students achieve goals.

#### ITT Technical Institute – Austin

6330 Highway 290 East, Ste. 150

Austin, TX 78723

512-467-6800 or 800-431-0677

[www.itttech.edu](http://www.itttech.edu)



ITT Technical Institute is a leading private college system offering technology-oriented programs and career-focused degree programs at its Austin location.

#### Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts

3110 Esperanza Crossing, Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78758  
888-559-7222 (*class information*)  
512-837-2665 (*all other inquiries*)  
[www.chefs.edu/Austin](http://www.chefs.edu/Austin)

Formerly the Texas Culinary Academy, the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts uses demonstration followed by practical application, chef instructors “help culinary school students pursue their passions and prepare for professional opportunities in the culinary and hospitality industry.” Austin programs include *Culinary Arts* and *Patisserie and Baking*.

#### New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

300 E Highland Mall Blvd., Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-349-9555  
[www.newhorizons.com](http://www.newhorizons.com)

New Horizons is the world’s largest IT training company, offering a full range of IT training and business skills training through flexible and innovative learning methods.

#### Southern Careers Institute

2301 S. Congress, Ste. 27  
Austin, TX 78704  
800-560-6192  
[www.scitexas.edu](http://www.scitexas.edu)

[www.scitexas.edu/locations\\_austin.aspx](http://www.scitexas.edu/locations_austin.aspx)  
The Southern Careers Institute (SCI) was founded in 1960 and offers a variety of programs including medical, business, pharmacy, and cosmetology. Since opening its doors, SCI has expanded its facilities to include seven campuses across Texas, including Austin. The Austin location offers medical (medical assistant, pharmacy technician, and medical billing/coding specialist) and business (administrative assistant and business accounting specialist) programs. ■

## NEW HORIZONS: OFFERING TRAINING for CAREER SUCCESS

Got technology? **New Horizons Computer Learning Centers** can make sure that you do – giving you the best in IT training to help you stay competitive in a fiercely competitive job market. Recent data from the *Robert Half Technology 2011 Salary Survey* has found that the skills most in demand for 2011 are IT-related – from programming and security to infrastructure support and networking.

The world’s largest IT training company with 300 centers in 65 countries, New Horizons offers a full range of IT training and business skills training from basic application and desktop productivity tools to complex and integrated business systems.

All training offers an innovative, flexible and integrated learning approach that ensures that new knowledge can be applied to real life situations. From basic business applications like Access, Excel, Project, Publisher and others to technical certifications and software, New Horizons offers the kind of in-demand classes that gives professionals the skills that today’s companies most want.

The Robert Half survey found that knowledge of such software programs like .NET, Java, MySQL, PHP, Silverlight, Flex, and SharePoint; employees who understand major enterprise resource planning packages; those who have the technical knowledge skills to keep companies’ information safe and secure; and IT pros who have a blend of server, software, and networking skills are most in demand. New Horizons offers these skills and much more to help you advance, or start, your career.

The company also offers a variety of learning solutions to fit the needs of any organization, individual, or government agency – including PC applications and graphics software instruction, as well as highly technical IT training and certification program training, professional development, and business skills training.

Besides offering a variety of public classroom-based courses, New Horizons can also customize courseware, provide training at company locations, or roll out enterprise-wide training programs. The company also offers room rentals, with or without computers, at its Austin facilities.

For more information and to access the current schedule of New Horizons’ Austin classes, visit [www.newhorizons.com](http://www.newhorizons.com), or call 512-349-9555.



# Healthcare Resources

There's no doubt that Austin is a healthy city. With its miles of hiking, biking and running trails, a velodrome for cycling enthusiasts, and plenty of soccer, volleyball and football fields, Austin is a city that's committed to the health of its residents.

However, when we do get sick or injured, it's nice to know there are plenty of resources to count on for a speedy recovery. There are two major healthcare systems in Austin: *St. David's HealthCare* and the *Seton Family of Hospitals*. In addition, another major healthcare organization – *Scott & White*– has several locations just north of Austin on I-35, primarily serving the Temple area. Between these organizations, as well as many other quality independent providers such as the *Austin Diagnostic Clinic* and the *Austin Regional Clinic*, there are more than 30 healthcare facilities in the Austin area.

Healthcare in Austin is top-notch, too. In fact, four area hospitals have been named to a list of the top 100 hospitals in the United States. *Scott & White Hospital*, along with *South Austin Hospital* (part of the St. David's healthcare system), *University Medical Center at Brackenridge*, and *Seton Medical Center Austin* (both part of the Seton Family of Hospitals), were chosen from more than 5,000 hospitals that were analyzed for quality of care, efficiency of operations and sustained overall performance.

New healthcare facilities are on the horizon, too. In May 2011, Scott & White broke ground on a new 12,000-square-foot Scott & White Healthcare clinic in Leander. Clinic services will combine primary care practices and physical therapy services. With 16 exam rooms, two treatment rooms, on-site X-ray and laboratory services, and three physicians and two physical therapists on staff, the new facility is a much-needed resource for physical therapy patients in Leander and Cedar Park who currently drive to Scott & White's Round Rock clinic for care.

Lakeway, too, has seen incredible growth – increasing the need for additional healthcare resources in the area. New facilities include the **Lake Travis Specialty Hospital**, a 38-bed hospital (including six intensive care beds) that opened in 2010 to provide care for long-term, acute-care patients.

And, the area's newest healthcare resource is the **Lakeway Regional Medical Center** – an acute-care general hospital with 70 to 80 licensed beds and 25 ER beds. Part of a 54-acre medical complex development, the hospital is scheduled to open in spring 2012 – plans for the first phase include a 270,000-square-foot space with 179 beds. The facility is also planned to have a Level 3 trauma center with a helipad and ambulance bays next to its emergency room.

General medical services will include cardiology/cardiothoracic; radiation oncology; emergency department; surgery; gastrointestinal services; women's health services including obstetrics; infusion therapy; radiology; and nuclear medicine. The hospital will also offer respiratory services; physical therapy/sports medicine; occupational therapy; speech-language pathology; and pain management.

The following pages list healthcare resources in Austin, Texas to help you find a doctor, hospital, or immediate-care facility, as well as listing of public health and community clinics, and other support services.

### AUSTIN, TEXAS HEALTHCARE RESOURCES & HOSPITALS

The following is a list of Austin, Texas healthcare resources to help you find a doctor, hospital or immediate-care facility; a listing of public health and community clinics; as well as other support services.

#### Austin Diagnostic Clinic

12221 N. Mopac Expressway (*Main location; see website for specific locations*)  
Austin, TX 78758-2483  
512-901-1111  
www.adclinic.com

Established in 1952, the Austin Diagnostic Clinic is one of Austin's largest physician-owned clinics, with more than 115 doctors that represent more than 20 medical specialties. The ADC network includes multiple offices throughout Austin and Central Texas – including the main clinic and a family practice clinic in North Austin, Lakewood (off Highway 360), South Austin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, Bastrop, Cedar Park, Luling, Marble Falls, and San Marcos. Locations opening in 2011 include Westlake and Circle C. ADC also offers focused services for weight loss, diabetes management, rehabilitation, and more, as well as several specialty services that include the EasyCare Clinic, Pediatric Urgent Care, Imaging Center, and several laboratory and X-ray centers.

#### Austin Lakes Hospital

1025 East 32nd Street  
(located St. David's Pavilion)  
2nd & 3rd Floors  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-544-5253 (LAKE)  
www.austinelakeshospital.com  
Part of St. David's Healthcare System, the Austin Lakes Hospital offers mental health diagnostic services and treatment, including inpatient and outpatient services for adults and specialized programming for those in the early stages of dementia.

#### Austin Regional Clinic

4515 Seton Center Parkway, Suite 215  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-231-5513  
www.austinregionalclinic.com  
The Austin Regional Clinic began as a professional association in 1980, and now is one of the largest multispecialty health care groups in central Texas. Austin Regional Clinic's focus is on primary care - the specialties of family practice, pediatrics, and general internal medicine, as well as OB/GYN services, podiatry, allergy, ENT, physical therapy and surgery.

ARC also places high emphasis on the importance of long-term doctor/patient relationships and the coordination of care. There are 18 locations across Austin, including three in Cedar Park/Leander; three in Central Austin; one in Kyle; three in Northeast Austin (Hutto, Round Rock, and Pflugerville); five in Northwest Austin; and three in South Austin.

#### Austin State Hospital

4110 Guadalupe Street  
Austin, TX 78751  
512-452-0381  
www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhhospitals/austinh/default.shtm  
The Austin State Hospital (ASH) provides psychiatric care to a 38-county region in Central Texas. ASH provides care through three large services – Adult Psychiatric Services, Specialty Adult Services, and Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services. ▶



## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

The general adult services program consists of eight acute adult admission units and one forensic unit. Specialty adult programs include the older adult unit, longer-term cognitive behavioral and multiple disabilities unit, and the deaf services and longer-term behaviorally stabilized unit. Child and adolescent programs offer services to children to the age of 12, an adolescent girls unit, and an adolescent boys unit. Clinical specialties provide assessment, evaluation, and treatment, including psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, education/rehabilitation services, nutrition, and spiritual care. Additional clinical support is provided through the medical and dental clinics, x-ray and laboratory services, and other consultative services. The average length of stay at the hospital is about 18 days.

### **Austin Surgical Hospital**

3003 Bee Cave Road

Austin, TX 78746

512-314-3800

[www.austinsurgicalhospital.com](http://www.austinsurgicalhospital.com)

The Austin Surgical Hospital is a 23-bed facility that specializes in orthopedic, spine, bariatric and plastic surgery. Austin Surgical Hospital offers distinguished surgeons, spacious and private patient rooms and individualized care from a specialized staff. Working together with Austin's board certified surgeons, the hospital is committed to innovation and clinical quality.

### **Central Texas Medical Center (CTMC) – San Marcos**

1301 Wonder World Drive

San Marcos, TX 78666

512-353-8979

[www.ctmc.org](http://www.ctmc.org)

Part of the Adventist Health System, CTMC is a full-service, acute care hospital in San Marcos, located 30 minutes south of Austin. CTMC completed a \$35 million expansion and renovation on a 64,000 square foot *Women's Center* in 2009 that included all private rooms, a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and a new cardiac in-patient



nursing unit with private rooms. The Center also includes an on-site, high-risk delivery suite, as well as a customized cesarean section suite. In 2011, the center expanded adding a Certified Chest Pain Center that will be part of the hospital's ER and that will offer specialized services and protocols for ER patients suffering from chest pain or potential heart attack symptoms.

### **Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital**

1201 West 38th Street, 8th Floor North

Austin, TX 78705

512-406-0300

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital, a joint venture between the Seton Family of Hospitals and RehabCare Group, Inc., is a 20-bed comprehensive physical rehabilitation hospital. The facility provides patients with guidance, education, support and motivation to achieve the highest level of functional independence. Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital operates a full range of programs designed to maximize the abilities of people with a wide range of debilitating injuries and illnesses.

### **Cornerstone Hospital of Austin**

4207 Burnet Road

Austin, TX 78756

512-706-1900

[www.chghospital.com](http://www.chghospital.com)

Cornerstone Hospital of Austin is a licensed acute care hospital with JCAHO

accreditation, 103 licensed beds, and a new state-of-the-art ICU. Services include pulmonary, wound care management, medically complex patients, and medical services with rehabilitation as a long-term acute care facility designed for extended stay patients with chronic conditions.

### **GoodHealth Commons – Seton Cove**

*Seton Medical Center – Williamson*

301 Seton Parkway, Suite 203

Round Rock, TX 78626

512-324-4803

[www.setoncove.net](http://www.setoncove.net)

GoodHealth Commons is an integrative wellness and education center at Seton Medical Center Williamson that is part of *Seton Cove* – the healthcare system's spirituality center. GoodHealth Commons offers a centralized resource for individuals looking to broaden their options for health care and wellness taking the "whole-person" approach of body, mind and spirit.

### **HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital – Austin**

1215 Red River

Austin, TX 78701

512-479-3551

[www.healthsouthaustin.com](http://www.healthsouthaustin.com)

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Austin is an 83-bed hospital specializing in the medical rehabilitation of patients suffering from stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple trauma, orthopedic injury, neurological conditions, brain injury and other conditions

requiring specialized, focused physical medicine and rehabilitation. The hospital provides a continuum of services including inpatient hospitalization, day hospital, outpatient therapy, and home health care, and also offers outpatient pediatric rehabilitation at the hospital's *Starbright* clinic in Round Rock.

**Heart Hospital of Austin**

3801 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78756  
512-407-7000  
www.hearthospitalofaustin.com

St. David's HealthCare – one of the largest health systems in Texas – acquired the *Heart Hospital of Austin* in 2010. This 58-bed hospital offers a full range of cardiac services and includes a 24-hour full-service emergency center. Now a campus of St. David's Medical Center, Heart Hospital of Austin provides comprehensive physician-directed and patient-centered care, resulting in excellent patient outcomes and satisfaction ratings. The hospital is a shared vision of local cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons. Working with hospital leadership, the physicians created an atmosphere of quality, resulting in the leading cardiac program in Texas for six consecutive years as ranked by HealthGrades®. Heart Hospital of Austin is also a five-time recipient of the Thomson Reuter's 100 Top Hospitals® Cardiovascular Benchmarks Award. In July 2009, a study funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revealed that Heart Hospital of Austin was the leading hospital in the United States for treatment of a heart attack.

**The Hospital at Westlake Medical Center**

5656 Bee Caves Road  
Austin, TX 78746  
512-327-0000  
512-697-3628  
www.westlakemedical.com

The Hospital at Westlake Medical Center serves the residents of Bee Caves and Westlake with such specialty services as otolaryngology, podiatry, radiology, endocrinology, cardiopulmonary, cardiovascular, and clinical pathology.

**Lake Travis Specialty Hospital**

2000 Medical Drive  
Lakeway, TX 78734  
512-547-2667  
www.laketravisspecialtyhospital.com  
Opened in 2010, this 46-bed hospital (including six intensive care beds) has a staff of more than 200 and provides care for long-term, acute-care patients. The hospital also has a 24-hour emergency room.

**NeuroTexas Institute at St. David's HealthCare**

1015 E. 32nd Street, Suite 404  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-544-9000  
www.NeuroTexasInstitute.com  
The NeuroTexas Institute at St. David's HealthCare, located near downtown Austin, is dedicated to ensuring the best clinical outcomes for patients with conditions affecting the brain, spine and nerves, as well as providing exceptional neurological and neurosurgical care. The Institute was founded to promote quality care, provide academic leadership and perform advanced research in the field of neuroscience. It includes 30 physicians of various subspecialties, all committed to its vision of quality care and research advances. The physicians, together with other neuroscience professionals, provide comprehensive, individualized and high-quality care, integrating the most

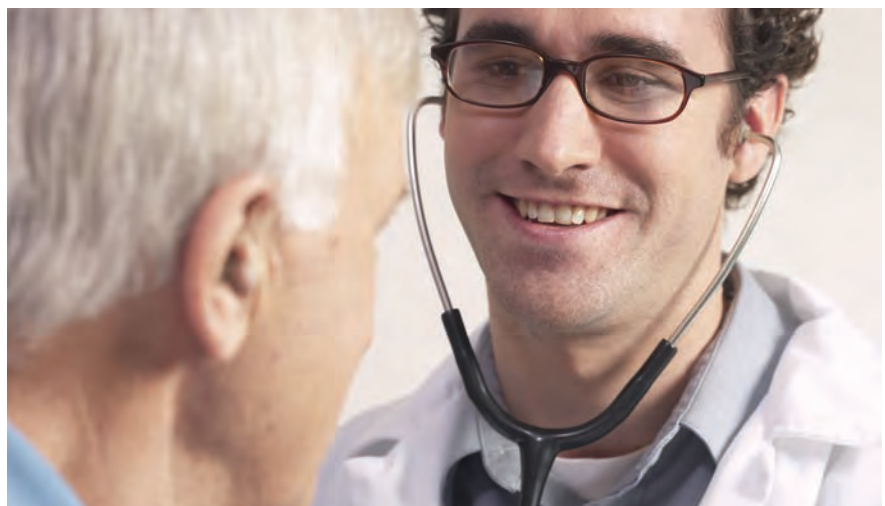
advanced clinical protocols and surgical technologies.

**Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital of Austin (Formerly HealthSouth Surgical Hospital)**

6818 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78731  
512-346-1994  
www.northwesthillssurgical.com  
Northwest Hills Surgical Hospital, which opened in 1995, has specialties in orthopedics, pain management, retinal, orthospine, urology, ENT, ophthalmology, and endoscopy. The hospital's team of nurses, surgical technicians, and anesthesia personnel work with physicians from many specialties to perform more than 10,000 procedures a year in five operating rooms and four procedure rooms.

**The Oaks/San Marcos Treatment Center**

120 Bert Brown Rd.  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
800-251-0059  
www.sanmarcostc.com  
www.theoakstc.com  
Originally founded in 1945, the Oaks Treatment Center – which provides treatment for adolescents aged 15 to 17 with a complex array of behavioral, emotional or developmental problems – merged with the San Marcos Treatment Center in 2009 to combine and expand both its resources for patient care and its residential facility accommodations. ▶



## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

### Scott & White Hospital – Taylor

(Formerly John's Community Hospital)

305 Mallard Lane

Taylor, TX 76574

512-352-7611

[www.johnscommunityhospital.org](http://www.johnscommunityhospital.org)

This critical care facility with 24-hour ER service for Taylor and surrounding communities merged with Temple-based Scott & White in 2010. Services include emergency and acute inpatient medical-surgical; outpatient surgical care; diagnostic, therapeutic and extended care; and home health.

### Scott & White Hospital – Temple

2401 S. 31st Street

Temple, TX 76508

254-724-2111 or 800-792-3710

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

The Scott & White health system's main hospital also includes a *Children's Hospital*, which houses the only Level III neonatal ICU between Dallas and Austin, and its *Center for Advanced Medicine* – which is digital, wireless, paperless, and has the latest in medical technology. Scott & White also operates 14 regional clinics, including the Scott & White Clinic at the main hospital, the largest multi-specialty group practice in Texas.

### Scott & White Healthcare – Burnet Clinic

101 E. Jackson Street

Burnet, TX 78611

512-756-7510

[www.clinics.sw.org](http://www.clinics.sw.org)

Family practice clinic services include general and family medicine, pediatric services, women's health, and preventive and internal medicine, among others.

### Scott & White – Cedar Park and Cedar Park West Clinics

900 Quest Parkway,

Cedar Park, TX 78613 (*Cedar Park Clinic*)

512-260-6100

12129 FM 620, Suite 600-E

Austin, TX 78750 (*Cedar Park West Clinic*)

512-336-3400

[www.clinics.sw.org](http://www.clinics.sw.org)

The Cedar Park clinic is a family medicine practice offering pediatric care, acute care for minor emergencies, minor surgery, preventive care, radiology, and mental health counseling. Cedar Park West, opened in 2007, is also a family medicine practice, with specialties in women's health, hypertension, heart health and diabetes.

### Scott & White – Temple Continuing Care Hospital

546 N. Kegley Road

Temple, TX 76502

254-215-0900

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

The Temple Continuing Care Hospital is an acute care hospital for critically ill patients with complex conditions who depend on technology such as ventilators, special monitors or dialysis. A patient's average stay here is about 25 days.

### Scott & White – Georgetown Central Clinic; Georgetown Sports Medicine & Rehab Clinic; and Georgetown Sun City Clinic

603 W. University,

Georgetown, TX 78626

(*Georgetown Central Clinic*)

512-509-9550

4945 Williams Drive

Georgetown, TX 78633

(*Georgetown Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Clinic, and Georgetown Clinic – Sun City*)

512-819-0500

[www.clinics.sw.org](http://www.clinics.sw.org)

Both the *Georgetown Central* and the *Georgetown Clinic* are multi-specialty family practice clinics combining internal medicine, family medicine, orthopedics, cardiology, ophthalmology, podiatry and otolaryngology. The *Georgetown Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Clinic* offers

## FINDING A DOCTOR

Moving to a new city is exciting, but it also requires finding the grocery store you like, the schools your kids will attend – and the healthcare practitioners that fit the needs of your family. The following is a list of local and national physician resources, including the **American Medical Association** – where you can search for general practice physicians by location, specialty, and more.

### American Medical Association

Resource for general health information, as well as a search function for local physician resources under the "Patients" tab of the site.

[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)

### American Academy of Pediatrics

National website for children's health resources; separate "Parenting Corner" website is comprehensive site for health-related news, questions, and other topics.

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

### Texas Medical Association

Listing of member physicians across the state, as well as information on general health resources; go to the "Find A Physician" tab to search by specialty or location.

[www.texmed.org](http://www.texmed.org)



comprehensive care in rehabilitation services – including sports injuries, wound care, and neurological conditions.

#### **Scott & White – Hutto Clinic**

120 Ed Schmidt Blvd., Suites B & E,  
Hutto, TX 78634  
512-509-9500

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Family practice clinic services include general and family medicine, pediatric services, women's health, and preventive and internal medicine, among others.

#### **Scott & White – Lone Star Circle of Care Health Center at Taylor**

305a Mallard Lane  
Taylor, TX 76574  
877-800-5722

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

The *Lone Star Circle of Care (LSCC) Health Center at Taylor* offers adult and pediatric primary care to uninsured and medically underserved patients. The center opened in February 2011 and is operated through a partnership with Scott & White; the healthcare system provides clinical expertise and space, as well as access to diagnostic services, and is staffed by board-certified Scott & White family practice physicians and certified family nurse practitioners assigned by LSCC.

#### **Scott & White – Pflugerville Clinic**

1501 Pecan St., Suite 102  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
512-509-9525

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Family practice clinic services include general and family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, women's healthcare and preventive health, among others.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Hospital**

300 University Blvd.,  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-509-0100

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's Round Rock Hospital is a full-service, 76-bed hospital with a primary

care clinic and multiple specialty clinics. Located off IH 35 behind the Round Rock Premium Outlets, the campus offers 24-hour emergency care, more than 40 specialties, and access to Scott & White's seamless network of healthcare delivery throughout the region.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Clinic**

302 University Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-509-0200

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's Round Rock Clinic is a specialty clinic that offers more than 20 medical and surgical specialties. Located off IH 35 adjacent to Round Rock Hospital, clinic specialties include plastic surgery, a sleep study clinic, urology, children's services, audiology, hematology, cardiology, allergy treatment, and other services.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Cosmetic Surgery Center**

302 University Blvd.,  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-509-8550

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's *Round Rock Cosmetic Surgery Center* offers a complete range of reconstructive, cosmetic, and aesthetic surgical solutions. Services include breast and body surgeries, facial procedures (including eyelid surgery and neck lifts), and laser procedures (including tattoo removal). The Center also offers various spa services.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Hospital**

300 University Blvd.,  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-509-0100

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's Round Rock Hospital is a full-service, 76-bed hospital with a primary care clinic and multiple specialty clinics. Located off IH 35 behind the Round Rock Premium Outlets, the campus offers 24-hour emergency care, more than 40 specialties, and access to

Scott & White's seamless network of healthcare delivery throughout the region.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Nephrology & Dialysis Center**

2120 N. Mays, Rock Creek Plaza  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
512-238-2900

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Centrally located along I-35, the Scott & White Nephrology and Dialysis Center in Round Rock is a specialty clinic providing comprehensive nephrology care to the residents of Williamson County.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock West Clinic**

16420 RR 620, Suite 104  
Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-250-7000

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Centrally located along I-35, the Scott & White *Round Rock West Clinic* is a primary care clinic offering pediatric, women's, and adult health care, as well as management of such chronic diseases as high blood pressure and diabetes.

#### **Scott & White – Round Rock Specialty Clinic**

425 University Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-509-0200

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's *Round Rock Specialty Clinic* is a state-of-the-art facility that offers a variety of medical and non-surgical specialties for men, women and children, as well as an on-site pharmacy. Located between Cypress Blvd. and Sunrise Road on Chandler Road/W. University Blvd./W. Chandler Street in Round Rock, the clinic opened in 2010 when Scott & White expanded its services to this building. Specialties here include pediatrics, pediatric subspecialty, allergy, occupational medicine, internal medicine, mental health (psychiatry), rheumatology, medical infusions, dermatology, and dietary services. ►

## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

### Scott & White – Taylor Clinic

403 Mallard Lane,  
Taylor, TX 76574  
512-352-4000

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's Taylor Clinic is a family practice clinic that also offers various specialties, including cardiology, occupational medicine, and otolaryngology.

### Scott & White – Wells Branch Clinic

2113 Wells Branch Parkway, Suite 1200  
Austin, TX 78728  
512-252-5500

[www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org)

Scott & White's Wells Branch location specializes in pediatric services including newborn care, well-child exams, immunizations and school physicals.

### Seton Bertram

#### Healthcare Center

160 N. Lampasas St.,  
Bertram, TX 78605  
512-355-9233

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Seton Bertram Healthcare Center is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Austin. Offering primary and preventive health care, the Center is conveniently located for residents for Bertram, Liberty Hill, Burnet and the surrounding area.

### Seton Cedar Park Regional Medical Center

1401 Medical Parkway  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
512-528-7000

[www.cedarparkregional.com](http://www.cedarparkregional.com)

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Opened in 2007 as a partner of the *Seton Family of Hospitals* to serve fast-growing Cedar Park and Leander, the *Seton Cedar Park Regional Medical Center* is a 150-bed, full-service acute care center with a hospital, doctor's offices, labs and diagnostic services, women's health, cardiology and many other specialties, as well as general medical and surgical services.

### Seton Edgar B. Davis Hospital

130 Hays Street,  
Luling, TX 78648  
830-875-7000

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Located in Luling, *Seton Edgar B. Davis Hospital* is a general acute care facility committed to providing quality inpatient and outpatient services for residents of Caldwell and surrounding counties. The hospital offers 24-hour emergency, plus comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services, health education and wellness programs.

### Seton Highland Lakes Hospital

3201 S. Water St.,  
Burnet, TX 78611  
512-715-3000

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

*Seton Highland Lakes Hospital*, located approximately 40 miles northwest of Austin in Burnet, is a 25-bed critical access hospital offering acute care services, including surgical and medical procedures, emergency services and intensive care. Specialty healthcare services in Burnet include gynecology, urogynecology, pulmonology, neurology, and orthopedics.

### Seton Lampasas Healthcare Center

1205 Central Texas Expressway  
Lampasas, TX 76550  
512-556-5362

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Located in Lampasas, approximately 45 miles west of Austin, the *Seton Lampasas Healthcare Center* offers care for the whole family, including primary and preventive health care and outpatient lab testing, and serves residents in Lampasas, Kempner, and surrounding areas.

### Seton Lockhart Family Health Center

300 South Colorado, Suite C  
Lockhart, TX 78644  
512-376-3377

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

The *Seton Lockhart Family Health Center* brings urgent care and routine healthcare services to Lockhart and surrounding areas, and works with the *Lockhart*

*Specialty Health Clinic* (see below for information) to provide patient services. A medical director oversees Seton Lockhart with the help of several advanced nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

### Seton Lockhart Specialty Health Clinic

209 Church Street  
Lockhart, TX 78644  
512-376-2016

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

The *Seton Lockhart Specialty Health Clinic* provides primary care services, diagnostic testing, and independent visiting physician specialists.

### Seton Marble Falls Healthcare Center

700 Hwy 281  
Marble Falls, TX 78654  
830-693-2600

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

*Seton Marble Falls Healthcare Center* offers primary and preventive health care, as well as social services. The Center is conveniently located for residents of Marble Falls, Kingsland, Granite Shoals and the surrounding area.

### Seton Medical Center Austin

1201 West 38th Street,  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-324-1000

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

*Seton Medical Center Austin* is the largest medical/surgical acute care center in Austin and is the only hospital in Central Texas that performs heart transplants. One of four Magnet hospitals in the Seton Family of Hospitals, *Seton Medical Center Austin* offers comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for both inpatients and outpatients and regional specialty programs including the *Seton Heart Specialty Care and Transplant Center*, *Shivers Cancer Programs* and the *Marialice Shivers Regional Neonatal Center*. *Seton Medical Center Austin* was also one of the first two hospitals in Texas to receive certification as a Primary Stroke Center.

### Seton Medical Center Williamson

201 Seton Parkway  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
512-324-4000  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

This Center is the largest, faith-based hospital in Williamson County. Located on the corner of University Blvd. and FM 1360, the hospital offers comprehensive healthcare services including 24-hour ED, cardiovascular care, cardiopulmonary and neurodiagnostics, surgical services, critical care, an integrative wellness center, full-service imaging and lab, including a dedicated Women's Imaging Center and Central Texas' only *inReach System*, an advanced and minimally-invasive diagnostic tool to detect lung cancer. Seton Williamson also has a state-of-the-art Women's Center for gynecological surgeries, a comfortable and family-friendly birthing center, and a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

### Seton Northwest Hospital

11113 Research Blvd.,  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-324-6000  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

One of four Magnet hospitals in the Seton Family of Hospitals, the 124-bed Seton Northwest Hospital is located off Highway 183 just north of Braker Lane. Seton Northwest Hospital provides a wide complement of medical services including: 24-Hour Emergency Care, Maternity and Women's Services, Surgical Services, Imaging & Laboratory Services, and Rehabilitation Services.

### Seton Pflugerville Healthcare Center

200 N. Heatherwilde Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78660  
512-324-5350  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

A facility of Seton Medical Center Williamson, the *Seton Pflugerville Healthcare Center* offers a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic services, as well as offices for independent physicians in private practice.



### Seton Shoal Creek Hospital

3501 Mills Avenue  
Austin, TX 78731  
512-324-2000  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Seton Shoal Creek Hospital offers a wide spectrum of mental health and substance abuse services, treating children, adolescents, adults and senior adults on an inpatient or outpatient basis who may be experiencing emotional and/or substance abuse difficulties. Inpatient services include intensive psychiatric stabilization for patients dealing with emotional crises, depression, and drug/alcohol dependence. For those individuals requiring less intensive, longer-term treatment, the hospital also offers outpatient services. Licensed staff are on-call 24 hours a day to address the mental health needs of patients and their families. The hospital also facilitates a wide range of support groups that meet on a regular basis.

### Seton Southwest Hospital

7900 FM 1826,  
Austin, TX 78737  
512-324-9000  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Seton Southwest is a full-service, state-of-the-art medical facility, conveniently located at the corner of Hwy 290 and FM 1826. Services include: 24-Hour Emergency,

Surgical Services, 24-Hour Maternity Services, Full-Service Lab, Imaging Services (Including MRI, CT Scans, Mammography, Bone Density Testing), Outpatient Rehabilitation, EEG and Sleep Lab Studies, Cardio-Pulmonary Services (Including Stress-Testing).

### Smithville Regional Hospital

800 E. Highway 71  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-3214  
[www.srhnet.org](http://www.srhnet.org)

An acute care hospital serving Bastrop County since 1958, Smithville Regional provides inpatient and outpatient services to Bastrop, Lee, Fayette and other surrounding counties, including cardiopulmonary/respiratory care; diagnostic imaging; physical therapy and rehabilitation; and ER, ICU and surgical services.

### St. David's Georgetown Hospital

2000 Scenic Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-943-3000  
[www.stdavids.com](http://www.stdavids.com)

St. David's Georgetown Hospital, located in Georgetown, is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. St. David's Georgetown Hospital is an acute care, 98-bed hospital with a range of services, including ▶



a 24-hour major and minor emergency department staffed with board-certified emergency medicine physicians, inpatient and outpatient surgery, acute inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient therapy, and excellent maternity and newborn services close to home for Georgetown families.

### St. David's Medical Center

919 E. 32nd Street  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-476-7111  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's Medical Center, located at 919 East 32nd Street off of IH35, is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. Founded in 1924, St. David's Medical Center includes a 350-bed, acute care hospital, and a dedicated 64-bed Rehabilitation Hospital providing comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care. St. David's Medical Center is home to the renowned *NeuroTexas Institute*, (including the TIA Center for Stroke Prevention and designation as a Primary Stroke Center); the acclaimed Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute; high-level women's services with Level I, II and III nurseries; a Bariatric Center of Excellence; the Breast Center; orthopedic services; and a 24-hour emergency department. In 2010, St. David's Medical Center was named to the list of 100 Top Hospitals by Thomson Reuters, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the cost and quality of healthcare.

### St. David's North Austin Medical Center

12221 N. Mopac  
Austin, TX 78758  
512-901-1000  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's North Austin Medical Center, located at 12221 North Mopac Expressway, is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. The 332-bed multi-specialty, acute care facility is dedicated to



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency.....	911
Non-Emergencies ( <i>in most cases; specific city numbers below</i> ).....	311
Poison Center.....	800-POISON-1
Crisis Intervention/Suicide Hotline.....	512-472-4357
Safe Place Hotline (for battered women).....	512-267-SAFE
Pregnancy Crisis Hotline.....	512-374-0055
Drug Crisis Intervention.....	800-482-6575
Runaway Hotline.....	888-580-4357

the highest level of women's health services, including maternity and newborn care with Level I, II and III nurseries at the adjacent St. David's Women's Center of Texas, as well as a 24-hour emergency department, heart and vascular center, neurology and neurosurgery, a kidney transplant program, inpatient and outpatient surgery, and acute inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, among many others.

### St. David's Rehabilitation Hospital

1005 E. 32nd Street,  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-476-7111  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's Rehabilitation Hospital is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. The 64-bed hospital recently completed a total facility renovation, including all private rooms, increased capacity to serve more patients, additional state-of-the-art technology, and the largest rehab pool in the market to support the most comprehensive aquatic therapy program in the region. St. David's Rehabilitation Hospital provides comprehensive rehabilitative care for patients with neurological and orthopedic illness or injury.

### St. David's Round Rock Medical Center

2400 Round Rock Avenue  
Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-341-1000  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's Round Rock Medical Center is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. With more than 170 beds, this acute care hospital provides comprehensive health services to residents of Williamson County and the surrounding areas. Services include The Heart and Vascular Center with express testing, maternity and newborn services with Level I and II nurseries at The Women's Center, and a thriving emergency department, providing Level II trauma care in Williamson County. St. David's Round Rock Medical Center is also known for advanced orthopedic and bariatric services, among other complex specialties.

### St. David's South Austin Medical Center

901 W. Ben White Blvd.,  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-447-2211  
www.stdavids.com

St. David's South Austin Medical Center is part of St. David's HealthCare, one of the largest health systems in Texas. St. David's South Austin Medical Center is an acute care facility with 252 beds, offering a range of complex specialties and sub-specialties, including a comprehensive and nationally recognized cardiac program, full-service maternity and newborn care with Level I and II nurseries, and a thriving 24-hour emergency department, among others. In 2010, the medical center launched a comprehensive \$72-million

renovation and expansion effort, scheduled for completion in 2012.

#### St. David's Women's Center of Texas

12221 MoPac Expressway North  
(at Parmer Lane)  
Austin, TX 78758  
(Located on the St. David's North Austin Medical Center campus)  
512-901-1000  
www.stdavids.com

The St. David's Women's Center of Texas, located at St. David's North Austin Medical Center, is the first dedicated, comprehensive center in Central Texas devoted entirely to the health and wellness of women of all ages. The center provides its patients with the most advanced level of care supported by highly trained care specialists and the latest technological advances. Doctors and care specialists at the center care for more mothers and babies than any other health system in Central Texas. High-level care capabilities at St. David's Women's Center of Texas include a 36-bed Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; 29 labor, delivery and postpartum rooms; 61 dedicated postpartum rooms; 6 Cesarean section surgical suites; and 24/7 neonatal coverage.

#### Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute at St. David's Medical Center

3000 N. IH 35, Suite 720  
Austin, TX 78705  
(Located on the St. David's Medical Center campus)  
512-544-2342 or 877-887-7737  
www.TCAInstitute.com

Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute at St. David's Medical Center (TCAI) is one of the world's preeminent centers dedicated to the latest treatment advances for correcting abnormal heart rhythms such as Atrial Fibrillation (A Fib). The center is led by Executive Medical Director Andrea Natale, M.D., a world-renowned expert in the field who is at the forefront of advancing treatment for A Fib, leading numerous clinical trials and participating

in the development of new technologies and procedures.

#### Texas Institute for Robotic Surgery

12221 MoPac Expressway North  
(at Parmer Lane)  
Austin, TX 78758  
(Located on the St. David's North Austin Medical Center campus)  
512-901-1000  
www.TexasRobotic.com

The Texas Institute for Robotic Surgery at St. David's North Austin Medical Center is an international treatment, training and clinical research center that combines excellence in robotic-assisted surgery and outcomes in education and training. The institute serves as the leading clinical center for delivering the highest level of care at every step in the treatment of a robotic surgery patient, and features the Robotic Institute University, the nation's first educational epicenter teaching best practices for hospital and surgical teams involved in robotic-assisted surgery.

#### Seton – University Medical Center at Brackenridge

601 E. 15th Street  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-324-7000  
www.seton.net

Seton's *University Medical Center Brackenridge* is an acute care hospital and outpatient facility that is the only Level 1 Trauma Facility serving the Central Texas area, and that is the fourth-busiest emergency department in the state. Specialties include major trauma/emergencies, ICU, day/inpatient surgery, cardiology, neurosciences, orthopedics, outpatient clinics, and diagnostics. UMC Brackenridge is also known for academic medicine; its *Clinical Education Center* uses high-fidelity interactive mannequins and technology to train clinicians in the latest procedures working with state-of-the-art equipment. UMC Brackenridge is also home to the region's first nursing residency program, and recently celebrated its 75th year of graduate medical education. The hospital's

nationally renowned *Brain & Spine Center* is also involved in pioneering research and treatment of injuries and diseases of the spine, brain, and cardiovascular system, and it has also been recognized as a *Certified Stroke Center*.

#### NON-EMERGENCY IMMEDIATE CARE

The following are resources for non-emergency, outpatient care. Call ahead for hours and locations.

##### NextCare Urgent Care

6001 W. William Cannon at Ridge Oak Drive, Ste. 302  
Austin, TX 78749  
12701 FM 620 North at Lake Creek Parkway  
Austin, TX 78726  
900 Austin Avenue, Ste. 105  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
1240 E. Palm Valley Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
888-381-4858  
www.nextcare.com

NextCare Urgent Care offers walk-in medical care for all ages by board-certified doctors, specializing in non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. NextCare offerings include physicals, labs, x-rays, immunizations, and occupational medicine services and also accepts all major insurance, offers medical discounts and provides online registration.

##### Pro Med Medical Care Centers

**North – 183**  
13831 U.S. Highway 183 North  
512-250-0424  
**North – Anderson**  
2000 W. Anderson Lane  
512-459-4367  
**South Austin**  
3801 S. Lamar  
512-447-9661  
www.promedaustin.com

Pro Med Medical Care Centers have been serving the Austin community since 1977 – offering urgent care, occupational medicine, travel health (such as vaccinations and customized travel consults), ►

## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

employment physicals, flu vaccines, drug & alcohol testing, illness and injury care, and more at three area locations.

### OTHER MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES

**St. David's Bailey Square Surgery Center**  
1111 W. 34th Street, #400,  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-454-6753  
[www.baileysquare.com](http://www.baileysquare.com)

Open since 1973, *St. David's Bailey Square Surgery Center* is the state's first freestanding multispecialty ambulatory surgery center and was founded as a "safe, convenient, high-quality alternative to in-patient hospitalization." The Center's state-of-the-art facility includes private rooms for patients staying up to 23 hours and nine operating rooms.

**St. David's Oakwood Surgery Center**  
2250 Round Rock Avenue,  
Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-246-8777  
[www.oakwoodsurgerycenter.com](http://www.oakwoodsurgerycenter.com)

Located in Round Rock, *St. David's Oakwood Surgery Center* gives patients and physicians a convenient and safe alternative to surgery at a hospital. Oakwood offers state-of-the-art technology in each of its four operating rooms and

endoscopy suite, as well as fully equipped pre-operative and postanesthesia care areas.

**St. David's Occupational Health Clinics**  
North: 810 W. Braker Lane,  
Austin, TX 78750  
512-836-6555  
Central: 918 E. 32nd Street,  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-404-8195  
Specialized work-injury care, healthy lifestyle programs, worksite evaluations, and a range of pre-employment services for Austin-area employers.

**Surgicare of South Austin**  
(Part of St. David's; located at St. David's South Austin Medical Center)  
4307 James Casey St.  
Austin, TX 78745  
512-416-6006  
Freestanding ambulatory surgery center offering outpatient surgical procedures.

**Texas Neuro Rehab Center**  
1106 W. Dittmar Rd.  
Austin, TX 78745  
512-444-4835  
[www.texasneurorehab.com](http://www.texasneurorehab.com)  
[www.texasstarrecovery.com](http://www.texasstarrecovery.com)  
Provides treatment programs for children,

adolescents and adults who have a history of difficult neurological and/or behavioral issues. Facilities and programs include the *Bluebonnet Medical Rehabilitation Hospital*, which offers care for medical rehabilitation and traumatic brain injury; stroke rehabilitation and impaired consciousness; specialized assisted living for brain injury; and outpatient care. Other programs include *Austin NeuroBehavioral Specialists*, which provide children aged 8 and up with medical, psychiatric, behavioral, and diagnostic care; and the Texas Star Recovery Program, which offers inpatient and outpatient treatment for chemical dependency rehabilitation and detoxification for ages 18 and up.

### PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITY CLINICS

**Austin Academic Family Medicine/ Blackstock Family Health Center**  
1313 Red River Street, Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-324-8600  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)  
*Austin Academic Family Medicine/ Blackstock Family Health Center* is operated by Seton's Family Practice Program faculty and medical residents and sponsored by Austin Medical Education Programs. The facility provides services for all ages, including immunizations and well-child exams. The Center is staffed by 8 board-certified family practice teaching physicians and 21 resident physicians who are in the process of pursuing three years of postgraduate training to become board-certified family physicians. Teaching faculty includes eight board-certified family physicians, a psychologist, a social worker, and a Doctor of Pharmacy. The clinic also includes a full complement of nursing and office personnel.

**City of Austin Health and Human Services**  
2100 E. Elmo Road,  
Austin, TX 78744  
512-972-5400 (main)  
512-972-4942 (WIC)  
[www.ci.austin.tx.us/health](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health)





The City's *Health & Human Services* department operates several Public Health programs, including the *Women Infants & Children (WIC)* program – a special supplemental nutrition program where pregnant women, new mothers, and young children learn about nutrition and how to stay healthy – and *Shots for Tots/Big Shots* (see listing below) – immunization clinics for children and adults.

### CommUnityCare

RBJ Building (main office)  
15 Waller Street, 5th Floor  
Austin, TX 78702  
512-978-9000  
[www.communitycaretx.org](http://www.communitycaretx.org)

*CommUnityCare* is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that provides primary care health services to the medically underserved, operating 20 health center locations in Travis County. *CommUnityCare* offers comprehensive primary care services for the entire family including: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health services, behavioral health services, and dental care. Before becoming *CommUnityCare* in 2009 and operating independently, the organization served as the Community Health Centers, operating as a department of the City of Austin, for more than 30 years.

### Hays County Health Department

401-A Broadway,  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-393-5520  
(main location and children's/family clinic)  
150 Lockhart Street  
Kyle, TX 78640  
512-268-1270, (Kyle clinic)  
512-393-5520  
(Indigent Health Care Program)  
[www.health.co.hays.tx.us/default.htm](http://www.health.co.hays.tx.us/default.htm)  
Two Hays County clinics – one in Kyle and one in San Marcos – offer well-child and maternity care, immunizations, blood pressure check, diabetes and HIV testing.

Fees for services at both clinics are based on a sliding scale. The *Hays County Family Clinic* in San Marcos provides medical care for clients who don't have a primary care provider and who have acute and/or chronic medical conditions, and/or need for general health screening for anemia, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, thyroid problems, liver and kidney functions, depending on the needs. The Family Clinic is staffed by one family nurse practitioner assisted by a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) and a receptionist. Hays County also offers an *Indigent Health Care Program* that includes such basic health care services as healthcare provider services; laboratory and x-ray; family planning services; Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services; three prescriptions per month; and inpatient and outpatient hospital service. To be eligible for indigent health care services, clients must be residents of Hays County, ineligible for Medicaid and meet specific income and resources requirements based on *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)* guidelines.

### People's Community Clinic

2909 N. IH-35,  
Austin, TX 78722  
512-478-4939  
[www.pcclinic.org](http://www.pcclinic.org)  
Founded in 1970 by a group of volunteer doctors and nurses, the non-profit *People's Community Clinic* is one of the oldest continually running independent clinics for primary care in America. The Clinic's mission is to "improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by providing high quality, affordable healthcare." The Clinic's medical practice includes all of the services of a primary health provider – including adult, pediatric, adolescent, immunizations, women's health, and prenatal medical care, as well as social services. The Clinic has a lab and pharmacy on-site and also provides limited referrals for some types of specialty care. Fees are based on a sliding scale. The

Clinic also has a wealth of special programs, including medical care for children housed at the *Austin Children's Shelter*; a *Center for Adolescent Health*; a *Chronic Disease Management Program*; the *Healthy Babies Initiative*; an *Immunization Program*; and other community healthcare partnership programs.

### Lone Star Circle of Care

1500 W. University Avenue,  
Suite 103 (main office)  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
512-868-1124 (for locations)  
[www.lscctx.org](http://www.lscctx.org)

*Lone Star Circle of Care* was founded in 2002 with one locally focused clinic in Georgetown, and is now a federally qualified community health center with more than 20 community clinics that serve the uninsured and underinsured in Williamson County and in Central Texas. With a mission of "bringing high quality, affordable health care to those in need," *Lone Star Circle of Care* provided nearly 130,000 patient visits for medically underserved adults and children in 2009. Services include a philosophy as a "person-centered, behaviorally enhanced healthcare home," which includes primary care, dental, integrated mental health, women's health services, and low cost medications. Area clinics and community medical partnerships include locations in Austin (1), Belton (1), Cedar Park (1), Georgetown (5); Harker Heights (2); Hutto (1); Killeen (1); Round Rock (11); Taylor (1); and Temple (1).

### Seton Kozmetsky Community Health Center

3706 S. First St.  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-324-4940  
[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)  
*Seton Kozmetsky Community Health Center* was established to provide accessible, comprehensive health services to medically underserved families in south-central Austin. Primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants provide quality

## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

primary care to community residents who are eligible for services. The Center's primary mission is to "keep Austin children healthy, as well as improving patient health through a team approach to preventative care and health education." All medical and counseling services are available on a sliding scale, based on family size and income. Appointments are required, and the Center accepts Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP.

### **Seton McCarthy Community Health Center**

2811 E. Second St.

Austin, TX 78702

512-324-4930

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

Seton opened the *Seton McCarthy Community Health Center* in 1989. to provide accessible, comprehensive health and primary care services to medically underserved families in Austin and East Austin. Appointments are required. Fees are based on a sliding scale, and the Center also accepts Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP.

### **Seton Topfer Community Health Center**

8913 Collinfield Road

Austin, TX 78758

512-324-6850

[www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net)

The *Seton Topfer Community Health Center* was established to provide accessible, comprehensive health and primary care services to medically underserved families in north Austin. Fees are based on a sliding scale, and the Center also accepts Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. Appointments are required.

### **Shots for Tots – City of Austin**

*North Clinic:* St. John Community Center  
7500 Blessing Avenue

Austin, TX 78752

*South Clinic:* Far South Health Clinic 405  
West Stassney

Austin, TX 78745

512-972-5520

(For appointments at any location)



The City of Austin's *Immunization Program* operates both *Big Shots* and *Shots for Tots* clinics for adults and children at two Austin locations. Walk-in clinics are offered at each location one Saturday a month (call 972-5520 for dates and times). There is a \$10 fee for each visit, and services are not refused due to inability to pay.

A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18; if possible, bring your child's shot record, Social Security number, and Medicaid number (if applicable).

### **Texas Department of State Health Services – Community Clinics**

1100 W. 49th Street

Austin, TX 78756

512-458-7796

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/phc/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/phc/default.shtm)

The Texas Department of State Health Services has links to community clinics by county that offer low-cost primary care health services – including early prevention, early detection and early intervention of health problems. The six priority services provided are diagnosis and treatment, emergency services, family planning, preventive health services, including immunizations and

health education, as well as laboratory, x-ray, nuclear medicine or other appropriate diagnostic services. Secondary services include nutrition services, health screening, home health care, dental care, transportation, prescription drugs, devices and durable medical supplies, environmental health services, podiatry services, and social services. Austin metro counties served include Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson.

### **Volunteer Health Care Clinic**

4215 Medical Parkway

Austin, TX 78756

512-459-6002

[www.volclinic.org](http://www.volclinic.org)

The Volunteer Healthcare Clinic has been in continuous operation since 1966, and is operated by more than 400 volunteers. Founded for the purpose of providing healthcare services to those in Austin who have nowhere else to turn, the clinic provides non-emergency medical treatment for low-income children and adults who don't have access to healthcare. Services include primary care services for acute and chronic conditions, laboratory work and x-rays (referrals only), referrals to medical specialists and other medical

and dental resources, as well as medication assistance.

#### **Williamson County & Cities Health District**

100 West 3rd Street  
Georgetown, TX 78626  
512-943-3600 (main);  
512-260-4240 (call for clinic locations)  
www.wcchd.org

The *Williamson County Cities & Health District* has provided public health services to Williamson County (Cedar Park, Georgetown, Hutto, Liberty Hill, Round Rock, and Taylor) since 1943, operating public health clinics that provide prenatal care for low-income women; well-child checkups; immunizations; testing and counseling for HIV; testing, counseling and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; testing and treatment for tuberculosis; and vision and hearing screenings. Fees are based on a sliding scale.

### **PEDIATRICS**

#### **Children's Clinic of Leander**

502 Crystal Falls Parkway, Suite B  
Leander, TX 78641  
(512) 260-0101  
www.cclmedical.com

The *Children's Clinic of Leander* offers personalized medical care for children from birth through age 18. Services include well-baby exams, well-child exams, sports physicals, adolescent exams and physicals, immunizations, and acute ill visits for urgent medical needs. We also provide management, diagnosis and treatment of chronic pediatric disorders and conditions, including ADD, ADHD, and ODD.

#### **Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas**

4900 Mueller Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78723  
512-324-0000  
www.dellchildrens.net  
Dell Children's Medical Center of Central

Texas is the only dedicated freestanding pediatric facility in the region. Serving a 46-county area and beyond, Dell Children's is the premier health care provider for children and adolescents. Awarded Magnet designation for excellence in nursing by the American Nurses Association, Dell Children's brings together pediatric specialists to provide comprehensive care for children with illnesses, simple to complex. Specialties include surgery, emergency care, regional heart program, cancer and blood disorders program, neurology/neurosurgery, dermatology/craniofacial plastic and reconstructive surgery, outpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care.

#### **Pediatric Associates of Austin**

1500 W. 38th Street, Suite 20  
Austin, TX 78731  
512-458-5323  
www.pediatricassociates.net

*Pediatric Associates of Austin* is a private pediatric practice established in 1974 and located in Central Austin near Seton Hospital. Personal, comprehensive services include an on-site laboratory and X-rays, and physicians are board certified. Weekend hours are available for sick children.

#### **'Specially For Children**

1301 Barbara Jordan Blvd, Suite 200  
Austin, TX 78723  
512-628-1800

www.speciallyforchildren.com

A pediatric subspecialist group of Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, *'Specially For Children* is a regional medical group of pediatric sub-specialty physicians dedicated to treating children and adolescents with severe, unusual and complex illnesses. The clinic has more than 30 physicians in the children's subspecialty areas of allergy/ asthma/ immunology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, genetics, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, nephrology, neurology, rheumatology and palliative care.

#### **Starbright Pediatric Rehabilitation**

2000 S. IH 35, Suite L-2  
Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-218-1432

*Starbright Pediatric Rehabilitation* clinic offers outpatient rehabilitation services designed to help children with disabilities and injuries achieve maximum self-sufficiency. Therapists evaluate and treat children from birth through adolescence with a multi disciplinary approach that includes speech, occupational and physical therapies. ■







# Austin, Texas Apartment Living

W

hen relocating to Austin, Texas an old idea has gained new meaning: apartment rentals. At one time considered the exclusive domain of students and retirees in the Capital City, apartments have come a long way from these humble beginnings. Modern apartment living features fabulous amenities to fit modern lifestyles, and have proven to be a perfect choice for professionals and families, especially those new to the area.

"Many decide to opt for renting apartment homes versus a home purchase because of the hassle-free living," says Renee Clark, Senior Regional Manager for Gables Residential and Austin Apartment Association Past-President. "You don't have to worry about mowing your grass, or about repairs to the house or worry about who's going to take care of the roof if you have a leak, or even pest control. All of those items are taken care of."

Apartment living also gives new residents time to get to know the area better and make an informed choice when thinking of where to begin looking for a home. Many residents moving into the Austin area live in an apartment before purchasing a home, giving them time to find out what area of town they want to live in and not rush into a decision. Most communities offer six-month leases and many communities have “Home Purchase Buy-Outs” if a resident needs to break their lease in order to move into a new home.

The perfect apartment to settle into can be as individual as the person. Just as there is no “typical” apartment community in Austin, there is no “typical” Austin renter. “We’re a unique city, and our properties have diverse options to meet the needs of our residents,” says Thomas Steubing, Community Manager of Alexan Ribelin Ranch. Steubing points to the diversity of backgrounds and professions of residents at Alexan Ribelin Ranch.

There is an expectation of excellence that extends to the apartment management team as well as the property itself, says Scott Beard, property manager of Quarry Hill Apartments. Apartment management is more committed than ever to making sure that their renters feel comfortable and have access to amenities that accommodate their busy lifestyles. “Renters expect to be treated respectfully by a friendly management team,” he says. “In addition to looking for 24-hour fitness centers and well-maintained grounds, they also want efficient responses to maintenance requests. Our residents want and deserve apartment management that is both responsible and supportive.”

This demand for excellence is the direct result of change in renter demographics over the past few years. “More people, especially the baby boomers of today, are the ones you see renting apart-



Photo Courtesy of the Mansions at Star Ranch Country Club

ments. Empty nesters don’t want to deal with the responsibility of a home, and now that their children are gone, they want their lives to be hassle-free,” says Clark. “You also have the ‘Y Generation’ – the kids just coming out of college and going into the marketplace, who are moving into their first ‘adult’ home. Both of these groups lead active lives and have high expectations of what they want.” Clark says both groups want the freedom to travel and come and go as they please, without worrying about the responsibilities of ownership.

Luckily for Austin apartment hunters, Austin is rated the “most wired city” in the U.S., and many apartment management companies have taken advantage of this connectivity to create websites that include all of the information needed to make a decision on renting an apartment home without having to leave home. Both Steubing and Beard believe using the Internet is the place for an apartment hunter to begin, and offers a terrific option to the old-fashioned way of surveying the want-ads in trade publications and newspapers. “The Internet allows residents to not only find the homes they want in a particular area, but saves time by allowing them to view

floor plans, pricing and management information,” says Beard.

Renters need to be aware of how the Austin rental market has changed over the past year, says Clark. “Right now there is more demand than there is supply for a good apartment community. Rents have gone up since last year, and the rates are rising as fast as you can blink your eye. The consumer has to understand that he or she should not expect the special deals of last year. And because the market is so tight, if you see a price you can afford and you like the property, you should jump on it when something comes available,” she advises.

### CONSIDER THE OPTIONS!

Once you’ve found your dream community, you’ll want to look over the lease carefully. Anyone about to rent an apartment should look over the lease with a wary eye, and consider carefully before signing on the dotted line. “Be aware of possible life changes, such as your job or your compatibility with a roommate. Be comfortable with the lease term you select; it is not easy to break a lease,” says Steubing. He suggests that renters familiarize themselves with management policies and make sure that the lease dates are correct and workable. ►



## APARTMENT LIVING

To make sure that you've found a good fit that serves both your home and lifestyle needs, try giving yourself an early "housewarming gift" – the gift of time. Make sure you have allowed yourself ample time to review the lease before moving in. If possible, make an appointment after being approved through the application process to come in and allow about one hour to review the lease and all addendums so as not to be rushed on move-in day.

### AUSTIN, TEXAS APARTMENT LOCATORS

Remember "Fiddler on the Roof"? Ever wish you could have your own matchmaker to help you find your perfect dream apartment? Consider using the services of a reputable apartment locator.

"Every day is exciting for me, and people feel it. I have no secret to success - I just love what I do, and I let my clients know I'm working for them." says Lisa Victorian of A+ Apartment Locators. "A lot of time clients do not have time to research specials on their own, and then they talk to me and are

happy I can take care of them. I'm very upfront, I'm not going to lie to you."

Part of that forwardness comes through by asking very direct questions about a client's financial situation, but Victorian says that it's the most important part of making sure that the apartment community she's working on getting her client into is a good fit. "I ask a lot of personal questions, and people can get offended, but I have to ask them, 'Do you want to lose application fees?' It can get expensive very quickly if you're applying for place after place that won't accept your lease application."

Victorian says that many people move to Austin without a job, thinking they will begin the search for employment after they move in to their new apartment. "If you're coming here without a job, you need to have a minimum of six months savings just for your rent, and you won't have a lot of options without a guarantor or a job," she advises. "A guarantor can be helpful, but money in the bank makes it easier. Sometimes these properties want you to put up

three or four months of rent in advance, so you need to have something in your savings for food and gas too, while you look for a job."

The Internet has become an excellent tool for exploring different apartment communities before coming to Austin, Texas and Victorian encourages her clients to use it before contacting her to get an idea of what they want and where they would like to relocate. "I reassure people that they should look on the Internet. Then I'll ask the personal questions such as 'When do you need to move? Do you have your own washer and dryer? Do you have pets?' etc., and we can take it from there."

Because the apartment rental market can fluctuate so quickly, with rents changing on an almost daily basis, Victorian says that clients should contact her after they've made the final commitment to make the move to Austin, Texas. "My goal is to get folks into the newest possible property for the least amount of money, and sometimes prices can change in the same day! Because of this, I don't do early workups, so call me when you're ready and you have the cash in hand when you sign your lease."

Victorian says that leasing an apartment before buying a home is a smart move for those who want to make Austin their permanent home. "You can familiarize yourself with the area, and find out what's the best for your children. You can also see what's acceptable to you and what's important to you in your life. Do you want to live downtown or do you prefer the suburban family feel?" Victorian says. "The nice neighborhoods we have in Round Rock, and with Hutto and Cedar Park growing up so much, you can get a home in any price range and still have that family-oriented quality of life. And living in an apartment community allows you to 'try it before you buy it.'" ■



Photo Courtesy of the Mansions at Star Ranch Country Club



Photo Courtesy of the Mansions at Star Ranch Country Club



**W**hen it comes to renting an apartment in the Austin, Texas area, anyone can find the perfect environment in which to thrive. Are you a “city mouse” who would love living in a downtown loft apartment with its convenience to work and the entertainment district? Or maybe you’re a “country mouse” who longs to commune with Mother Nature via the incredible view from your window while you suit up for a bike ride along the nature trail? Whether city mouse or country mouse, you’re sure to find not only the right property in the right place, but the accompanying amenities that make life that much richer.

Many who live in apartment homes are renting by choice versus necessity to fulfill a desire for a pampered lifestyle reminiscent of an atmosphere often found at five-star resorts. Some of these extra amenities include masseuse services, personal trainers, poolside refreshments, tanning beds, complimentary breakfast, top-of-the-line fitness centers, stations to wrap and mail packages with free decorative bags and wrapping paper for all occasions. Wireless internet has been added so that residents may surf the net while lounging in the clubroom areas or at the pool. Mountain bike rentals are available in many communities, and jogging trails have also

been a desirable amenity for fitness-minded Austin residents.

But what apartment home residents crave more than just these amenities is the extra attention from property staff. “This particular kind of extreme customer service is what we call the ‘Ritz-Carlton way of life,’” says Renee Clark, Senior Regional Manager for Gables Residential and Austin Apartment Association Past-President, referring to the famous hotel’s stellar reputation for exceeding their clientele’s expectations.

“Residents today expect a pool and a fitness center on the property. They want more than that. They don’t want to just drop off their rent payment in the rent box – they want to truly interact and build a relationship with their apartment community’s management team. Today’s residents want to feel that bond, that sense of trust – and you need to be sure you have the right people in place to create that sense of security and satisfaction.

“It isn’t unusual to see our residents stop by, have coffee and chit chat with our on-site staff at the clubhouse’s coffee bar,” says Clark. “Our residents know us on a first name basis, and we know them as well. We consider it a top priority to provide this one-to-one extreme

customer service. It’s not something that you can advertise, or that’s even on paper, but if there’s a resident in need of some help, we want to step up to provide it.”

In addition to making residents feel at home, many apartment communities are now offering services and amenities just for their four-legged residents. “Pets are huge here in Austin, and to many of our residents, they are just like children. You’ll see apartment communities that have added dog parks and dog stations – and instead of handing out cookies to kids, they’ll hand out dog biscuits at the “Doggie Bar.” When people come in to tour a property, they’ll bring their pet, because they want to see that their dog or cat is comfortable.

And while residents are getting to know their way around their new community, Clark says a savvy management team can help break the ice with different activities that encourage residents to get out and meet their neighbors. “For example, once a month we bring in chefs from some of the most popular restaurants in Austin to demonstrate and teach an exclusive cooking class to our residents.”

The diversity found within an apartment community, especially in regard to the current demographic of baby boomers and “Generation Y” young professionals makes for a lively and friendly time. “It’s an excellent mix – you have the empty nesters who have had full and exciting lives and have now moved into an apartment, and you have these young professionals who are just beginning their careers. When we have our functions, we typically see them socializing together and having a great time.”

Clark says solid customer service and an apartment management team that listens to and understands the needs of residents is the most valuable amenity found within any apartment community. “You can add on all the concierge and services you want, but in the end it’s not a dry cleaning pick-up service that earns you a resident’s respect and loyalty – it’s your dedication. You have to show you care, and win their hearts.” ■



# Housing and Neighborhoods

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inding a place to live is one of the most exciting experiences a newcomer to the Austin, Texas area can have. After all, *Forbes* has rated Austin as the top city for economic growth among the country's largest 100 metros.

Top reasons for the honor include the city's status as a tech hub, close proximity to universities, thriving arts and entertainment scene, affordable housing, and a growing population. With the help of a real estate professional and a little research, those new to the area can find a great home or rental in one of the Austin area's many diverse neighborhoods and enclaves in no time!



## FINDING A HOME IN AUSTIN

Finding a realtor and becoming educated about the Austin area and the amenities offered in the different neighborhoods being considered, will go a long way toward making the house-hunting experience an enjoyable one.

Get realtor recommendations from friends, co-workers, family, or by contacting the local board of realtors to find a real estate professional in the area. Real estate agents know the neighborhoods, the schools, the extracurricular activities, and the tax bases of different school districts

Location is important, too – and a lot has changed around the city in just the last few years. For example, SH-130 is the new 49-mile toll road located east of I-35 that runs through Williamson and Travis counties, and extends from I-35 north of Georgetown to U.S. 183 southeast of Austin. SH-45 is approximately 13 miles long, and extends from Ridgeline Boulevard west of U.S. 183 eastward to SH-130. SH-45 is a four to six lane divided roadway, with major interchanges at U.S. 183, Loop 1, I-35 and SH-130, and includes limited frontage roads.

## AUSTIN HOMES FOR SALE, DIVERSE OPTIONS

The housing market in Austin, Texas is thriving and is still an excellent investment opportunity for homeowners. Most Austin, Texas homes for sale are single-family homes, garden homes, condominiums and zero-lot line homes built on individual lots with surveyed and plotted boundaries. Depending on the development, these homes may be subject to certain legal rules and restrictions regarding the physical specifications of the home, including later housing alterations made to the home.

Like single-family homes, garden homes and zero lot line homes are built on individual lots, but have little or no yard and therefore no yard maintenance. Instead, these homes offer their owners small terraced areas or patios they can choose to landscape. Two attached single-family homes on one lot are considered a duplex, and give residents options for rental property.

Townhomes are one- or two-story homes constructed in rows that share side walls, with unobstructed front and back entries and small lawns or patios. "Town homes may be one-story structures, depending on the lot size, but generally are constructed as two-story homes to avoid that 'bowling alley' feeling in the design.

Condominiums and lofts offer a homeowner even less outdoor upkeep. While the homeowner is responsible for indoor maintenance, the exterior is largely the responsibility

of a management company appointed by the homeowner's association of the condominium complex. The downtown Austin market has become flush with high rise lofts downtown and in the University of Texas campus area, making them good investments for students, young professionals and empty-nesters.

Buyers want more options, and Austin homebuilders have responded by building more townhomes, garden homes and condos to accommodate those desires. Find garden homes, zero lot line homes and condominiums in heavily populated areas like Round Rock, Cedar Park, downtown and south Austin. Find duplexes throughout the city, usually sprinkled throughout a development in to maximize development versus higher property costs.

The inner city loft and condo developments have become also more popular as the warehouse district has rejuvenated



Photo Courtesy of Highland Homes



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ed downtown, especially for those relocated from larger cities like Chicago and New York, where they live in the same building they office out of, or don't care about a yard or living in an isolated format. Lofts in the downtown and West Campus areas have also become viable options for students attending the University of Texas at Austin.

### UNDERSTANDING HOMESTEAD LAWS IN TEXAS

Before settling on the home of your dreams, it's important for future homeowners to understand a few basics about Texas real estate laws. A homestead is defined in Texas as the place of residence for a family or individual and is secure from forced sale by general creditors.

The Texas Constitution guarantees the only way a person can lose his or her homestead rights is by death, abandonment, sale of property, or foreclosure of a lien against the homestead. Texas has two types of homesteads: urban and rural. In most cases, Texas homeowners file for homestead exemption as a way to help lower their taxes. To qualify for homestead exemption,

homeowners must move into the property by January 1 of that year. If a buyer purchases his or her home on January 2, application for the homestead exemption must wait until the following year.

Once filed, a homestead exemption is valid as long as the homeowner lives on the property and is using it as the primary residence. If the homeowner moves out of the property and rents it,

then the exemption goes away. Also, homestead law states that if a property is purchased with a pre-existing homestead exemption, the homestead exemption transfers to the new owner.

### NOT READY TO BUY? CONSIDER RENTING

If you're new to the area, living in corporate housing or renting in the community area is a great idea – and a great opportunity to discover areas of town before you decide to buy.

An excellent source for finding out the intricacies of renting property in Texas is the *Austin Tenants Council*. The ATC's counseling line at 474-1961 is open only for Travis County residents, however, the organization's website ([www.housing-rights.org](http://www.housing-rights.org)) has valuable Texas property code details and tenant-landlord information and forms for residents of surrounding counties.

No matter what you decide, those new to the Austin and Central Texas area will soon discover just how much the city has to offer when it comes to housing, neighborhoods, amenities, options, and much more. ■



Photo Courtesy of Belterra



# URBAN LIVING

## AUSTIN'S DOWNTOWN EXPLOSION

It's hard not to love all that's great about downtown Austin – so it doesn't come as much of a surprise that there's been a lot more activity when it comes to downtown real estate. After all, downtowns all over the country are the place to be, and it's easy to understand why. They are often the epicenters of culture and creativity, of hipness and newness, and vibrant with possibilities for the future of a city.

Austin is no exception. The city's downtown offers a vibrant lifestyle and is an exciting alternative to single-family homes in more traditional, suburban neighborhoods. This kind of "Austin-style" urban

living means residents have easy access to all the city has to offer: a thriving entertainment district; the best in music, arts and film; fabulous restaurants; great bars; and a plethora of outdoor activities around Lady Bird Lake. From low-rise condos dotting the shores of the lake to high-rise loft living, there's no doubt that the perks to living downtown can't be beat.

But it wasn't always this way. Years ago, businesses were all that occupied the downtown area, with the exception of four or five condo high rises and a few apartment buildings – and those who lived downtown had to drive or take a

bus to get to services like grocery stores and specialty shops. The closest entertainment was on Sixth Street, which was lined with bars and restaurants and had very few shops.

Now, the rise of new residential units has had a definite influence on the kinds of businesses that have sprung up downtown to support those who embrace the urban living scene. With all the recent development, the infrastructure of downtown has changed.

Consider that, without Whole Foods, the closest major grocery store would be at ►

least two miles away. The eclectic mix of other businesses, many of which are locally owned, are also huge benefits because they contribute to downtown's status as a walkable city that's easy to get around.

### WHO'S MOVING TO DOWNTOWN AUSTIN?

Like many downtowns across the country, there was a large concentration of single, young professionals, and investors snapping up downtown Austin lofts and condos. Not anymore.

The market may have catered to singles and empty nesters several years ago, but now there's a much broader spectrum of who lives downtown. While singles and professionals still dominate, more families with children are making the move. And, with plenty of good public, private and charter schools within easy access of downtown – plus parks and a location that's minutes away from tons of kid-friendly activities – it's getting easier for families to make the transition.

Another factor that's drawing more and more people to downtown Austin are the increased services. Whole Foods Market's flagship store and corporate headquarters at Sixth and Lamar, plus tiny neighborhood grocery stores like Royal Blue Grocery in the Second Street District are welcome additions for downtown residents in need of a bottle of bubbly or a loaf of bread.

The newest downtown Austin development projects, such as the Second Street District, additions to the Warehouse District, and new shops and restaurants on Fifth Street, have made it a lot easier for people to make the decision to live in the heart of the city. There are also plans to bring in still more retail downtown, as residents are demanding more services and options.

For example, the Second Street District has done very well with the boutique

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“The city's downtown offers a **vibrant lifestyle...** This kind of “Austin-style” urban living means residents have easy access to all the city has to offer: a **thriving entertainment district;** the best in music, arts and film; **fabulous restaurants; great bars; and a plethora of outdoor activities** around Lady Bird Lake.”

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stores, sidewalk cafes, and coffee shops that have popped up along the street in the last year or two. The Second Street District is also home to restaurants, retail stores, home furnishings stores, sandwich shops, and more. KLRU Studios (home of the long-running “Austin City Limits” television show) and its new performing arts venue – *ACL Live* – opened adjacent to the new *W Hotel*, and the *Austin Children's Museum* and the *Mexican-American Cultural Center* are close by, adding to Austin's cultural base and downtown appeal.

### WHERE TO LIVE?

There has always been some residential development in downtown Austin – like the historic *Brazos Lofts*, the *Railyard Condominiums*, and *Gables West Avenue*, all of which opened in 1999 – but it wasn't until 2002 when the residential market really exploded.

In that year, the *Plaza Lofts* at Republic Square and West 5th, the *Brown Building* lofts on West 8th, and the luxury *Nokonah* residences on West 9th all opened within months of each other. Since then, countless residential projects have opened or have been renovated, including the *Austin City Lofts*; *Avenue Lofts*; *Austonian*; *404 Rio Grande*; *AMLI Downtown*; *The 5 Fifty Five* (atop the downtown Hilton hotel); *The Monarch*; *The Milago*; *The Shore*;

*Posada del Rey*; *The Sabine on 5th*; *La Vista on Lavaca*; *The W Condominiums*; and others.

While there are some affordable housing options in downtown Austin, it's not often the norm. Price per square foot for most downtown condos runs about \$220-\$255. However, there are some residential developments in the works that are addressing the affordability factor – and many of them are in the hot area of East Austin.

Residential projects in East Austin – such as the *Saltillo Lofts* and *Twenty One 24*, among others – are still relatively affordable, and that's good for those who want to be in the thick of things, but who are also on a budget. Downtown projects include *Westgate Tower* at 11th and Colorado; *Cambridge Tower* at 1801 Lavaca; *Penthouse Condos* at 1212 Guadalupe; the *Towers of Town Lake* at 40 N. I-35; and the *Spring Lofts*.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

Are you ready for the downtown lifestyle? Downtown living is not a perfect fit for everyone. Many downtown residential sales are in high-rise developments, and living in them requires some adjustment from a traditional single family home.

Those thinking of making the switch to a downtown high rise should do a bit of



self-examination. Do you like to walk? Do you need a yard? Do you need your car every day? Have you lived in an urban setting before? Those are all important questions to consider before making the move to an urban lifestyle.

Buyers should also consider some of the extra expenses that go with condominium or loft living. Homeowner's association fees are just one example. Some amenities and services are included in your fees – but not all. If the property you are interested in offers a 24-hour concierge service, for example, think about whether that's a service you would use and want to pay for.

Always ask about a property's parking policy, too. Many properties allow for only one parking space per bedroom, so if you own a one-bedroom condo and have two cars, you will likely need to make special arrangements to park the second car. Ask about visitor parking spaces, too – are they available, or is the only option street parking? Given Austin's busy downtown weekend activity, that could be a problem.

There's no doubt that the idea of working and playing within easy walking distance of home is extremely appealing to many. According to the Downtown Austin Alliance, more than 67,000 work in the central downtown area; about 90,000 work within a mile of 6<sup>th</sup> and Congress; about 9,500 residents call downtown home; and more than 363,000 people live within a 10-minute drive of downtown.

There is no particular profile of those who choose to make downtown their home, and the population includes many families and young professionals, not just college students. It's a mixture of all age groups – and all are attracted to the diversity that downtown has to offer. ■

Source: Downtown Austin Alliance  
DowntownAustin.com

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**LONG CANYON**  
5800 Gibbs Hollow Cv  
4 BD 4.5 BA 6,118 SQ FT  
Listed by Michael Said  
MLS# 5383915



**LAKE TRAVIS WATERFRONT**  
8416 Lime Creek Rd  
4 BD 5 BA 5,900 SQ FT  
Listed by The Spickes Team  
MLS# 7895274



**HORSESHOE BAY**  
301 Lighthouse Dr  
4 BD 3 BA 3,875 SQ FT  
Listed by Todd Grossman  
MLS# 7282561



**LAKE TRAVIS WATERFRONT**  
4448-C Eck Ln  
2 BD 2.5 BA 3,302 SQ FT  
Listed by Sherry Eilenbogen  
MLS# 8526994



**Vineyard Bay**  
15915 Fontaine Ave  
5 BD 6 BA 6,764 SQ FT  
Listed by Tommy Cokins  
MLS# 7722938



**KYLE**  
125 Indian Hill Pt  
5 BD 4.5 BA 5,205 SQ FT  
Listed by Sonny Bara  
MLS# 3782818



**ROLLINGWOOD**  
2606 Pickwick Ln  
3 BD 3 BA 4,556 SQ FT  
Listed by Patrick Birdsong  
MLS# 3683377



**LAGO VISTA**  
18100 Austin Blvd  
4 BD 5.5 BA 4,238 SQ FT  
Listed by Avalon of Realty Austin  
MLS# 5679195



**JONESTOWN**  
18245 Lura Ln  
4 BD 3.5 BA 4,648 SQ FT  
Listed by Marcia Kim  
MLS# 8454095



**LAKE TRAVIS WATERFRONT**  
107 J. Williams Dr  
4 BD 3 BA 3,028 SQ FT  
Listed by Kat Brooks Team  
MLS# 5075190



**LONG CANYON**  
8400 Long Canyon Dr  
4 BD 4 BA 4,121 SQ FT  
Listed by Beverly Williams  
MLS# 3377290



**ROB ROY ON THE CREEK**  
812 Beardsley Ln  
5 BD 3.5 BA 4,040 SQ FT  
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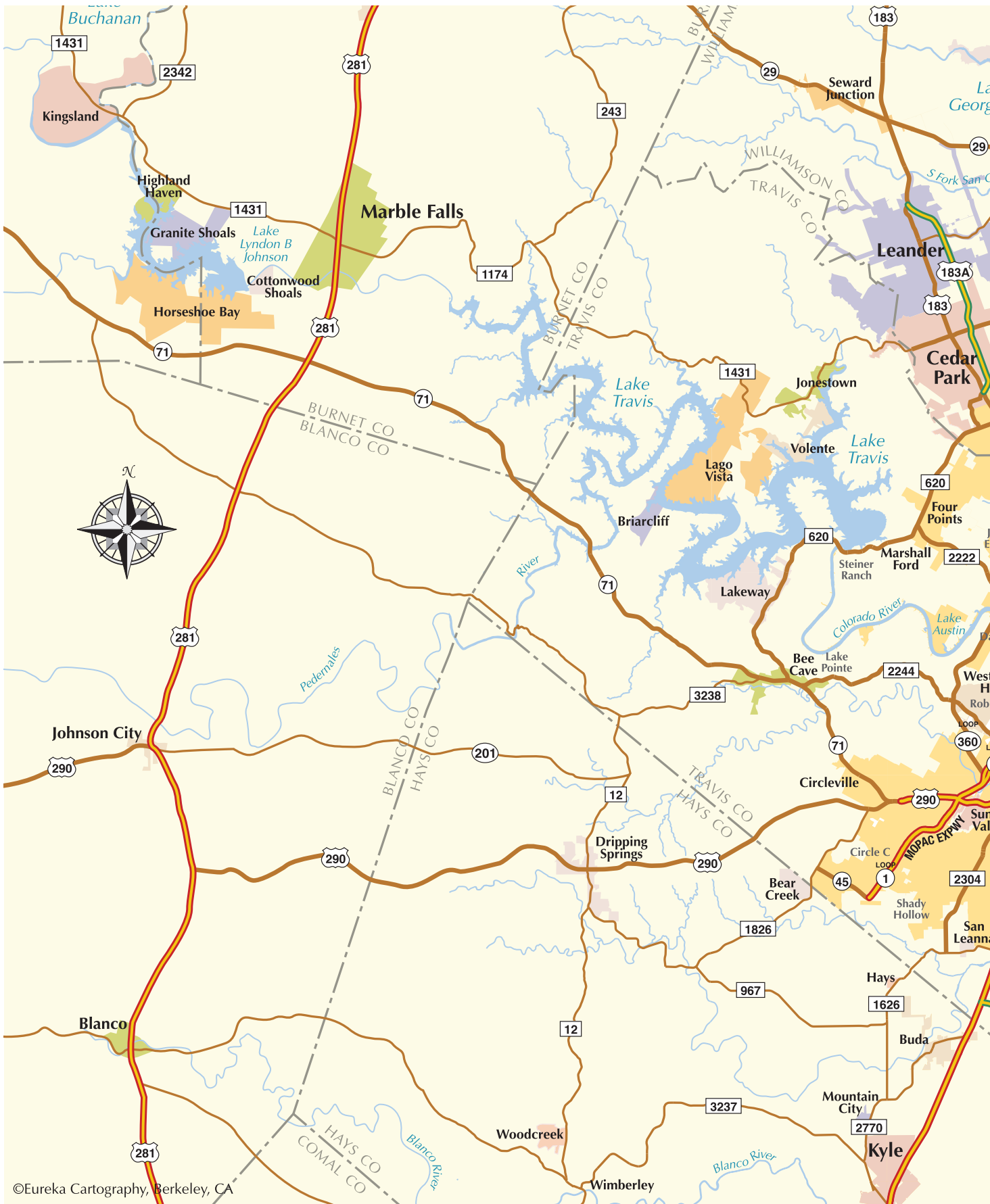
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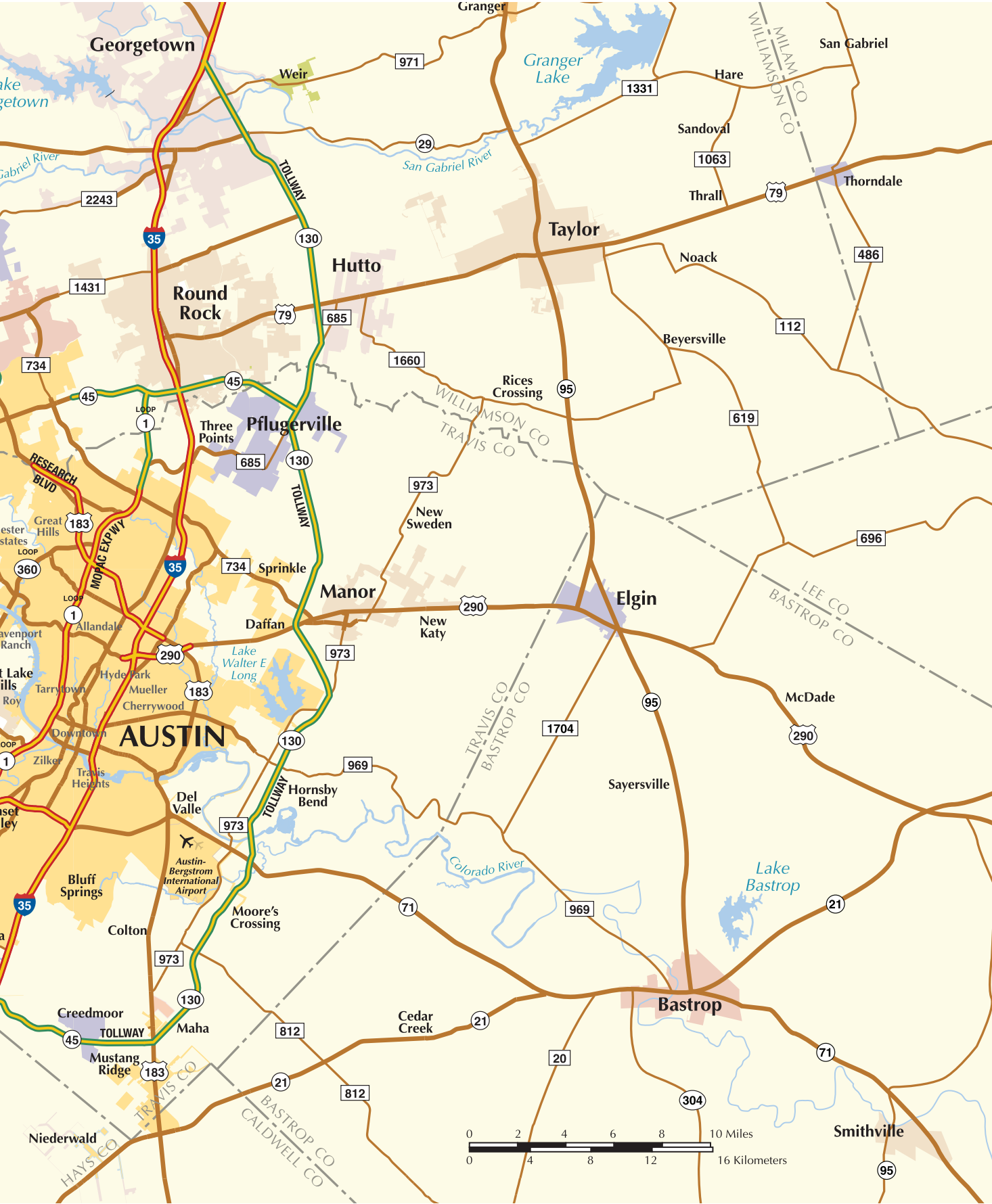
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# AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS







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## AVAÑA-ESQUEL

When your lifestyle demands an exciting new Hill Country community in Southwest Austin where outdoor meets urban in a convenient and refined natural development, Avaña-Esquel is the perfect place to build a home. This lush neighborhood is located close to Downtown, with all the amenities of vibrant city living, but still has all the warmth and charm of small-town life. Avaña-Esquel is situated right next to the Grey Rock Golf Course, the Veloway paved rollerblading and bike track, and the miles of natural hiking trails, picnic areas, and sport courts of Slaughter Park. Close to Barton Creek Square Mall, this community has the convenience of abundant retail and dining venues that range from relaxed and casual to elegant and luxurious. With all of the outdoor and indoor entertainments Austin has to offer, Avaña-Esquel is the premier choice for living in Central Texas.

Avaña-Esquel starts with a perfect location and augments the experience of a Master planned community with life-enhancing amenities such as a neighborhood center for meetings and parties, a swimming pool for summertime fun, a picnic pavilion and a playscape

for the little ones in the family. The exceptional education of the Austin Independent School District is complemented with the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders and the ACC Pinnacle Campus nearby. Easy access to the 45 Toll, Mopac, 290 and I-35 mean the city is only moments away, but with spacious and naturally wooded lots, you'll always have a quiet and relaxing place to get away from it all.

Unlike communities that have limited choices, Avaña-Esquel has eleven elegant and distinctive floor plans to choose from, including six brand-new designs, in either one or two-story, single-family homes. Each plan includes bountiful room options that allow immense personalization to your unique style. All of the homes are Energy Star-Certified and include standard radiant barrier roof decking, insulated low-E windows and high efficiency air conditioning systems. Also included is ceramic tile flooring at the entry, kitchen and baths, granite or Silestone countertops at the kitchen and a luxurious marble garden tub and separate shower at the master bath. Three to six bedrooms, two to five-and-a-half bathrooms, and two- or three-car garages are available and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Homes at Avaña-Esquel offer from 1,869 to 3,298 square feet of dynamic and stylish living area and are priced from the \$260,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## BARTON CREEK

Barton Creek may be located close in to downtown Austin, but feels as though it is a world away, with its panoramic views of the Texas Hill Country, Barton Creek, and even downtown Austin. With 20 residential communities to choose from and a wide array of neighborhood amenities, there's no doubt that those lucky enough to live in this exclusive area feel they have stumbled into their own little paradise on earth.

Located only 10 miles southwest of downtown Austin, Barton Creek covers the territory between the communities of Westlake Hills and Bee Cave. Homes here tend to be large and private, with an average size of 5,000 square feet, and start in the \$400,000 range and go up to \$6,000,000. Depending on the location of the home, school-age children attend schools in Austin Independent School District, Eanes Independent School District or Lake Travis Independent School District.

Residents also may wish to indulge in the pleasures offered by the 4,000 acre Barton Creek Resort & Spa, featuring country club membership, as well as exceptional restaurants and one of Austin's most exclusive spas. Golfing enthusiasts will enjoy playing on their choice of three championship courses designed by Tom Fazio, Ben Crenshaw and Arnold Palmer. Fazio Foothills and Fazio Canyons are listed as the "Top 100 You Can Play" courses by *Golf Magazine*, while *Golf Digest* ranks Barton Creek as among the "Best Golf Resorts in North America." The Barton Creek Golf Academy is ranked as one of

Photo Courtesy of Taylor Morrison



the best schools in the country for learning to play the finer points of the game.

## CANYON CROSSING AT HIGHPOINTE

Located near Dripping Springs, with easy access to Highway 290 and Mopac, Canyon Crossing at Highpoint is a breathtaking, 740-acre master-planned community near southwest Austin that beckons families with a combination of peaceful country living and affordable refinement. With spacious homes surrounded by rolling hills and lush woodlands, it's easy to see why Standard Pacific calls Canyon Crossing at Highpoint the place where "Harmony Meets the Hill Country".

Just 25 minutes from downtown Austin and minutes from Dripping Springs, Canyon Crossing at Highpoint is both convenient for work or play in the city and conducive to the quiet of small-town living. On-site amenities include a two-story gym and aerobics studio, fire pit and barbeque grills, children's playscape, tennis and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields, and three pools and water features. Nearby attractions include the Austin Zoo, Pedernales Falls State Park, and the new Hill Country Galleria, among others.

The community features twelve floorplans, each carefully designed to blend timeless architecture with highly functional and warmly welcoming rooms. Radiant barrier roof decking, insulated windows, and high efficiency air conditioning maintain Energy Star-Certification for luxury and economy. Three to five bedrooms, two to four bathrooms, two- to four-car garages and flexible layouts allow personalization and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. The homes of Canyon Crossing at Highpoint offer 2,272 to 3,473 square feet and are priced from the \$230,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## CENTRAL AUSTIN

Central Austin is home to our city's diverse downtown and the vibrant neighborhoods surrounding it. Downtown Austin attractions are countless: trendy restaurants, lively clubs, outdoor concerts, historical architecture, eclectic shopping, a Saturday farmers' market, verdant parks with sparkling fountains in cool plazas. The magnificently restored and beloved State Capitol is in the heart of Central Austin. The University of Texas, only a few blocks north of the Capitol, isn't just

for students. Concerts, art exhibits, theatre, lectures and exciting Longhorn sports – including the top-ranked Texas Longhorn football team – draw crowds from all over the state.

Ready for fun? Head for Sixth Street, Red River, and the West Downtown districts – you'll hear the hottest new music and enjoy casual dining in a friendly atmosphere. World class acts perform at Stubbs, MoMos, Antone's and other downtown clubs and concert Halls. Every year the whole town celebrates music with the annual South by Southwest (SXSW) and Austin City Limits (ACL) multi-day music festivals.

Ready to shop? Stroll the 2nd Street District for the latest in fashion, accessories and home style. Stop for refreshment at a sidewalk café. Make an appointment to finish up with a soothing massage or mani-pedi at a sleek salon.

For those who love outdoor sports and activities, Central Austin abounds with opportunity for walking, running, biking, rowing, kayaking, tennis and golf. The Lady Bird Lake Hike-and-Bike Trail extends from East Austin to West Austin with several bridges crossing the Lake. The Shoal Creek greenbelt trail begins at Lady Bird Lake just east of Lamar and runs along the creek to 38th Street, a 6.5 mile round trip. City owned Caswell Tennis Center is located at Shoal Creek and 24th St. There are also three city-owned golf courses within Central Austin: Lions, Hancock and Morris Williams.

Central Austin neighborhoods are also diverse. North of the University charming **Hyde Park** boasts 100+ year old Victorian manses, Craftsman cottages and the occasional student condo complex. In West Austin, the crown jewels of **Tarrytown**, **Pemberton**, **Old West Austin** and **Brykerwoods** are home to dignified mansions, classic bungalows and newly built retro-modern houses. ▶

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Developed between 1935 and 1970, *Rosedale*, *Allandale*, *Crestview* and *Violet Crown* are in the north part of Central Austin. East of I-35 trendy meets traditional in a lively ethnic and cultural mix. Revitalized neighborhoods and artists' studio districts have brought new prosperity to East Austin. An entire new neighborhood, *Mueller*, has been created on land that was once the Austin airport. Low-rise and high-rise, older and brand new condominiums and apartments are available throughout Central Austin. A few towers exceed 30 stories and afford stunning views of Austin, Lady Bird Lake and the Hill Country. And, Austin's recently opened Metro Rail system links Crestview, Mueller and East Austin to Downtown destinations.

*Submitted by Kay Keese, Amelia Bullock Realtors*

### CIRCLE C

With its abundance of greenspace, soccer fields, golf course, country club, Olympic-size, heated swimming pool, and the Veloway, Circle C Ranch is a community unto itself. Located in South Austin, Circle C's northern boundary is Davis Lane, and it extends south to just past Highway 45, and is bounded on the east by Brodie Lane and to the west by FM 1826, and offers easy access to Mopac.

Popular with families, singles and empty nesters because of its location, scenery, and proximity to downtown, Circle C was the first master-planned community built in Austin, and there's something for everyone. Homes range from the \$180s to more than \$600,000, and the area offers an active homeowner's association.

### DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

People live downtown for many reasons, but mostly to be in the heart of the city's vibrant urban lifestyle. They enjoy the unparalleled accessibility to shops, entertainment, businesses, banks, restaurants, attractions, and much more.



Photo Courtesy of Taylor Morrison

Downtown dwellers are a diverse group of professionals, retirees, families, and college students. Even those who live out of town have chosen Austin's downtown as the perfect place for their second home away from home – it's ideal for UT football fans that live out of town.

The cost of an urban lifestyle depends on the location, setting, views and amenities. As of February 2011, there were 1,197 condos for sale in Austin, and the number of condos for sale has remained relatively constant for the last year or so.

Current active market listings range from about \$100,000 for a one-bedroom, one-bath condo to more than \$4 million for a premier penthouse suite. Designs for the downtown high-rise units are usually contemporary, with open floor plans, and natural materials like concrete, wood, brick, and steel.

### MERIDIAN

Tucked into the forested hills and lush valleys southwest of Austin, Meridian represents the finest in Hill Country life only minutes from Downtown. With stunning canyon views, large secluded lots, and a community enveloped by greenbelts, the spacious homes in

Meridian bring to mind fine resort living and quiet, relaxing comforts. But with easy access to major employers, exceptional Austin I.S.D. schools, and a vibrant urban center, Meridian truly establishes the best of both city and country living.

Nestled against the borders of the prestigious Grey Rock Golf Club and Circle C Tennis Club, Meridian immediately connotes luxury and enjoyment. Yet with close proximity to large employers like Freescale and AMD, major highways IH 35 and Mopac, and numerous shopping and entertainment venues, Meridian also embodies the convenience of a more metropolitan living. A ten acre private lake, neighborhood amenity center with swimming pool and picnic pavilion put family fun within easy reach. And for peace and quiet, the community is surrounded by expansive green space and natural areas.

There are eight floorplans designed to the highest standards of quality and include timeless design, functional space, and built-in Energy Star-Certification. Gorgeous interior touches like ceramic tiles, Colonial six-panel doors, crown molding, and an elegant Seagull lighting package complement eye-catching exteriors that have 100% clay brick on all four sides of the



first floor. And to make sure each house is unique and perfectly suited to the style and personality of every family, each home comes with consultation by a professional designer from the Standard Pacific Design Studio.

Homes in Meridian offer 3,350 to over 4,300 square feet of spacious living in four to six bedroom, three-and-a-half to four-and-a-half bathroom, three-car garage homes that are priced from the \$390,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## NORTH CENTRAL AUSTIN

For those who don't want to live in a big suburb, the older, established North Central Austin neighborhoods like Allandale, Crestview, and Hyde Park offer great appeal. All have great parks, pools, shopping and strong neighborhood associations, plus a great location that makes it easy to get just about anywhere.

**Allandale** is bounded by Anderson Lane on the north, by Shoal Creek at 45th Street (from MoPac to the Shoal Creek waterway, and following the waterway to Hancock Drive) to the south, with Burnet Road as its eastern boundary and MoPac as the western boundary. It was developed in the late 50s, 60s and 70s, and many homes were built with three- and four-bedroom floorplans. Homes here Allandale average in the mid \$200s.

**Crestview** is defined by Anderson Lane on the north, Justin Lane to the south, North Lamar Boulevard to the east, and Burnet Road to the west. Crestview was built as a post-World War II neighborhood, and was mostly two bedroom homes with some brick construction. Since then, it's been a prime area for remodeling because the lot sizes are bigger here. Homes in Crestview have a median price of \$200,000-\$250,000.

**Hyde Park** is bordered by 51st Street on the north, and 38th Street on the south,

with Guadalupe Street on the west and Duval south of 45th and Airport north of 45th on the east, and prices range from the mid-200s to more than \$1 million.

Whether buyers are families, young professionals, UT professors, or retirees, they all want something eclectic, something with a little history and character, and the result is a neighborhood that is a profile of Austin itself. A great walking neighborhood, Hyde Park also offers a great selection of shops, restaurants, and grocery stores (Central Market is a few minutes away).

## NORTHEAST AUSTIN

Families, professionals and students in Northeast Austin enjoy this culturally and ethnically diverse neighborhood with its strong homeowner's associations. People who move here like the proximity to the Dell Children's Hospital and the master-planned community of Mueller Development. And, the University of Texas and downtown Austin are just 10-minute commutes away.

Neighborhoods here include **Delwood IV** (between Cameron and Berkman, north of 51st Street); **Windsor Park** (51st Street to 290); and **Delwood** (51st Street South to East 38th Street, on the east side of IH 35). Most homes in these neighborhoods were built in the early 60s, with three bedrooms and either a garage or carport, and most homes are in the \$150,000 to \$350,000 range.

**French Place** is a popular, older neighborhood between East 38th and 26th Street—directly across IH 35 from the University of Texas. French Place homes are usually two bedrooms with one bath selling from \$190,000 to \$350,000, with an average size of about 1,270 square feet.

The **Mueller** development adjoining IH 35 between 51st Street and Airport Blvd is a master planned community with diverse price points, from affordable hous-

ing (\$150,000 with grants) to home that are \$1 million-plus. The community features condominiums, townhomes and single-family residences, primarily in the \$250-350,000 range.

## ONION CREEK

With its beautiful landscaping, fantastic golf course and outstanding country club, Onion Creek is a master-planned community close in to Austin with quick access to I-35 and the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. Located on the green belt area just east of I-35 and only 11 miles from the State Capital, Onion Creek is a gated community that offers a country club lifestyle and 24-hour private security.

Onion Creek also offers access to the acclaimed 27-hole Onion Creek Golf Course, founded by late Masters champion Jimmy Demaret and Texas amateur golf legend Jimmie Connolly. In 1996, Ben Crenshaw and partner Bill Coore added an additional 9 holes to the course. Onion Creek was the home of The Legends of Golf Tournament, which then became the Senior PGA Tour.

Onion Creek's clubhouse also has outstanding amenities, including a junior Olympic-sized swimming pool, a 24-hour fitness center, and a 33,000 square foot clubhouse. Home prices here range from \$150,000 for condominiums to more than \$600,000 for a home on the golf course.

## RIVER PLACE

Tucked away in Northwest Austin along the shores of Lake Austin, River Place is both a waterfront community and a country club community. It's also a family community offering such amenities as parks, tennis courts, hiking trails, soccer fields, play grounds, a private country club, lake access and several scenic overlooks.

Located in the highly acclaimed Leander Independent School District, the commu- ▶

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

nity is served by River Place Elementary, and the recently opened Four Points Middle School and Vandegrift High School, both just minutes from the community entrance off FM 2222. Residents of River Place love that it is an established neighborhood and offers something for everyone. The community feel of the neighborhood is obvious as you see residents walking, jogging, hiking on nature trails, at the parks with families or taking part in community activities throughout the year.

River Place also offers easy access to major roads, shopping, Lake Travis, and Lake Austin. Add in its northwest Austin location with its rolling hills, and the beauty of the area is simply hard to beat. Community activities for the kids include “Dads in the ‘Hood,” ice cream socials, BBQs, kid’s parades, Easter egg hunts, Halloween parties and much more.

River Place is also home to the River Place Country Club, a private club nestled in the heart of the Hill Country. Memberships at River Place Country Club offer such amenities as golf, tennis, state of the art fitness facilities, swimming, dining and social events. Golf lovers will be in awe playing the championship 18-hole, Tom Kite-designed signature golf course. Conveniently located within River Place, residents can take advantage of the amenities it offers, meet friends, and benefit from the convenience of being minutes from home.

Living in River Place is about a lifestyle. For residents wanting a smaller established neighborhood feel, River Place is one neighborhood to consider. With more than 1,100 residences and homes ranging from garden homes to lakefront property and home prices that range from \$300,000 to more than \$5 million, there is quite a variety.

*Submitted by Rich and Sharon Walker,  
Keller Williams Realty*

### **SOUTH CENTRAL AUSTIN**

*78704...More than just a zip code!* A quick drive down South Congress lets visitors know that living in South Austin is a lifestyle. It has the reputation of being one of the coolest places to live in Austin – and offers a lifestyle where you can walk to dinner, shopping and entertainment. Trailer eateries line the streets and are mixed in with an eclectic shopping, dining and entertainment with the Continental Club and other bars nearby.

Neighborhoods here include the historic neighborhood of *Travis Heights* with tree-lined streets and stately homes from as far back at the 1920’s, many of which have been updated and renovated. To the west of Congress Avenue and stretching to Lamar is the *Bouldin Creek* area with its cottages and condos, some renovated and others new construction. Either neighborhood is minutes from downtown, as well as both Zilker Park and the hiking trails of Lady Bird Lake. The grounds of St. Edwards University border South Congress Avenue and it’s a quick hop on the Capital Metro bus line to The University of Texas at Austin or work downtown.

*Submitted by Camille Abbott,  
Amelia Bullock Realtors*

### **SPANISH OAKS**

Residents of Spanish Oaks love its great location on 1,200 unspoiled acres amid the spectacular Texas Hill Country, and its private 18-hole golf course designed by Bobby Weed and recognized by *Golf Digest* as one of the top private golf clubs in Texas. Others are attracted to the exclusivity of Spanish Oaks – limited to just 462 properties within this gated community and estate-size homesites that range from a half-acre to more than four acres, plus luxury villas, and finished custom homes that define this pampered lifestyle – and that include a dedicated concierge staff.

Located 20 minutes from downtown off Hwy 71 and within the acclaimed Lake Travis Independent School District, custom homes in Spanish Oaks start at \$1.4 million, and undeveloped lots are typically priced from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000. In addition to custom estate homesites, Spanish Oaks offers pre-designed Villas and Garden Homes in four distinctive neighborhoods within the community. The property is cradled on two sides by 15,000 acres of protected nature preserves and Barton Creek.

Spanish Oaks is unique in that the real estate and the club are tied together – the only way to join the club is to buy real estate here, making it a true lifestyle community with the club at its center. The neighborhood features a separate Resident’s Lodge with a resort-style swimming pool, casual grille, sports courts and access to Spanish Oaks’ hiking trails. The Lodge sits directly above the Fish Camp, Spanish Oaks’ private three-acre fishing lake and bait shop.

The community’s personalized concierge services include personal chef service, party planning, and more – all tailored to the specific tastes and preferences of the club’s individual members. The club even maintains a 27’ Sea Ray boat docked at nearby Lake Travis for the private use of its members and their guests.

### **SPICEWOOD SPRINGS/ BALCONES, GREAT HILLS, ANDERSON MILL**

Homebuyers who want an Austin metro home in a beautiful setting with excellent schools, recreation, shopping, and employers should look no further than northwest Austin and the Spicewood Springs, Great Hills and Anderson Mill areas.

Homes in all three neighborhoods are generally in the same median price range, starting at around \$225,000

and going to more than \$600,000. There's also a mix of older and new homes, offering a lot of opportunities for buyers. Accessible to downtown, the 360 corridor, and north Austin/Round Rock, all three areas are very appealing to those who work in the technology community.

Three school districts serve the neighborhoods, including the Austin Independent School District, Leander Independent School District or the Round Rock Independent School District – and area schools get high marks for a quality educational experience. There are also plenty dedicated parklands, recreational facilities, activities, entertainment, and great restaurants in the Arboretum and Domain area – both of which are minutes away.

The area also offers excellent golf facilities at the area country clubs, including *Great Hills Country Club*, which has an upper-end course, tennis facilities, a pool and an upper scale golf course; *Balcones Country Club*, which offers 36 holes of golf, with an 18-hole golf course at Balcones and access to its sister club, *Spicewood at Balcones*, which has another 18-hole course.

### STEINER RANCH

Nestled in the Texas Hill Country, Steiner Ranch is distinctive among Austin luxury home communities for its striking natural beauty. Known as the “Land Between the Lakes,” Steiner Ranch offers a wide range of amenities guaranteed to keep its residents busy and happy.

Situated between two of the most popular recreational lakes in the area, Steiner Ranch attracts active people who appreciate a natural environment. Nature enthusiasts love this 4,600-acre master-planned community that has dedicated more than 1,500 acres to wildlife habitats, parks and greenbelts. This dedication to preserving the environ-

ment resulted in the community being recognized by the Austin Business Journal and winning the newspaper's Commercial Real Estate award as “Best Master-planned Community” in 2004.

Located in northwest Austin, many Steiner Ranch neighborhoods and home sites look out over fabulous Hill Country vistas provided by the 819 acres of Steiner Ranch Preserve, part of the larger 27,000 acre Balcones Canyonland Preserve. Residents also enjoy more than 20 miles of hike and bike trails and 10 neighborhood parks with playscapes, picnic areas, and outdoor grills. More than 14 miles of greenbelt around the community ensures a natural wooded setting.

Amenities include the private membership Lake Club on Lake Austin, multiple basketball and lighted tennis courts, 4 swimming pools, including a year round heated lap pool, and full-time on-site activities offered by its three community centers. Golfers will be excited to know that Steiner Ranch's 18-hole golf course, designed by Roy Bechtol, is the official home of The University of Texas Golf Teams. This championship course provides a breathtaking backdrop for many homes in Steiner Ranch.

Steiner Ranch is located in the highly acclaimed Leander Independent School District. Three elementary schools, Steiner Ranch Elementary, Laura Welch Bush Elementary and River Ridge Elementary, and Canyon Ridge Middle School are all located within Steiner Ranch. A brand new high school, Vandegrift High School, has recently opened just minutes from Steiner Ranch. These exemplary schools offer our children the best state-of-the-art educational resources available.

Home prices in Steiner Ranch range from \$250,000 to more than \$4 million, and home styles range from garden homes with small yards to large estates on multiple acres. New homebuilders here include Taylor Morrison, Drees, Monterey Homes, and Highland Homes, and custom homesites are also available.

*Submitted by Rich and Sharon Walker, Keller Williams Realty*

### SUNSET VALLEY

The southwest Austin community of Sunset Valley is a small oasis of planned growth that has held onto its small town identity and principles. The city has its own mayor, city council, police force, and city services – contracting ▶



Photo Courtesy of Jimmy Jacobs Custom Homes



Photo Courtesy of Taylor Morrison



with the City of Austin for fire protection and EMS services, and electricity through Austin Energy.

With new shops and restaurants, the Sunset Valley Farmers Market every Saturday, Austin Montessori and Sunset Valley Elementary School within walking distance, and Central Market just minutes away, residents appreciate the neighborhood's proximity to downtown and great amenities.

Homes in Sunset Valley range in price because of the variety of homes available. Luxury homes in Sunset Valley Meadows start at \$450,000, new garden homes in Sunset Valley Villas start around \$350,000, and older homes on half an acre to an acre start around \$300,000. There's no standard two bedroom or three bedroom homes out here – these are all individual homes that will suit just about any housing preference.

### TRAVIS COUNTRY AND OAK HILL

Built close to Austin against the backdrop of the natural beauty of Central Texas, the southwest Austin communities of *Travis Country* and *Oak Hill* offer

homebuyers both desirable and affordable housing options. For those who love nature and want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, but work in Austin and need to live close by, these communities offer great options. It's also still very affordable here, too. Buyers can get an older home that was built in the 1980s starting around \$180,000, with more luxurious homes that start around \$600,000.

*Oak Hill* has never incorporated, and is a series of related neighborhoods with active homeowner's associations – the *Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods* (OHAN) was instrumental in convincing the city of Austin to build the Will Hampton Branch Library. Capital Metro provides shuttle bus service to the area for those who make the commute to downtown Austin. *Oak Hill* is located in the Austin Independent School District, and residents in Austin's city limits use City of Austin services and utilities, while those in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) use Pedernales Electric Cooperative and other sources of water, such as Hill Country Water Supply.

*Travis Country* started as a sleepy neighborhood in the 1970s that was revital-

ized when it was rediscovered in the late 1990s. Buyers can find both new and older homes in the area, as well as condos and garden homes. Located north of the Southwest Parkway and west of MoPac, Travis Country is close in, with protected natural greenbelt areas all around it – because it was built over the Edwards Aquifer and the designers planned to leave large green space throughout the area to meet environmental concerns. The result is lots of dedicated parkland, with plenty of room for kids play. There are also facilities such as a large community center, swimming pools, tennis courts in different locations throughout the neighborhood, and nature trails.

Travis Country is located within the Austin Independent School District, and is serviced by all City of Austin utilities. Travis Country's location is ideal for those who work south, and is easily accessible to downtown Austin or The University of Texas at Austin. Average home prices are about \$250,000, with condos and garden homes in Travis Country typically selling for less than the cost of a typical single family home.

### WEST AUSTIN

West Austin neighborhoods include Davenport Ranch, Rob Roy, River Place, Lake Pointe, Spanish Oaks, Flintrock Falls, Ridge at Alta Vista, River Hills, Belvedere, Cypress Hills West, and the Hills of Lakeway, among others – and are mostly in the upper to very high-end price range.

With lots of rolling hills, stunning views, great public school districts, and an abundance of both private and public golf communities, this is a popular area of town for monied tech and business executives. Flourishing restaurants provide local flavor and offer venues for many musical artists. West Austin residents enjoy easy access to the Lower Colorado River chain, the new Galleria shopping

center in Bee Cave, and hike and bike trails that twist along 360 and Southwest Parkway.

There are also nearby county parks at Lake Travis along Pace Bend and Hamilton Pool Road, and Pedernales State Park that provide a rural setting practically in your own backyard. Moving west of Austin also gives residents a choice of three top ranked school districts: Eanes ISD, Lake Travis ISD is located west of Bee Cave Road and along Lake Travis, while Dripping Springs ISD is located southwest along West Hwy. 290.

The Hill Country Galleria in the community of Bee Cave has gained attention as a outside walking mall with more distinctive shops than your traditional large shopping centers. Located just a short distance to many of the Westlake communities, the Hill Country Galleria features restaurants, popular upscale shops and offices offering a wide array of services. In addition, Barton Creek Mall on Loop 360 and MoPac is only a short drive away.

## WESTLAKE

Close to downtown and west of Austin, Westlake is known for nationally acclaimed schools, hilltop views of the city, pricey real estate (most home prices here start around \$400,000), and high school sports championships. Like most everything else in Austin, Westlake has more than one name and is known as “Eanes” for Eanes Independent School District or “the Westbank” for being on the west bank of Lake Austin.

Westlake has MoPac as its eastern edge and extends west to Highway 71, with the Colorado River as a southern boundary, and Barton Creek to the north. Choose the **Davenport Ranch** area and be close to Austin Country Club with its perfectly manicured golf course, tennis courts and marina and fine dining as well as having easy access to Loop 360 to go North or

South. Shopping and dining, exercise facilities, and coffee shops are within walking distance of many of the homes. Large homes co-mingle with condos for those wanting smaller spaces.

**Rob Roy** sits to the west of Loop 360. This gated community boasts one-acre lots with room for houses to sprawl. Perched high above Lake Austin, this neighborhood offers residents panoramic views of the lake and sunset views of the hill country.

**Lost Creek** is another favorite area. Across Loop 360 from the high school and two elementary schools, this neighborhood is close to Lost Creek Country Club with its golf course, pool and tennis courts. Turn to the right out of the neighborhood and you are on your way to downtown or the airport. Turn left and be at the grocery store in 5 minutes!

Westlake also offers the opportunity to live on Lake Austin’s waterfront, a constant-level lake created by the damming of the Colorado River. Westlake Drive meanders through the hills along side Lake Austin and beautiful lawns amid towering trees stretch to the water. But don’t expect to see these beauties. Part of the beauty is the privacy that the owners enjoy! A short drive across the low water crossing on Redbud Trail, and downtown Austin is minutes away.

The Eanes Independent School District covers 32 square miles, and all of the schools are award winners. All areas funnel into Westlake High School which in addition to champion athletic teams, sports a second-to-none Fine Arts program, and unparalleled academics. While schools are a major draw for this area, many live here long after the kids have gone on their way – and many kids come back to make their homes here, too.

*Submitted by Camille Abbott,  
Amelia Bullock Realtors*

## BEE CAVE

City of Bee Cave:  
512-767-6600;  
[www.beecavetexas.com](http://www.beecavetexas.com)

A small community at the end of Bee Caves Road and just off Highway 71 west of Austin, Bee Cave has exploded in popularity for its beautiful scenery and its accessibility to all Austin has to offer. In fact, it’s estimated that more than 115,000 new residents will move into this triangle of land between Highway 71 and US 290 in the next 25 years, causing the Bee Cave area to undergo a whopping population increase of more than 600 percent by 2030.

This fast-growing rural community offers a wide variety of neighborhoods for homebuyers, including *The Homestead*, and portions of other subdivisions such as *The Uplands* and *Lake Pointe*, just to name a few. Bee Cave is an interesting mix of old and new homes – you’ll find everything from trailer homes to custom-built luxury homes in the master-planned development of Spanish Oaks that’s just on the periphery of Bee Cave, where home prices start in the \$700s.

Students here attend school in either the Eanes Independent School District, or the Lake Travis Independent School District – both of which boast an equally excellent reputation for outstanding academic and sports accomplishments. The opening of the Hill Country Galleria in 2007 has only added to the area’s appeal. This massive, 1.3-million-square-foot lifestyle center is a multi-use complex with 650,000 square feet of retail, 145,000 square feet of Class A office space, 300,000 square feet of multi-family housing, 80,000 square feet of retail pad space, 100,000 square feet of residential condominiums, and 50 acres of greenspace. ▶

## LAKEWAY

City of Lakeway:  
512-314-7502;  
[www.cityoflakeway.com](http://www.cityoflakeway.com)

Back in 1963, a second home community was planned and built on the shores of Lake Travis in the Hill Country. A golf course and a marina were added, as well as a landing strip. People from Houston and Dallas flocked to the area to buy lots and build their dream lake home. Lots were sold and trendy lake homes were built. Access was via the two-lane Bee Caves Rd or RR 2222 to RR620—both two-lane highways themselves. But that was just the beginning.

Today, the Lakeway area – which located just 30 minutes from downtown Austin and only 10 minutes from marinas and golf courses – is a thriving, in-demand community that attracts those who want Hill Country views and who want to be close to the lake.

Gone are the days when Lakeway was just another retirement community on the lake. More and more families are moving here, and the acclaimed Lake Travis Independent School District is just one of the reasons why this community has grown so quickly over the years.

With sophisticated but casual dining, several nearby private and public golf courses, and shopping of every sort, including the Hill Country Galleria, Lakeway is the perfect alternative for the homeowner wanting all of the adventure that Lake Travis provides and the convenience of all the amenities the city provides the urban dweller.

What started as Lakeway in 1963 now includes the gated community of *The Hills of Lakeway* with its own golf course; *Flintrock Falls*; and *The Preserve at Lakeway*, and condos and mansions dot



Photo Courtesy of Steepleman Homes

the hillside. While some of the best lots are the original ones with homes on them, the new community of *Rough Hollow* offers new construction, a marina, and a club for those homeowners who prefer new construction. Many of the older homes with fabulous views or waterfront access have been renovated and remodeled to take advantage of the views and the proximity to the water.

The new Lake Travis Regional Medical Center brings the final piece of the puzzle to the Lakeway area – a hospital. Southwest Parkway provides easy access to downtown as well as Austin Bergstrom International Airport. Residents can have it all in Lakeway – and never be more than 10 minutes from home.

Lakeway is also a golf lover's dream, with four area golf courses – Yaupon, Live Oak, The Hills, and Flintrock Falls – plus sailing and boating, and hike and bike trails. Waterfront homes in Lakeway start at more than \$1 million, while off-water home prices start in the low \$300,000s and can go up to the millions.

Those who love golf will love living in *Flintrock Falls*. With a golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus and his son Jack Nicklaus

II, it's the sister course to The Hills of Lakeway course designed by Nicklaus in 1980.

Located off Highway 620 and Lohmann's Spur, Flintrock Falls is a gated community, with homesites starting at around \$100,000 and single family homes from about \$400,000. All homes have great views of the Nicklaus designed golf course, and the distant hills.

Other amenities here include the Flintrock Falls Country Club, with access to all club amenities in both the Hills and Flintrock Falls clubs, which includes restaurants, 26 tennis courts, two indoor tennis courts, swimming pools, the new Flintrock Falls golf pro shop, and the Academy of Golf teaching facility. A full-fledged club membership gives access to both the Hills and Flintrock clubs, with unlimited use for family members, and no green fees.

Submitted by Camille Abbott,  
Amelia Bullock Realtors

### CYPRESS RIDGE AT ROUGH HOLLOW

For families that want the very best of lakeside living, Cypress Ridge at Rough Hollow is the premier choice in the Austin metropolitan area. Whether on land, air or lake, this master-planned community



reestablishes a joy of the great outdoors. With a marina, the yacht club and the restaurant, Rough Hollow offers both a lifestyle and a place most families will never wish to leave.

Located just 25 miles from downtown Austin and minutes from Lake Travis, Cypress Ridge at Rough Hollow combines the best of vibrant city life with the life-enhancing enjoyment of fresh air and water in a country setting. Outdoor activities nearby include golf, tennis, hiking, flying, scuba diving, sailing, water skiing, and parasailing. Stretched on more than 1,800 wooded acres, and located in the award-winning Lake Travis I.S.D., Cypress Ridge at Rough Hollow makes no compromises in the choice between urban and country life.

There are nine floorplans, each carefully designed to blend timeless design with highly functional and warmly welcoming rooms. Radiant barrier roof decking, insulated windows, and high efficiency air conditioning maintain Energy Star-Certification for luxury and economy. Three to five bedrooms, two to four bathrooms, two- to four-car garages and flexible layouts allow personalization and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. The homes of Cypress Ridge at Rough Hollow have 2,200 to 3,200 square feet of spacious living and are priced from the \$320,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## MANOR

**City of Manor:**  
512-272-5555;  
[www.cityofmanor.org](http://www.cityofmanor.org)

Manor is a pastoral city that was mostly farmland, but it has become increasingly popular over the years – and is now

become a bedroom community of Austin. Located on Highway 290 about 12 miles northeast of Austin in northeastern Travis County, Manor is popular with young families and professionals.

The community has its own school district, Manor Independent School District, which serves the educational needs of more than 6,000 students, and there are plenty of affordable housing options for buyers. Because of the affordable housing, Manor is especially appealing to those who are making their first home purchase, especially for single professionals and young families. Another advantage to living in Manor is that while the community is still in Travis County, residents of Manor often pay less in property taxes.

## SHADOWGLEN

Small, inviting, and strategically close to all that Austin has to offer, ShadowGlen in Manor is a 1,660-acre master-planned community with a spectacular 18-hole championship golf course. Convenient to Austin's downtown, major employers and the airport, life in ShadowGlen has all the benefits of small town charm at an affordable price.

ShadowGlen's amenity center boasts a Junior-sized Olympic pool, four-acre water park, playscapes and sports courts. Parks and trail systems criss-cross ShadowGlen and lead to its recreation center.

Another major attraction is the ShadowGlen Golf Club, an 18-hole golf course designed by Bechtol/Russell Golf that winds through the community. The ShadowGlen Golf Club offers scenic views, more than 50 feet of elevation change, and water features. No matter how many times golfers play this course, each game promises to be a unique experience.

Homes in ShadowGlen start around the \$170s and are built on generously sized homesites. The community's homebuilders also offer a wide range of elevations, floorplans and square footage.

## NORTH LAKE TRAVIS LAGO VISTA, JONESTOWN, AND POINT VENTURE

### Chambers of Commerce:

**Lago Vista:**  
512-267-7952;  
[www.lagovista.org](http://www.lagovista.org)

**Jonestown:**  
512-267-5577;  
[www.jonestown.org](http://www.jonestown.org)

**Point Venture:**  
512-267-5511;  
[www.vopv.org](http://www.vopv.org)

Living in the North Lake Travis communities of Lago Vista, Jonestown or Point Venture isn't just about buying a house – it's about an entire lake lifestyle. With two 18-hole golf courses and lake living, it's clear that buying a home here offers plenty of recreational opportunities.

The North Lake Travis area has its own property owners association, which owns 10 private waterfront parks, a fitness center, three boat launches, tennis courts, and a pool. The amenities alone attract many new homebuyers, as does the lake with its boating, fishing and swimming.

**Lago Vista** is located on a peninsula jutting into Lake Travis. Its boundaries are the lake on the west and the east, the Travis County line, RM 1431 and Boggy Ford, as land continues to be annexed by the city. Houses range in price from the high 100s to well over \$1 million, with the median price range about \$250,000. Lago Vista is the place for active people and is known ▶

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

for its daylong 4th of July, open to the public event on the shoreline of Lake Travis.

**Jonestown** is located next to Lago Vista, and this small, rural community is attractive for its tucked-away location. Its rural, friendly atmosphere is very appealing to those who do not want to live in a densely populated area but want or need the convenience of a larger metropolitan area. With its proximity to Lago Vista and the Texas Hill Country, Jonestown has offers lots of amenities for residents, as well as a relaxed lakeside lifestyle.

**Point Venture** is a gated community at the end of Lohman Ford Road that offers a variety of choices for homebuyers. An established community of houses and townhouses, Point Venture is also experiencing increased popularity as more people become aware of the lifestyle on the lake, which includes boating, fishing, swimming and a 9-hole golf course.

### PFLUGERVILLE

City of Pflugerville:  
512-990-4363;  
[www.cityofpflugerville.com](http://www.cityofpflugerville.com)

Strategically located between Austin and Round Rock, the once-sleepy German community of Pflugerville is one of the fastest growing areas in Central Texas – offering an educated and varied workforce from northern Travis and southern Williamson counties and a great place to live.

The region offers a variety of housing, recreational facilities and transportation options for businesses and employees, as well as easy access to SH 130 and SH 45, which mean faster commute times for those who work in downtown Austin.



The Pflugerville Independent School District covers 100 square miles, with several campuses achieving the coveted *Recognized* performance rating by the Texas Education Agency based on academics and graduation statistics. Residents agree that despite the explosion of growth the community has experienced as the result of high-tech industries settling in the area, the glue that binds them together as a community is the interest in the education of Pflugerville's youngest residents. Like many small communities, life here revolves around the schools.

With a strong sense of its German heritage, the Greater Pflugerville community sponsors several family-oriented activities and festivals throughout the year, such as the local *Deutschen Pfest*, golf tournaments, bike rodeo, and Halloween and Christmas festivals. It is this charming hometown feeling and friendly, neighborliness that people who settle here find the living more "pfun" in Pflugerville.

### FALCON POINTE

Families seeking old-fashioned value in a new community need look no further than Falcon Pointe, a master-planned community by Newland Communities in the Pflugerville area. Falcon Pointe's location makes it an ideal choice for a

family on the go, with close proximity to area schools, golf courses, and other activities.

Homes in the Falcon Pointe community are priced from the \$160s to the \$370s, with square footage ranging from 1,400 to 4,300 square feet. Falcon Pointe has three distinct areas, Arbor Landing, The Vistas and Brookwood Trail, and will include about 1,800 single-family homes over a 700-acre area when fully developed.

Located just off FM 685, Falcon Pointe is in the award-winning Pflugerville Independent School District. Residents will find all grades easily accessible to their school-age children, with Murchison Elementary School and Park Crest Middle School nearby. Hendrickson High School is adjacent to Falcon Pointe.

Falcon Pointe features an Amenity Center and Residents' Clubhouse that serves as a 6.7-acre community retreat for residents and their guests, including a fully functional kitchen and a party room available for residents to reserve and use for parties, and an on-site Activity Director to help.

The Residents' Clubhouse/Pavilion facility has a large fitness room indoors, while outdoors features a multi-feature pool, sand

volleyball, tennis courts, an outdoor sports court, a park with children’s play equipment, a play field, and picnic facilities.

Newland Communities has landscaped Falcon Pointe with more than 1,000 trees as part of a community forestry program to enhance the neighborhood’s overall appeal and encourage the growth of wildlife. Newland Communities also has an extensive trail system, “pocket parks,” and pavilions with picnic facilities throughout the development. Another added benefit to living in Falcon Pointe is it is only minutes away from *Blackhawk* and *Star Ranch*, two daily-fee golf courses.

## VOLENTE

Village of Volente:  
512-250-2075;  
[www.volente.org](http://www.volente.org)

The natural beauty of the Hill Country and Volente’s excellent access to the lake are just two of the reasons this once sleepy small town is so popular. Volente has experienced a recent boom in development, with new neighbors and new businesses settling into the area.

Those who live here appreciate living life in the Texas Hill Country and the beauty of the lake. Volente incorporated itself as a town to avoid annexation by the city of Austin or Cedar Park, allowed Volente residents more control over the city’s planning, including future plans for zoning and growth control.

Bounded by 620 on the south and extending north to 1431, Volente enjoys a shared border with preserve land administered by the Audubon Society on the east. The median home price here is about \$450,000, with unimproved land tracts available for building.

The recent opening of Travaasa Austin – the former home of The Crossings that has been transformed into a luxury hotel and


resort – also adds to the area’s popularity. Overlooking Lake Travis, Travaasa Austin offers 70 guestrooms in a low-key campus-style layout. The property includes horse stables, a challenge course designed in partnership with Outward Bound, a fitness center and yoga studio, an infinity-edge pool, dining area with outdoor patio and exhibition kitchen, and an 11-room spa.


*Twin Creeks Country Club* and its golf course have also brought more golf enthusiasts and retirees to the area, and hiking and biking have always been popular area sports. *Volente Beach Club*, a family recreational facility and waterpark on the shores of Lake Travis, draws more than 1,000 people on the weekends at the height of its season. ■

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# williamson COUNTY

## CEDAR PARK

City of Cedar Park:  
512-401-5000;  
[www.ci.cedar-park.tx.us](http://www.ci.cedar-park.tx.us)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-260-7800;  
[www.cedarparkchamber.org](http://www.cedarparkchamber.org)

Much like the rest of Williamson County, the once sleepy town of Cedar Park has grown to become one of the hottest areas in Central Texas to buy a home. Located just 17 miles from downtown Austin, Cedar Park has all the advantages of being located close to city living and attractions, while also giving residents all the advantages of small town living.

The new roadways have been an integral part of Cedar Park's growth as a community – including connections from 1431 and Parmer Lane to I-35; 1431 to 183 and 183A; and SH-45, which connects 183 to I-35 and acts as a corridor for Cedar Park. Parmer Lane also extends from 620 to Highway 29 in Georgetown, and the upper deck of 183, 183A and SH-45 goes all the way to Lakeline Mall, making it easy for residents to get just about anywhere.

Capital Metro also operates an urban rail commuter rail service that extends from Leander through northwest and east Austin and into the downtown area – including a stop near Lakeline Mall in Cedar Park (visit [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org) for schedules.)

Students in Cedar Park attend either the Leander Independent School District or the Round Rock Independent School



District, and both are highly acclaimed school districts for both academics and sports programs. Texas State University also has a satellite campus here – the *Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC)*, which provides students with professional development and adult continuing education and also offers the opportunity to attain associate's, bachelor's, or a master's degree from Texas State. The Texas State RRHEC brings together Austin Community College, Texas State University-San Marcos and Temple College at Taylor. In addition, Round Rock Premium Outlets, IKEA, Southwestern University, Round Rock Hospital, Scott & White and the Dell Diamond are only minutes away.

Home prices here range between the \$200s to the \$450s, with lots of executives choosing to make their home here because of the area's proximity to such major employers as Dell, Samsung or Freescale. The Cedar Park Regional Medical Center, managed by Seton Hospital, opened here

in 2006, and is a major health care provider for area residents.

Cedar Park is also home to **Twin Creeks**, a 760-acre residential, country club, and golf course community complete with a water park. Twin Creeks was the first private country club in Cedar Park and includes a Fred Couples-designed signature 18-hole golf course. Located approximately three miles south of Highway 183 at the intersection of Anderson Mill Road and Cypress Creek Road, homes in Twin Creeks are priced from the \$300,000's to the \$500,000's, with plans for homes built in later phases to range in price as high as \$1 million.

### BUTTERCUP CREEK

Great property values, quality education, and close proximity to fishing, boating and water skiing makes Buttercup Creek a popular choice with homebuyers. Homes in the master-planned community of Buttercup Creek are affordable and offer more home for the money, as well as

a prime location ideally suited for those who enjoy an active, involved lifestyle.

The first homes in Buttercup Creek were built in the 1980s. Now, with Lakeline Mall and the development of popular retail stores and services in Cedar Park, Buttercup Creek has continued to expand and is an excellent value.

Average costs for homes in Buttercup Creek range between the \$220s and \$450s, with more established areas costing less and giving buyers more selection when considering whether to opt for a resale or new home. The community's *Westside Preserve* section offers more expensive homes with larger floor plans and more amenities and is ideally situated for those who enjoy living near Lake Travis and want easy access to the water, while giving residents the convenience of nearby shopping and fine restaurants.

Bounded by 183 on the east, Buttercup Creek has grown to Lakeline Mall, with Cypress as its northern boundary to West Park on the south. Students attend school in the highly rated Leander Independent School District. Singles, couples, empty nesters and retirees also enjoy the advantages of Buttercup Creek's ideal location next to 183A and SH-45. The toll road system allows for easier access to and from work and shopping, and helps to cut commute times.

Residents also enjoy hiking and biking on the multi-purpose trails that wind around the area, tennis, and other activities. There's also a popular senior citizen activity center in the community.

### **DOMAIN AT THE RANCH AT BRUSHY CREEK**

If you're looking for a beautifully designed house of quality construction that is positioned in a peaceful and secure natural area, then The Domain at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is the perfect

community to call home. Situated near the 60-acre Brushy Creek Lake Park, the Domain is a Gated Master Planned Community that combines the tranquility of wooded natural areas with the convenience of easy access to major highways, shops, restaurants and top-rated Round Rock ISD schools.

Just twenty minutes from downtown Austin, The Domain at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is the right answer to the question, "Can I really have it all?" Bountiful amenities such as a junior Olympic-sized pool, a covered pavilion and miles of hike and bike trails compliment the security of a gated Master Planned community. The nearby Brushy Creek Lake Park provides ample family relaxation such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking, while easy access to major highways I-35, 45, and 183 mean that the excitement of urban life is only moments away. Whether you want to take in some live music downtown or just take a relaxing stroll by the creek at sunset, you can have it all at the Domain.

There are eleven elegant floor plans available including six brand new designs and three highly desirable single-story plans. Each comes standard with outstanding features such as 100% brick and stucco exteriors, tan aluminum frame windows, a covered patio with rock columns (per plan), a Cedar overlay on the garage door, front and side irrigation systems, granite or Silestone countertops and extensive use of ceramic tile flooring. Each Energy Star-Certified home features radiant barrier roof decking, insulated low-E windows and high efficiency air conditioning and can be personalized with generous room options to fit all of your needs and style. Four to six bedrooms, three-and-a-half to five-and-a-half bathrooms, and a three to four-car garage are available and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Homes at The Domain at the Ranch at Brushy Creek

offer 2,790 to 4,400 square feet of luxurious and secure living space and are priced from the \$360,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

### **GROVE AT THE RANCH AT BRUSHY CREEK**

Whether you're looking for a relaxing weekend getaway in a natural environment or a convenient and affordable home situated near shopping, entertainment and urban amenities, The Grove at the Ranch at Brushy Creek will satisfy all of your needs. Just minutes from major highways I-35, 45, and 183, The Grove at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is also within walking distance of numerous hike and bike trails, natural areas, and the beautiful 60-acre Brushy Creek Lake Park.

Starting with elegant and full-featured homes, The Grove at the Ranch at Brushy Creek expands on traditional Master Planned communities by offering abundant amenities at a price any family can afford. A junior Olympic-sized pool, a toddlers pool with water feature, a covered pavilion, close proximity to area parks mean that families can enjoy time together but still stay close to home. Adults can take advantage of the walking and jogging paths along Brushy Creek Lake Park while the kids learn to fish or canoe at the piers. And to further their formal education, children will attend the Round Rock Independent School District – recognized as one of the top districts in Texas. Close-by shops, restaurants and major employers mean this wooded retreat is exceptionally well-located.

There are eight floor plans, including five brand new designs, and multiple options that allow for great personalization and distinction while maintaining Energy Star-Certification with radiant barrier roof decking, insulated low-E windows, and high efficiency air conditioning. ►

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Ceramic tile flooring is included at the entry, kitchen and baths as well as a luxurious marble garden tub with separate shower at the master bath. Three to five bedrooms, two to four bathrooms, and two- or three-car garages are available and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Homes at The Grove at the Ranch at Brushy Creek have between 1,850 and 2,800 square feet of comfortable living space and are priced from the \$230,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

### HEIGHTS AT THE RANCH AT BRUSHY CREEK

Combining both elegant living and the best that nature has to offer, the Heights at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is a Master Plan Community that proves a family can have it all. While just minutes from major highways 1-35, 45, and 183, the Heights at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is also within walking distance to the beautiful 90-acre Brushy Creek Lake Park and a weekend getaway.

Where many communities compromise on convenience for amenities, the Ranch at Brushy Creek sports a junior Olympic-sized pool, a toddler pool with water feature, a covered pavilion, and miles of hike and bike trails, all while just 20 minutes from downtown Austin. And after a family spends the weekend at the canoe and kayak launches, fishing piers, or wildlife observation areas at the Brushy Creek Lake Park, the children will spend their week at the Round Rock Independent School District – recognized as one of the top districts in Texas. With great education, nature, and also nearby shops and restaurants, there is nothing to give up when living at the Ranch at Brushy Creek.

There are seven floor plans with thoughtfully designed room options that allow immense personalization and distinction while maintaining Energy Star



Photo Courtesy of Sreetman Homes

Certification with radiant barrier roof decking, insulated windows, and high efficiency air conditioning. Three to six bedrooms, two to five bathrooms, and two- or three-car garages are all on tap and all include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Homes at the Heights at the Ranch at Brushy Creek have anywhere from 2,200 to over 3,600 square feet of spacious living and are priced from the \$270,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

### RETREAT AT THE RANCH AT BRUSHY CREEK

Get away from the hum and buzz of daily life at the luxurious and naturally beautiful Retreat at the Ranch at Brushy Creek. Located near the peacefully meandering Brushy Creek in Williamson County, the Retreat offers a quiet vacation from urban life while still maintaining the convenience of city living only 20 miles from downtown Austin. Nestled in natural and wooded areas, the Retreat at the Ranch at Brushy Creek is within walking distance of numerous hike and bike trails and the stunning 60-acre Brushy Creek Lake Park, but is also just minutes from major highways I-35, 45, and 183.

With a country resort as inspiration, The Retreat at the Ranch at Brushy Creek builds on the solid foundation of a Master Planned community and adds bountiful natural amenities and luxurious homes. Easy access to area parks, a junior Olympic-sized swimming pool, a toddlers pool with water feature, and a covered pavilion mean those weekend getaways can begin right at your front doorstep. Every morning can start with a peaceful jog along the Brushy Creek, or just a stroll on the miles of wooded trails in the area. Any weekend can finish with friends over at the pavilion, or with the family down at the park teaching the kids how to fish from the piers. And during the week when the children are receiving a quality education in Round Rock ISD schools – recognized as one of the top districts in Texas – the adults can enjoy the abundance of nearby shopping, dining, entertainment and employment.

There are eleven generous floor plans available, including six brand new designs and three highly desirable single-story floor plans. Each comes standard with amazing features such as four-sides masonry exteriors at the first floor, front and side irrigation systems, granite or Silestone countertops with ceramic tile backsplash, and extensive use of ceramic tile flooring.



Bountiful room options allow for personalization to suit your unique style, while radiant barrier roof decking, insulated low-E windows and high efficiency air conditioning provide frugal and desirable Energy Star-Certification. Four to six bedrooms, three-and-a-half to five-and-a-half bathrooms and three to four-car garages are available and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Homes at The Retreat at the Ranch at Brushy Creek offer 2,790 to 4,400 square feet of elegant living space and are priced from the \$330,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## FLORENCE

**Chamber of Commerce:**

512-635-5170

[www.florencechamberofcommerce.org](http://www.florencechamberofcommerce.org)

**City of Florence:**

254-793-2490

A small rural Texas community located about 34 miles from Austin, Florence has a long history that dates back to the 1850s, and in its heyday boasted retail stores, hotels, a bank, a stone quarry and even a cheese factory. The Bartlett and Western Railway depot was popular with cotton and wheat farmers and cattle ranchers, and it seemed this little town's star was on the rise.

With the Great Depression came an economic downturn that made this Central Texas town a virtual shadow of its glory days. But, with typical Texas tenacity, those who stayed continued their commitment to their hometown. And now, it seems that tenacity has paid off. Florence has been on the comeback trail for the last several years, with a steadily increasing population as proof of its newfound popularity.

Those who are used to small communities move here to get that small-town, country

lifestyle and atmosphere, and in the last few years, many buyers in Florence have been from Colorado and Arizona – as well as lots of equestrians from the east and west coasts who can board horses here. Florence is also popular with artists over the past few years looking for studio space; those who sell real estate here have compared it to the artist community in nearby Salado.

Located on Farm Road 195 about 13 miles from Georgetown in northwestern Williamson County, Florence residents are able to take advantage of the new road systems that offer quick access to the Austin area. Florence is about 45 minutes from downtown Austin. Parmer Lane goes all the way to Georgetown, and the next leg is 195 to Florence.

## THE VINEYARD AT FLORENCE

The Vineyard at Florence is a spectacular new community that combines the latest in innovative design with traditional architecture. Instead of another master-planned golf community, the designers of The Vineyard at Florence community have built the first residential winery and vineyard in the state of Texas on its 400 rolling acres.

Estate sites sit on a minimum of two acres and emphasize the natural foliage, ridgeline and waterways of the area, as well as take full advantage of panoramic views. Residents are encouraged to "think green" by landscaping with Texas native plants and recycling water for irrigation. Drawing its inspiration from Tuscan influences, nearly every home in The Vineyard at Florence will feature a view of the 30-acre vineyard, and all homes feature stucco, tile and stonework.

Amenities here focus on wine, with a tasting village and a wine club that allows members to participate in the harvest. But the living here isn't limited to just wine lovers – horse enthusiasts share a place here as well, with riding trails winding through the

community, as well as a polo field. Other attractions include a spa, café, and farmer's market, as well as space for corporate or private events and weddings, and rental casitas.

## GEORGETOWN

**City of Georgetown:**

512-930-3652;

[www.georgetown.org](http://www.georgetown.org)

**Chamber of Commerce:**

512-930-3535;

[www.georgetownchamber.org](http://www.georgetownchamber.org)

**Convention and Visitors Bureau:**

512-930-3545;

[www.visitgeorgetown.com](http://www.visitgeorgetown.com)

The northernmost gateway to the Hill Country of Central Texas, Georgetown has managed to embrace everything modern living has to offer, while maintaining its old town charm. This unique combination of old time charm and new tech industry has helped make Georgetown one of the fastest growing metro areas in Texas. A thriving town square featuring antique stores, art galleries, flower shops, boutiques, excellent restaurants and a bookstore is at the heart of Georgetown, allowing new and old residents alike to enjoy the pleasures of small town living.

Located just to the north of Austin in Williamson County, Georgetown is a beautiful, sleepy community where, like many small towns in Texas, local schools figure prominently into bragging rights, with Georgetown known as one of the best school districts in Texas.

The popular active adult community, *Del Webb's Sun City Texas*, is in Georgetown, as is the luxury golf course community of *Cimarron Hills*, which features a Jack Nicklaus signature course. The city has taken great pride in the restoration and preservation of historic Georgetown and was a "Great American ►

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Main Street Award” winner in 1997. The Square that defines the center of Historic Georgetown is graced with buildings that keep history alive and provide an inviting gathering place for those who live here and those who visit, including stellar restaurants, shops and more.

Major employers here are diverse, ranging from metal manufacturing to higher education to recreation and leisure – including Chatsworth Products, Manitex, Sierra Microwave Technology, Texas Electric Cooperatives, The Candle Factory, Xycarb Ceramics, and TASUS Texas. Dell, Inc. and other well-known Austin companies are also nearby.

Getting around is easy, too. The SH 130 tollway starts at the interchange with I-35 north of Georgetown and extends to US 79 near Hutto, where it joins an SH 130 segment, offering lots of drive time options.

### BERRY CREEK

The Berry Creek community from Jimmy Jacobs Custom Homes offers residents a master-planned community with lots of details – from outdoor recreational facilities to custom-built homes. The natural integrity of the area is intact, too, with heavily wooded estate home sites up to a half-acre in size, and a homeowners association that is dedicated to maintaining the beauty of the neighborhood.

All the homes in Berry Creek are custom, starting at around \$350,000, with the average in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. Other custom builders in the area include Drees Custom Homes, Partners In Building, and others. Berry Creek also offers affordable newer sections starting in the \$180s that are ideal for first time buyers, young professionals just starting out, and families. There’s also the *Villages of Berry Creek*, which gives its residents the opportunity to live in Berry Creek, but for less money.

Amenities at Berry Creek include a recreational golf and tennis community center, and residents are only a short drive from Lake Georgetown. Berry Creek is located in the Georgetown Independent School District, with electricity supplied by Pedernales Electrical Cooperative and city services by the City of Georgetown.

Berry Creek is also close to Wolf Ranch Town Center, and open-air market with multiple anchor stores, more than 40 specialty retail stores and restaurants, and beautifully landscaped grounds. Round Rock Premium Outlet stores are only a few exits away.

### THE BROWNSTONE AT THE SUMMIT

Located at the Summit at Rivery Park, the Brownstone at the Summit features beautifully appointed luxury townhomes that give residents the feel of living in a New England residential neighborhood – yet with all the charm and beauty of the Texas Hill Country.

Inspired by classic 19th Century row houses and designed with native Texas materials and styling, each two-story home features a rooftop terrace, downstairs garage and spacious customizable living spaces. With prices that range from the \$200s to the \$700s, there’s something for everyone here. Homes include such classic details as hardwood floors, 10-foot ceilings, gourmet kitchens with granite counters and eight-foot kitchen islands, three-story homes complete with elevators, a breakfast bar in the master bedroom, ground floor garages, bonus rooms, and even such pluses as private rooftop terraces and balconies.

The community itself is surrounded by more than 20 miles of hike-and-bike trails, and also offers tons of great restaurants and shopping, the small-town charm of Georgetown, and is minutes to

Austin, Round Rock and Lake Georgetown. A modern urban village in the heart of the Hill Country – that’s the appeal of this charming community.

### CIMARRON HILLS

Bringing luxury resort-style living to the Georgetown area, Cimarron Hills is a private country club community with a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course. Encompassing 820 acres on the edge of the Hill Country, home sites in Cimarron Hills offer ideal settings on the golf course, along the green belts, bordering the banks of the San Gabriel River or at the waters edge of a 14-acre man-made lake.

Located on Hwy. 29 West – about five miles west of I-35, and five miles east of 183 – new highway expansions heading toward Cimarron Hills allow for even easier access to major thoroughfares. Cimarron Hills enjoys a convenient location that is only minutes away from the historic Georgetown Square, and is in close proximity to the Dell Computers Campus and the Greater Austin area’s high tech sector.

Cimarron Hills has become the community of choice for many of the top-level executives. In addition to the golf course, the community features custom home designs by five of the nation’s top architects, a new selection of home sites, and a limited number of custom villas. Located just down the road from historic downtown Georgetown, the Cimarron Hills landscape opens up to rolling hills, glimmering rivers and the meadows of Texas wildlife, this family-oriented residential community has the amenities of a world-class resort, complete with miles of hike and bike trails.

Residents enjoy the casual elegance of the 27,000 square-foot Clubhouse complete with a lavish spa and state-of-the-art fitness facility. Inside, club members can treat themselves to an old world

steakhouse experience, complete with leather chairs, oak walls, warm fires, and friendly neighbors.

Cimarron Hills has one of the finest natural sites for golf, which allowed Jack Nicklaus to incorporate much of the natural terrain, including the magnificent San Gabriel River, the rolling hills, live oaks, river and fresh water ponds when designing his Signature Golf Course for Cimarron Hills. This elite area is perfect for an avid golfer looking for a golf course community in which to live, and the price of a lot in Cimarron Hills includes golf membership fees.

Membership in the Cimarron Hills Golf & Country Club provides access to what the Dallas Morning News described as the "Best Private Course in Central Texas," featuring limited memberships, multiple-terrain practice facility, and the luxurious amenities of a world-class private club. Magazines such as *Golf Digest*, *LINK*, *Texas Golfer*, *Avid Golfer* and *Golfer* have rated the course as among the best.

### SUN CITY TEXAS

Located in historic Georgetown west of I-35 off Williams Drive (FM 2338), Sun City Texas is a master-planned community for "active adults 55 and better." Built by Del Webb, the community is geared towards an active, fun and healthy lifestyle. Sun City Texas is home to three of Texas' best golf courses, offering challenging rounds of play to experts and recreational players alike. Legacy Hills and White Wing golf clubs were designed by golf course architect duo Billy Casper and Greg Nash and Cowan Creek was designed by Gary Stevenson. Each 18-hole course sports its own practice range, putting green, pro shop and clubhouse, and each has a distinctive look and feel bringing genuine variety to this premier Texas golf destination.

Prices for a home here start around \$200,000 and go up to more than

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\$600,000. Homebuyers get choices of different floor plans for home types that range from single-family homes to attached cottages and, in some cases, home yard maintenance is also included. Sun City's Village Center, the recreational and social hub of the community, includes a fitness building with a six-lane indoor swimming pool, aerobics room and state-of-the-art exercise room, as well as a social hall with arts and crafts center, woodworking shop, ballroom, billiards and meeting rooms for social activities.

Outside you'll find a resort-style swimming pool, tennis courts and bocce courts. A new Activities Center offers an additional 12,000 square feet of social areas for a computer lab and special interest groups. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the miles of hiking and biking trails that run throughout the community. For family gatherings, a 5,000 square foot open-air Park Pavilion is located next to a picturesque lake.

### SAN GABRIEL RIVER ESTATES, RIVER CHASE AND WOODLAND PARK

The mix of old Georgetown with new neighborhoods featuring all the benefits of modern living is the main appeal for homebuyers in San Gabriel River Estates, River Chase and Woodland Park. All are located within the charming, rolling hills of Georgetown, offering residents all the amenities of small town living with luxurious custom-crafted homes.

**San Gabriel River Estates** is located along the rolling Hill Country terrain, with home sites featuring majestic oaks and incredible views. Pristine and private, **River Chase** is nestled in along the banks of the San Gabriel River, and offers heavily-wooded one-acre plus home sites overlooking the river and the San Gabriel Valley.

The community of **Woodland Park** is the 2004 Max Award winner for Custom Home Community Development, and ►



## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

offers family living on one-acre plus wooded estate home sites. All three neighborhoods have new home designs that include plans for three, four and five bedroom homes, and homeowners can plan homes complete with grand family rooms, game rooms, media rooms and studies.

Residents are close to historic Georgetown, but are also able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country – including such outdoor recreational areas as Lake Georgetown for boating, waterskiing and relaxing.

### HUTTO

City of Hutto:  
512-759-1011;  
[www.cityofhutto.com](http://www.cityofhutto.com)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-759-4400;  
[www.hutto.org](http://www.hutto.org)

The expansion along the northeastern corridor of Austin has meant opportunity for the city of Hutto, and an opportunity to find great homes at affordable prices for families in the Austin area. The overall growth of Williamson County and the increase of major employers from Georgetown to Austin settling in and around I-35 have encouraged the development of several new subdivisions around Hutto over the past few years. And, while some might be put off by having to travel on I-35 to commute into Austin, the development of the SH-130 toll road through both Williamson and Travis Counties offers plenty of alternate transportation options.

SH-130 is the largest highway contract in the history of Texas, and the \$3.6 billion project includes the extension of Mopac and Toll Road 45, providing 49 miles of toll road that extends from IH-35 north of Georgetown south to U.S. 183 southeast of Austin.



Photo Courtesy of Sireem Homes

Many choose to make Hutto their home because of its proximity to schools such as the Texas State University campus in Round Rock and Southwestern University in Georgetown, and major employers such as Samsung and Cypress Semiconductor. Dell Diamond, home of the Round Rock Express Baseball Club franchise owned by Nolan Ryan, is also close, as are the Round Rock Outlet mall and major anchor retail stores like IKEA. Located off Highway 79, Hutto offers affordable homes in close proximity to Georgetown, Taylor, Round Rock and Pflugerville, with affordable homes that range in price from the low \$100s to the \$250s. Besides the affordable lifestyle, the Hutto Independent School District is another plus for families.

Those who enjoy playing golf will be pleased to know that there are two golf communities nearby. The *Golf Club at Star Ranch* is located off Dessau Road and provides a challenge to players of all levels, while the Blackhawk Golf Club is situated in nearby Pflugerville on Kelly Lane off Dessau Road. Designed by Charles Howard and Hollis Stacey, *Blackhawk Golf Club* has a links-style course and has 15-acre practice facility so that players can warm up before their round.

### LEANDER

City of Leander:  
512-259-1142;  
[www.leandertx.org](http://www.leandertx.org)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-259-1907;  
[www.leandercc.org](http://www.leandercc.org)

Located in the heart of Central Texas off Highway 183, the growth of Leander over the past few years has been phenomenal, especially as the Leander Independent School District has become the largest school district in Williamson County and the fastest growing school district in Texas. Homes in Leander are more affordable, too, giving buyers more for the money – home prices here start around the \$150s and go to more than \$400,000.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of lakes and rolling hills of the Texas Hill Country, Leander has a progressive city government that has successfully managed the city's rapid residential growth and encouraged new businesses to settle in the area. Leander's long-term water supply is secured for the future, and a new area wastewater treatment plant opened a few years ago to handle Leander's anticipated growth.

New roads built around the area now help with those who commute from Leander to any number of major employers in the area, and Capital Metro's light rail service runs from Leander along the northwest corridor and into downtown Austin. The city is close to major employers and also offers lots of shopping and dining options with Lakeline Mall and other shopping centers nearby.

The Leander Independent School District has earned *Recognized* honors from the Texas Education Agency for academic excellence, and is another reason many have chosen to make this Hill Country city their home. The Leander Independent School District services both Leander and Cedar Park, and the district is known for their gifted and talented classes, as well as for special education programs.

## LAKELINE RANCH

Families with a passion for the great outdoors will love living in Leander's Lakeline Ranch. Located off FM 1431, Lakeline Ranch is a new development that offers the convenience of a master-planned community in an acclaimed school district with access to great outdoor recreation.

Lakeline Ranch is the best of both worlds for those who enjoy the outdoor life, who love to fish and boat, go camping, hike or ride mountain bikes. Residents are just 25 minutes from Marble Falls, with lots of camping sites in Inks Lake and Lake IBJ. Jonestown is also nearby, offering great parks and a boat dock.

The community's location in the Leander Independent School District is another reason families enjoy it here. Leander Independent School District has an excellent school system, and offers its students great educational opportunities that include a college freshman-level curriculum and National Merit Scholars program. Children living in Lakeline Ranch

attend Whitestone Elementary School, Running Brushy Middle School, and Leander High School.

Lakeline Ranch is also an excellent value for those buying their first home, or those who want a home with lots of square footage for the least amount of money; homes here range from the \$180s to the \$300s. The community also features an amenity center with a pool, plus basketball and volleyball courts, Frisbee golf, picnic tables, and barbeque pits.

## CRYSTAL FALLS

Crystal Falls, which was named the "Best Master Planned Community" by the *Austin Business Journal*, offers a natural landscape of canyons and rolling hills and is anchored by the Crystal Falls Golf Club – voted "the most scenic public golf course in Texas."

Located off of Crystal Falls Parkway, the community is very convenient to major shopping centers, Cedar Park Hospital, Lake Travis and major employers. Crystal Falls offers five neighborhoods in one community – Grand Mesa, The Fairways, The Highlands, The Boulders, and Cap Rock. Homesites range in size from about .25 acres in The Boulders to about seven acres in Grand Mesa, and home sizes range from 1,500 to more than 6,000 square feet.

This peaceful community has fantastic views of the hill country and many mature trees, with some homes located on the 18-hole Crystal Falls Golf Course. Crystal Falls also boasts two amenity centers with swimming pools, as well as playgrounds, a disc golf course, a fishing lake, and hike and bike trails. Whitestone Elementary and William Winkley Elementary are also located within the community.

## VISTA RIDGE

Leander's Vista Ridge community is an upscale subdivision located in northern

Leander, featuring luxury homesites, stunning scenery, and quick access to major roadways. Homes in Vista Ridge are priced from the \$180s to the \$300s and range from 1,800 to more than 3,500 square feet, with wooded, oversized and cul-de-sac lots available.

The community Amenity Center includes a junior Olympic-sized swimming pool, children's pool, cabana, and a playscape area. Schools in the Vista Ridge Community are located within the Leander ISD and include Whitestone Elementary, Leander Middle School, Leander High School (12<sup>th</sup> grade only), and Rouse High School.

Cedar Park Regional Medical Center is just six miles away, and the community is minutes from the Crystal Falls public golf course. The community is also close to shopping at Lakeline Mall, restaurants, and entertainment. The Capital Metro Rail Leander Station is just two miles from Vista Ridge, offering convenient service between Leander and downtown Austin. The new Leander Public Library is also about a mile away, which includes a children's library, 24 computer stations, and free wireless Internet access

## LIBERTY HILL

City of Liberty Hill:  
512-778-5418;  
[www.ci.liberty-hill.tx.us](http://www.ci.liberty-hill.tx.us)

Nestled in the Texas Hill Country off Highway 29 West, Liberty Hill offers its residents the best of country living with an excellent school district. This sleepy, rural community is also expanding, the result of the tremendous growth in Williamson County as a whole.

The decision of the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Brazos River Authority to form the Brazos-Colorado Water Alliance and construct a regional wastewater treatment system in the ►

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Liberty Hill area is just one sign of the city's growth. Plans include new sewer lines and a treatment plant to serve existing homes and businesses as well as new development in Liberty Hill.

Located about 15 miles west of Georgetown and 33 miles northwest of Austin, Liberty Hill sits between the north and south forks of the San Gabriel River. Homes in Liberty Hill start around the \$170s and typically have a bit of acreage and Hill Country views, which makes it a great place for people who want that relaxed, country atmosphere.

### ROUND ROCK

City of Round Rock:  
512-218-5400;  
[www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-255-5805;  
[www.roundrockchamber.org](http://www.roundrockchamber.org)

The home of Dell, Inc. and other technology firms, affordable housing, superb school system, and quality of life are just a few of the reasons Round Rock is so popular.

The Round Rock Independent School District has been named one of the nation's top school districts, with multiple campuses that are named national Blue Ribbon schools year after year. *Round Rock Medical Center*, located on FM 620, off IH-35, provides comprehensive health services to residents of the expanding Williamson County population. Services include The Heart Center with express testing and inpatient capacity of 107 beds with private rooms, The Women's Center, and an emergency room.

The Round Rock Express, a Triple-A minor league team owned by Nolan Ryan and the farm team for the Texas Rangers, also calls Round Rock home,



playing at the Dell Diamond – one of the finest minor league stadiums in the nation. Round Rock Premium Outlets gives fashion-conscious shoppers their choice of shopping, with more than 120 stores that feature name-brand merchandise at savings of 25 to 65 percent off regular retail prices every day.

### AVERY RANCH

Rich in a history that includes Native American tribes, cowboys, and even an outlaw or two, Avery Ranch is poised to bring the best the modern world has to offer to its residents, from a 226-acre golf course to homes hard-wired for fiber-optic and other broadband services – all within a natural setting of hike and bike trails, natural ponds, and parklands.

Located just 20 minutes northwest of Austin, the Avery Ranch Golf Course offers a variety of amenities, including a 15-acre driving range with chipping, putting, and bunker practice areas. But Avery Ranch is more than just a golfing community, featuring distinctive features for every type of family and interest.

The community of Avery Ranch has been planned in such a way that the oak tree lined streets meander through the neigh-

borhood; and trails connect to an abundance of places for families to walk, swim, or play, thus giving residents a greater chance to get to know each other. Avery Ranch is connected by miles of paths and trails that will take residents anywhere on the Ranch. The Regional Hike and Bike Trail spans 180 acres with access points throughout Cedar Park and Round Rock, allowing children to bike to school or to their friends' homes in connected neighborhoods without ever having to cross a major street.

Avery Ranch is located within the award-winning Leander and Round Rock Independent School Districts, with several schools located right in the neighborhood. In addition to five community centers totaling 17 acres of recreational family fun within Avery Ranch, the City of Cedar Park built an expansive 140-acre community park complex adjacent to the community. The main community center at Avery Ranch has basketball, tennis and swimming facilities, as well as an outdoor amphitheater, and the Avery Ranch Golf Course, was voted *Best Overall Golf Course* by *Avid Golfer* magazine. Designed by Andy Raugust, this spectacular course features natural



limestone caverns, live oak tree, rolling hills and meandering streams and lakes to create the total golf experience.

Different neighborhoods with different pricing within Avery Ranch make the community affordable. The *Austin Business Journal* rated Avery Ranch the *Number One Community*, and it's easy to see why— it's a master-planned community of 1,800 homes that has everything from entry-level homes to custom-built homes. For example, there are entry-level homes starting in the \$170s, and prices can go up to the \$800s in other area neighborhoods.

Avery Ranch is popular with young professionals, families, and empty nesters. Many people build in Avery Ranch because they like the area, and they also like the fact that it's a master-planned community with a strong homeowners association. Its location off Parmer Lane with easy access to area tollways also hold wide appeal; it's easy to commute to major Austin employers and is close to major shopping areas.

Nestled along Austin's major growth corridor, Avery Ranch is convenient to such employers as Texas Instruments, Time Warner Communications, Abbott Laboratories, Dell Computer, Freescale, Samsung, IBM, 3M, and National Instruments. Close to RR 620, Highway 183 or I-35, nearby shopping includes The Domain, Lakeline Mall, The Arboretum, and the Gateway Shopping Center.

## HILLS AT PALOMA LAKE ROUND ROCK

For anyone looking for relaxed living in the middle of one of the most dynamic and fast-growing areas in the country, take a look toward the Hills at Paloma Lake, a master-planned community just north of Austin in the vibrant city of Round Rock. Any family can feel Right at Home in this inviting mix of suburban

convenience and natural, recreational outdoor entertainment.

The Hills at Paloma Lake enjoys quick and easy access to major roadways to make travel convenient while also sporting life-enhancing amenities such as hike and bike trails, a "catch and release" fish camp, fishing pier, parks, playgrounds, and a community center. The homes are near to major employers such as Dell and Seton and are also just a quick trip to major retail and entertainment areas, such as the La Frontera shopping center complex. And for the ultimate convenience, the Hills at Paloma Lake offers an on-site elementary school that is part of the Round Rock I.S.D.

There are nine highly functional floor plans with thoughtfully designed room options that allow immense personalization and distinction while maintaining Energy Star-Certification with radiant barrier roof decking, insulated windows, and high efficiency air conditioning. Three to five bedrooms, two to four bathrooms, and flexible layouts allow personalization and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio. Gourmet kitchens and abundant ceramic tile inside compliment beautiful front landscaping outside. Homes at the Hills at Paloma Lake have anywhere from 1,556 to 2,911 square feet of spacious living and are priced from the \$160,000s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

## LAKE FOREST

Lake Forest homeowners enjoy the benefits of a conveniently located community that offers exceptional value, affordable and luxurious style, beautiful natural settings, and a host of amenities that give a wide array of choices for today's active lifestyle. It's no wonder that Lake Forest has been heralded as one of the most innovative

neighborhoods in the area and that it's been named one of Round Rock's five-star communities.

Lake Forest has been designed as a dramatic departure from the standard subdivision form. Comprised of three villages featuring their own unique style, Lake Forest avoids the dreaded "cookie-cutter" design syndrome found in many planned communities. Homes in the three villages vary in size and price, ranging from the upper \$200's, with a variety of floor plans and designs geared to accommodate an owner's individual needs.

The natural setting of the area offers its residents a beautiful, secluded environment of mature native trees, rich verdant vegetation, wet creeks and a pond cutting through the community center. Hike and bike trails crisscross through the neighborhood and along Brushy Creek. There's also a junior Olympic swimming pool, park, playscape and tennis courts.

Attention to details, such as tree-lined streets with sidewalks and trails, and a community center that is the center of neighborhood activities gives Lake Forest a sense of community, as does the Lake Forest Homeowner's Association for the latest news. Round Rock's award-winning Blue Ribbon schools – including Blackland Prairie Elementary School and Ridgeview Middle School – are also located in the neighborhood. Lake Forest is conveniently located in the corridor of Austin and Round Rock's high tech industry, and offers easy access to I-35.

## MAYFIELD RANCH

Mayfield Ranch, a master-planned community located in Round Rock, is designed with the entire family in mind, complete with an amenity center that includes three pool areas: a large resort-style main pool, kiddy pool with splash pad, and a toddler pool. ▶

## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Home prices here range from the \$150s to \$350s, and the neighborhood's playscape, veranda and oak-shaded courtyard offer a relaxed atmosphere and plenty of options for families who love to play together. A 1,785 square foot community center features a meeting facility, kitchen area, banquet tables and chairs for Mayfield Ranch homeowners.

Children in Mayfield Ranch attend either Round Rock or Leander schools, and the community's location offers easy accessibility to major employers and business centers, shopping, sport facilities and cultural events. Williamson County Regional Park with 800 acres of natural beauty is also within the community, featuring a 200-acre endangered species preserve, 11 soccer fields, walking paths, tennis courts, wildflowers, and wildlife.

### RIDGE AT PALOMA LAKE

Beckoning homeowners, workers, students and friends to its shimmering suburban oasis, the Ridge at Paloma Lake is a soothing alternative to the hectic pace of city living. With spacious homes enveloped by walking trails, neighborhood parks, a Swim and Community Center and a unique recreational Fish Camp, the Ridge at Paloma Lake will add relaxation back to daily life.

For those families looking for convenience, the Ridge at Paloma Lake offers the best of recreation, education, and employment. Within minutes of the homes are such destinations as the Dell Diamond, Old Settler's Park, IKEA, Round Rock Premium Outlets, two golf courses, and the Round Rock Higher Education Center. And with Round Rock I.S.D. schools and the Seton health care facility close to home, a family can also have peace of mind to go with the fun of 200 acres of recreational parks, playgrounds, and hike and bike trails.

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There are eight floor plans with thoughtfully designed room options that allow immense personalization and distinction while maintaining Energy Star-Certification with radiant barrier roof decking, insulated windows, and high efficiency air conditioning. Three to six bedrooms, two to four bathrooms, and flexible layouts allow personalization and include a professional consultation with a designer at Standard Pacific's expansive Design Studio.

Interior touches like decorator two-tone paint, ceramic tiles, Colonist six-panel doors and Seagull lighting packages compliment the attractive exteriors with 100% clay brick on three sides of the first floor. Homes at the Ridge at Paloma Lake have anywhere from 2,272 to more than 3,500 square feet of living space and are priced from the \$190s.

*Submitted by Christina Poehler,  
Standard Pacific Homes*

### TERAVISTA

Located along the I-35 corridor off Chandler Road, Teravista is easily accessible to shopping, and offers a short commute for those working in North Austin and homes starting in the \$170s. Gently curving streets, charming cul-de-sacs and beautiful green areas

encourage families and children to get out and explore their community, which is right in keeping with the spirit of this Round Rock community. It's no wonder that the Home Builders Association of Greater Austin named Teravista *Best Overall Community* in 2007.

Residents of Teravista will find they are connected to each other in more ways than one. From the neighborly attitudes to the natural habitat and walking trails to the actual high tech connections built within each home – it's all here in this master planned golf course community. Residents have an opportunity to get to know each other through regular socials and other activities, while the information center provides homebuyers with help and other services long after getting settled. Children attend school in the award-winning Round Rock Independent School District, and the open landscaping here gives them lots of room to roam. In addition to an 18-hole championship golf course and clubhouse, Teravista has a host of other amenities – including lighted tennis courts, two community swimming pools, and hiking paths.

## TAYLOR

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City of Taylor:  
512-352-3675;  
[www.ci.taylor.tx.us](http://www.ci.taylor.tx.us)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-352-6364;  
[www.taylorchamber.org](http://www.taylorchamber.org)

Not only is Taylor a great place to live, it's also one of the best places in Texas for barbecue. Louie Mueller's Barbecue on 2nd Street has long been hailed as a virtual Mecca for barbecue lovers worldwide, while Mikeska's Restaurant just a block down the street continues a proud family tradition (the Mikeska clan has been dubbed the "First Family of Texas Bar-B-Q" by *Texas Monthly* magazine).

Beyond the barbecue, however, newcomers to Taylor can't help but be charmed by this town that is both steeped in tradition and family pride. Located in Williamson County, Taylor is 29 miles northeast of Austin and 17 miles east of I-35, with SH 95 and U.S. Highway 79 intersecting in downtown Taylor.

School-age children attend schools in Taylor Independent School District, and Temple College at Taylor is located downtown. The city also has three main health facilities. Johns Community Hospital is a 65-bed general acute-care hospital with 24-hour emergency room services, while The Health Center is a physician's clinic designed to meet the combined needs of medical services. Scott & White/John's Clinic provides family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, radiology, audiology and an outpatient lab.

Homes in Taylor range in price from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Major employers include ERCOT, Wal-Mart, Intercraft Company, Laboratory Tops, Inc. and Texwood Furniture Manufacturing. The city also offers the *Taylor CNET*. Using funding provided by a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure fund, Taylor CNET built a state-of-the-art technology center within the city's old middle school.

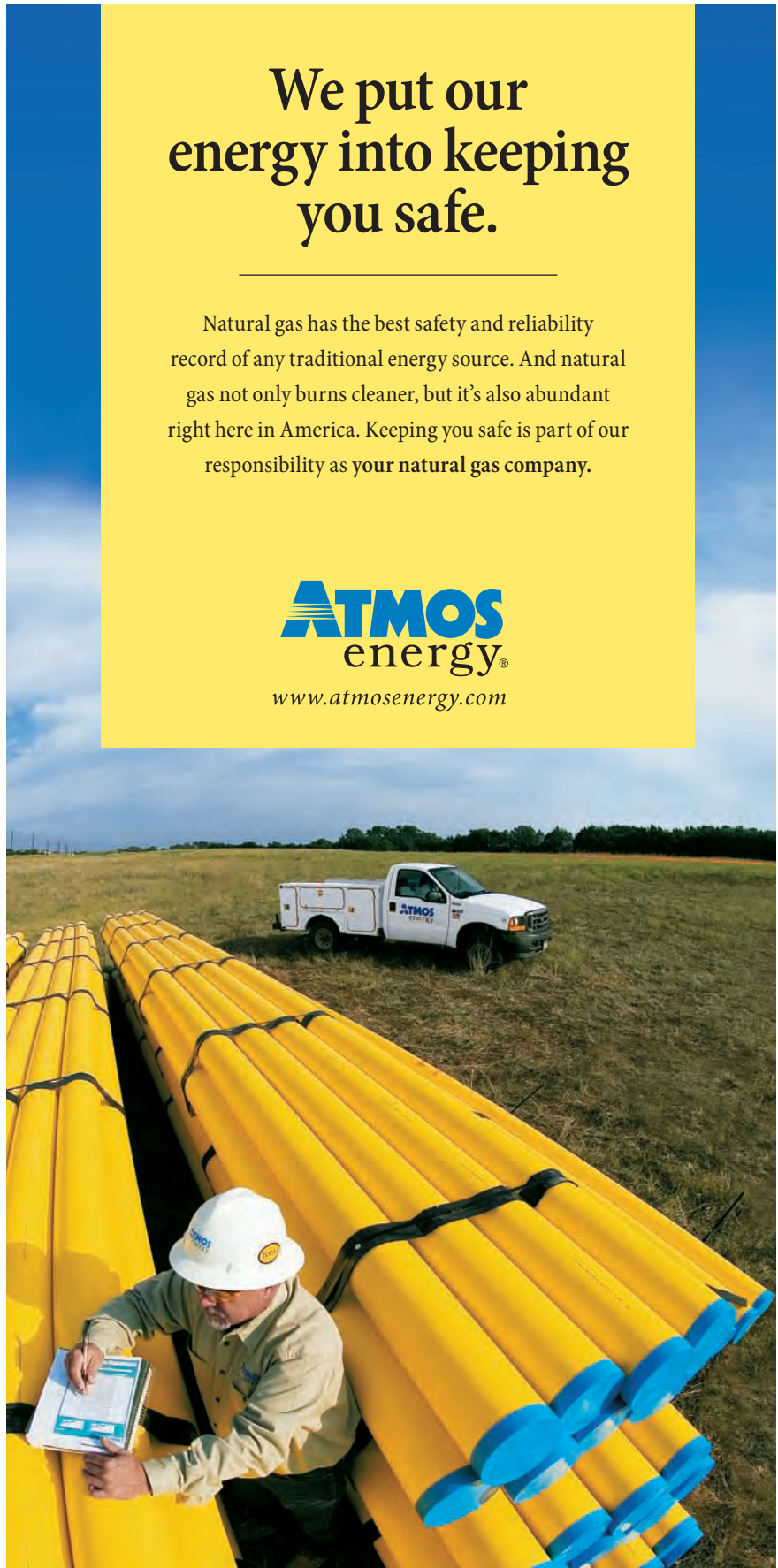
The new center includes a computer lab, a videoconferencing center, and office facilities, with 14 public access points that have been added in other locations throughout Taylor. This technology initiative is the result of a collaborative partnership between the City of Taylor, Taylor Independent School District, Taylor Economic Development, Williamson County, the Taylor Housing Authority, Johns Community Hospital, Taylor Chamber of Commerce and Temple College/ Temple College at Taylor. ■

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# hays COUNTY

## BUDA

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City of Buda:  
512-295-2022

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-295-9999;  
[www.budachamber.com](http://www.budachamber.com)

The Buda area's small town atmosphere is appealing to many, explaining the area's growth over the last several years. The city is planning for the future, too – expanding through controlled economic and residential growth, while also making sure to maintain a rural feel and atmosphere.

Median home prices here are in the mid-\$160s, with options for single-family homes, townhomes, homes with acreage, new housing developments, and resale homes in established neighborhoods.

Buda's main employers include Texas Lehigh Cement, Centex Materials, CTX Builders Supply, Chatleff Controls, Nighthawk Foods, and Cabela's. Buda's historical downtown area has been recently renovated, and local merchants are using the local "BIG" grant program to fix up their storefronts.

Buda also offers residents a traditional sense of community, with events that include: the *Country Fair and Wiener Dog Races* in April, as well as *Red, White & Buda* celebrating the 4th of July, the *Buda Fine Arts Festival* in October, and the long-standing *Budafest* Christmas event in early December.



Photo Courtesy of Bellina

## DRIPPING SPRINGS

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City of Dripping Springs:  
512-858-1526;  
[www.drippingspringstx.com](http://www.drippingspringstx.com)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-858-4740;  
[www.drippingspringstx.org](http://www.drippingspringstx.org)

Known as "The Gateway to the Hill Country," Dripping Springs is just 25 minutes from downtown Austin – and light years away from big city living. Dripping Springs is a tightly knit community that has worked to preserve the country lifestyle and values upon which it was founded.

As a growing community, along with that growth has come retail businesses, with a Home Depot and H-E-B opening here recently, as well as other shops and restaurants and a local hotel off 290. For all the growth Dripping Springs is experi-

encing, however, the town has kept its small town charm.

Dripping Springs is appealing to families who want to provide the best education for their children; the school district here is a top notch, 4A district with schools that have been rated exemplary for the last several years. For that reason, the area has attracted a lot of younger families, with elementary schools growing at a faster rate than the area's middle and high schools.

Dripping Springs now has three elementary schools, and the district updated and expanded its middle school to become the new high school in 2010. The former high school has also undergone renovations, and reopened as the district's new middle school in 2010. Residents are also enthusiastic and strong supporters of students and the school's programs, with

lots of crowds for high school football games.

Homes in Dripping Springs start at around \$200,000, and that includes older homes, as well as those found in newer subdivisions such as Belterra, HighPointe and Ledgestone that have helped to bring new neighbors to the area.

### **BELTERRA**

Homebuyers looking to enjoy the comforts of the country without giving up the conveniences of the city often look no further than Belterra. This master planned community nestled on 1,600 acres of wooded, rolling hills is just 15 minutes from downtown Austin and is located at the gateway to the Hill Country. Belterra offers residents first-class amenities, an award-winning school district, and a pristine natural setting for the perfect balance of home, community and outdoor enjoyment.

With open parks, scenic trails and outstanding amenities, Belterra is an ideal location for active families. Belterra residents enjoy the benefits of a first-class amenity center that features a 5,000 square-foot community building with a workout facility, activity room, toddler area, and kitchen and shower facilities. The pool complex features a junior Olympic-sized lap pool, a family activity pool, a toddler pool and is also home to ball fields, a sport court, a playscape and offers easy access to Belterra's neighborhood parks plus miles of hike and bike trails.

Located in the award-winning Dripping Springs Independent School District, Belterra features family-sized homes priced from the mid-200s, as well as estate-style homes priced from the mid-300s up to the \$900s. Belterra is located off of Highway 290 West, seven miles past the intersection of Highway 71.

### **DRIFTWOOD**

Driftwood is located within one of the

most beautiful areas found in Texas, with its rolling hills and gorgeous views, and is popular with those who want to get away from it all – yet still be close to all that Austin has to offer.

Driftwood does not have its own independent school district, but rather feeds into Hays, Dripping Springs and Wimberley school systems, with each offering a wide array of educational curriculum from which to choose. From dual language programs, smaller class sizes and impressive performing arts programs, parents have the option to select a home in school districts that offer programs best suited to their child's educational interests and needs.

Part of Driftwood's charm is that while it is located in the Hill Country, it's a quick commute to downtown Austin. The subdivisions of Vineyard Estates, Vineyard Ridge, Sierra West and RimRock are all relatively new, and offer homeowners a variety of styles and plans from which to choose.

La Ventana is another Driftwood community that offers its residents a fantastic array of amenities. An equestrian community, it's ideal for horse enthusiasts. It also features a clubhouse with sauna and

three swimming pools, a driving range, and tennis courts. Some La Ventana homes use water provided by the Lower Colorado River Authority, while some homesites require wells.

Rainwater collection has also become an attractive and economical alternative for some homes' water needs, and many homes have their own septic systems. Shopping in the area is also convenient, especially with the explosive growth of Kyle and Dripping Springs, in addition to growth along the Loop 1 South corridor.

### **HIGHPOINTE**

Set against the beauty of the Hill Country, HighPointe in Dripping Springs takes full advantage of giving its residents every opportunity to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle. Located less than 20 miles from downtown Austin, this gated community has everything a nature-lover could want.

HighPointe is designed to maximize the Hill Country landscape by taking full advantage of the hilltop vistas, lush green-belts and mature oak trees. The community also offers privacy, neighborhood amenities, and the security of a gated community. ▶

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## AUSTIN HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

HighPointe's countless opportunities for making the most of the outdoors are a draw for many buyers. Amenities include several miles of crushed granite hiking and biking trails, giving residents a relaxing way to enjoy the serenity of the scenery around them. HighPointe's residents also enjoy entertainment facilities, a two-story fitness center, dance studio, conference rooms, multiple playgrounds, basketball court, floodlit tennis courts, baseball field, soccer field, and outdoor barbecue pit. Whether swimming for fun or fitness, HighPointe's four-pool aquatic center serves everyone's needs with a junior Olympic lap pool, play pool, adult pool and baby pool.

HighPointe's world-class amenity center is the social hub of the community, with meeting rooms and kitchen available for special events. The amenity center also has private offices with high speed Internet access for residential use. Neighbors can also get together with family and friends at one of the seven neighborhood parks, or at the park pavilion with a fire pit and outdoor grill.

Homes in this gated community range in size from about 2,300 to more than 4,000 square feet. The one and two-story floor plans on sprawling home sites include many luxury features at no extra cost, including standard granite kitchen countertops, 100 percent brick, stone and stucco exteriors. Many floor plans also include media and game rooms, and four-car garages are available on selected homesites. Children living in HighPointe attend school in the award-winning Dripping Springs Independent School District.

### RIMROCK

RimRock provides a natural escape from city living, with large homesites ranging from one to three acres. The rustic charm of country life combined with the prestige of custom-built homes makes

RimRock a popular address in the Texas Hill Country. Surrounded by spectacular meadows, the tree-covered homesites, and breathtaking views make RimRock a great place to hide out with nature. Enjoy acres of greenbelt area with more than six miles of nature trails for hiking and off road biking.

RimRock is located in the highly acclaimed Dripping Springs Independent School District just southwest of Austin. Located on FM 1826, RimRock provides easy access to major thoroughfares such as Highway 290 and Mopac (Loop 1) making it easy to get to downtown Austin, Barton Creek Mall and Bergstrom International Airport.

### KYLE

City of Kyle:  
512-262-1010;  
[www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com)

Kyle Chamber of Commerce:  
512-268-4220

The population of the Kyle/Buda area has exploded in recent years, further enriching the already vibrant communities here. Numerous historical sites and recreational opportunities await visitors and active community organizations provide information and activities throughout the year.

Kyle's population is now more than 25,000, and numerous retail developments have sprung up to support the fast-growing population here and in nearby Buda. The award winning Hays Consolidated Independent School District offers a strong educational foundation and, with 24 colleges and universities in a 50-mile radius, major employers have no trouble finding a young, motivated workforce.

Major employers include Grande Communications (telecommunications),

Hays Consolidated Independent School District, and businesses in nearby San Marcos. Located 15 miles from Austin and 50 miles from San Antonio, the area is perfectly positioned to take full advantage of the fast growing IH-35 corridor.

### SAN MARCOS

City of San Marcos:  
512-393-8000;  
[www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us](http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-393-5900;  
[www.sanmarcostexas.com](http://www.sanmarcostexas.com)

Convention & Visitors Bureau:  
512-393-5900;  
[www.toursanmarcos.com](http://www.toursanmarcos.com)

San Marcos is a little town made large by Texas State University that hasn't let progress or growth get in the way of maintaining its peaceful lifestyle. Set amidst the serenity of the banks of the San Marcos River, life in San Marcos harkens back to a time when life wasn't quite so complicated.

San Marcos has that small town appeal, and for people who love small town living, it's perfect. There's the town square, which was recently renovated, and there are shops and stores all in downtown San Marcos. There are also lovely, beautiful old homes in downtown along San Antonio Street, at Christmas time every year, they're all lit up – definitely something to see.

Located along the high-tech corridor of I-35 linking Austin and San Antonio, San Marcos is an easy commute, with only 30 minutes drive time to the state capital. The low cost of living in San Marcos means that residents can afford a house with outstanding amenities. San Marcos offers affordability in every range, from Victorian homes to new subdivisions. Find "fixer-upper" homes in San Marcos for



around \$100,000, while homes in newer suburban areas start at around \$160,000.

There's no shortage of things to do here, too – including toobin' down the San Marcos River, bargain hunting at nearby outlet malls, or going on a biking or hiking adventure in the rolling hills around San Marcos.

Another major area attraction, Aquarena Center, has been bought by Texas State University and transformed from a tourist attraction to an environmental educational center. Gone are the mermaids and Ralph the Swimming Pig, but Aquarena's famous glass-bottom boats remain, as they provide the public with a clearer understanding of the importance and diversity of wetlands and the Edward Aquifer, and allows them to see native and exotic species found in the area.

### BLANCO VISTA

Set against the peaceful backdrop of the Blanco River, Blanco Vista is the first master-planned community in the San Marcos area, allowing its residents to experience small town living with all of the big city upgrades.

Blanco Vista features a range of housing, including starter homes, family homes, townhomes, estate housing, and even patio homes. Homes in Blanco Vista are reflective of the developer's 360-degree attitude that is "designed to take care of community residents in all phases of life."

Blanco Vista enjoys a wide appeal with San Marcos residents who want to move up to a quality master-planned community in their hometown, as well as Austinites who want to enjoy a more laid-back lifestyle.

At the center of Blanco Vista is the main amenity center, which serves as the heart of the community. Here Blanco Vista residents will find a community



facility, junior-sized Olympic pool as well as a splash pool, and two age-appropriate playscapes. Blanco Vista also features a catch and release pond, and is adjacent to nearly 80 acres of county parkland.

### WIMBERLEY

Village of Wimberley:  
512-847-0025;  
[www.wimberley.org](http://www.wimberley.org)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-847-2201

Named by *Travel Holiday* magazine as one of "America's Ten Best Small Towns," Wimberley enjoys a special and magical place in the hearts of its residents. Considered by many to be a kind of Mecca for area artisans who want to leave the bright lights of the big city behind, Wimberley combines old-style Texas hospitality with an eclectic sense of style and panache.

Located off FM 12 north of San Marcos amid the green meadows of the Texas Hill Country, Wimberley is a 50-minute commute from downtown Austin. Towering cypress trees line the Blanco River and Cypress Creek, and residents can be

counted on to find time for a dip into cool shady swimming holes such as Blue Hole. Wildlife in the area is abundant as well, with white-tailed deer, rabbits, and even that Texas icon, the armadillo.

Wimberley is also known for its down home approach to events and entertainment, and is also home to the *Devil's Backbone Tavern*, a classic Texas honky-tonk. Market Days in Wimberley is the second largest event of its kind in Texas and is held the first Saturday of the month from April to December with more than 450 booths.

Another popular attraction is the Corral Theatre, a "walk-in" outdoor movie theatre. You literally park your car, walk in, and sit down in lawn chairs to enjoy the show, all under the big open night sky.

Wimberley incorporated itself as a town in 2000, but it was only the central part of the town. There's a huge area that's not incorporated (called Wimberley Valley), and the whole area attracts many artisans, artists and musicians. Wimberley has also experienced a lot of growth recently, which gives great variety to the housing market – prices generally start in the low \$100s and to up to more than \$1 million. ■

# bastrop COUNTY

## BASTROP

City of Bastrop:  
512-321-3941;  
[www.cityofbastrop.org](http://www.cityofbastrop.org)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-321-2419

Custom homes in a beautiful, natural setting at a reasonable price just a short distance from Austin is the major draw for living in Bastrop – as is a relaxed lifestyle for those who want country living with all the benefits of the city. Those who live here like Bastrop for the natural beauty of the trees and the pines, the four golf courses, and the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa. There's no lack of things to do when you have country living and city access.

Bastrop is also a vibrant rural community that's very attractive to families and young professionals who love the lure of the great outdoors. With the Colorado River running through the town, Bastrop is the perfect place for those who enjoy kayaking, fishing, and other water-sports. Residents have easy access to local state parks, including Bastrop State Park and nearby McKinney Roughs with its 1,100 acres. Golf enthusiasts will appreciate being in an area featuring some of the finest golf courses in the area. Other Bastrop residents enjoy horseback riding, cycling and hiking amid Bastrop's hilly terrain.

The City of Bastrop was awarded a rating of "A+" by the internationally respected Fitch Ratings in 2008 for the city's sound financial position created by healthy fund balances in the face of Bastrop's growth pressures and ongoing



economic development. Recent road construction leading into Austin now means those who commute to have an even shorter drive time. With the completion of the SH-130 toll road, those who live here and work in north Austin can be there in about 35 minutes.

Home developments in Bastrop range from the established Tahitian Village to newer developments like Hunter's Crossing. Many homes are also built on acreage that allow for large homes and a sense of privacy. The median price for a home here is in the low \$100s, while the average listing price is in the low \$200s. The area's newest shopping center is the 60-acre *Burleson Crossing* retail development, featuring several anchor stores and multiple restaurant, as well as 117,000 square feet of retail sales space.

### THE COLONY

Enjoy lots of sunny skies and land at The Colony, located just 16 miles east of the

Austin Bergstrom International Airport off Highway 71 and about 20 minutes from downtown Austin. The Colony is a gated community that gives its residents everything they would have in the city, with spacious lots that offer a sense of privacy in the natural setting of the Bastrop countryside.

Homesites in The Colony are much larger than an average city lot, with one-acre-plus homesites and larger two- and three-acre sites available. Students in The Colony attend schools in the Bastrop Independent School District — the district's newest school, Cedar Creek High School, opened in 2009.

The community offers a real bonus for those seeking to get away from it all in their own private forest on large tree-covered homesites in a master-planned residential community. Neighborhood amenities here include a tree-shaded junior Olympic pool, tennis court, basketball court, sports fields, and wet and dry saunas in the fitness center. The Colony's

clubhouse offers a place for meetings and neighborhood events, as well as for private use by property owners.

There are plenty of outdoor recreational activities to enjoy in the area. A boat launch on the Colorado River is a little more than two miles away, and the 1,100-acre McKinney Roughs nature preserve is also nearby. Just adjacent to The Colony's entrance is the *Lost Pines Resort and Spa*, a Hyatt Regency resort property that features an 18-hole championship golf course.

## COLOVISTA

A master-planned community, ColoVista offers the amenities found in the city, while residents enjoy living in some of the most beautiful natural surroundings Bastrop County has to offer, including homes on acreage.

Located in a heavily wooded area offering beautiful views of the Bastrop countryside, homebuyers moving to ColoVista will find plenty to do. Bastrop State Park and four golf courses are within a five-mile radius of each other.

Depending on the section, homes in ColoVista start at around \$150,000, and can go to \$1 million-plus, with the option to build custom homes on the lot. Located in Bastrop County, the community is located within Smithville Independent School District.

## HUNTERS CROSSING

Known for its famous "Lost Pines" forests, its historic downtown and beautiful Colorado River, Bastrop is the perfect setting for those who want affordable homes and a wide array of neighborhood amenities. *Hunters Crossing* offers small town charm with new homes located deep in the heart of beautiful Bastrop.

Neighborhood amenities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a community room, a park and playground, picnic area, soccer and baseball fields, a com-

munity fishing lake, and greenbelts and trails that connect to Bastrop's city-wide network of trails.

Hunters Crossing is located in the Bastrop Independent School District, a designated 5A school district. Parental involvement in their children's education is key in Bastrop, and the community is known for its strong show of support of school sponsored teams and organizations. Homes in Hunters Crossing are priced from the \$120s to the \$170s, and the community offers easy access to Bastrop's retail centers, restaurants, and schools.

## ELGIN

City of Elgin:  
512-281-5724;  
[www.elgintx.com](http://www.elgintx.com)

Chamber of Commerce:  
512-285-4515

Residents say that Elgin offers a classic small town feeling – with residents walking in the evening or riding bicycles; gathering on Main Street for parades; and getting to know all their neighbors.

Elgin is a Main Street community and has worked with the Texas Historical Commission on the designation. The city also has an active economic development board that helps businesses relocate here.

Many residents work in Austin, and are a mix of retirees and middle-aged and young couples. Elgin offers homebuyers a lot of variation and choice in their decision to purchase a home. From new homes to custom homes to homes on various sized acreages, there are options for all. The market is strong for homes on acreage and for older historic homes, and prices are affordable.

Elgin is located in Bastrop County, although the Travis County line is located just out of town, and Elgin's city limits and



school district fall into part of Williamson, Lee, Travis, and Bastrop Counties, so calculating property taxes depends on the location of the home.

## THE ARBORS AT DOGWOOD CREEK

Juniper, oak and loblolly pine trees add to the landscape of the more than 500 acres of *The Arbors at Dogwood Creek* in Elgin. Nestled away in the rural forest surrounding Highway 95, The Arbors gives its residents the opportunity to enjoy affordable country that's close to Austin.

Families will especially enjoy the lifestyle that The Arbors at Dogwood Creek offers, with a community park featuring basketball, volleyball and tennis courts. Gazebos with barbecue pits, a pavilion and a playscape are also available to residents, as well as a quarter-mile concrete jogging trail. Students attend school in the Elgin Independent School District.

Home prices here range from the \$170s to more than \$500,000, and homes are architecturally controlled and well maintained to protect home investment values. With the larger lot sizes, homeowners at The Arbors also have plenty of room for children to play, a pool, outbuildings, a guest home, or horses. ■



# burnet COUNTY

## BURNET

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City of Burnet:  
512-756-6093;  
[www.cityofburnet.com](http://www.cityofburnet.com)

Chamber of Commerce:  
[www.burnetchamber.org](http://www.burnetchamber.org)

For years, Burnet has been a hidden gem of a lakeside community, tucked away in the hills of central Texas and far away from the stresses of big city living. But with Burnet's designation in a 2006 *Money* magazine article as one of the top five "rural hot spots" to invest in and its growth since then, more people are discovering this Hill Country town.

Burnet's natural beauty and convenient location to the Highland Lakes chain makes it appealing, as does its sense of community. As with many small communities, life in Burnet is centered on its children and schools. Burnet Consolidated Independent School District is the largest employer here, and the *Hill Country Community Foundation* awards a scholarship to every Burnet High School graduate accepted to an accredited college or university.

Health services here include Seton Highland Lakes Hospital – a 42-bed acute care hospital located between Burnet and Marble Falls that offers 24-hour emergency care, plus comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for residents in the surrounding area. The healthcare clinic adjacent to the hospital offers primary and preventive care.

Families and empty nesters alike choose to live here, with many people coming to

look for retirement community. Burnet also offers smaller local shops and stores, as well as larger department stores in nearby Marble Falls.

## MARBLE FALLS

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City of Marble Falls:  
830-693-3615;  
[www.ci.marble-falls.tx.us](http://www.ci.marble-falls.tx.us)

Chamber of Commerce:  
830-693-2815

Marble Falls is known for many things, but the city is probably best known for supplying the beautiful pink granite that helped build the Texas Capitol in Austin. Located in the middle of the Texas Hill Country on the Colorado River, Marble Falls is 47 miles northwest of Austin and 85 miles north of San Antonio.

Its location in the middle of the Highland Lakes area, the largest chain of lakes in

Texas, makes it ideal for boating enthusiasts, and many people have vacation and retirement homes here. Marble Falls is also a relatively affordable place to live with median home prices in the \$280s and prices that go higher for homes within lake communities.

## BEE CREEK

Located in the hilly terrain between Spicewood and Lake Travis off Hwy. 71, Bee Creek is experiencing growth with the addition of planned neighborhoods and the Hill Country Galleria down the road – offering a mix of older and newer homes.

For those who love the natural beauty, privacy and access to the lake that Bee Creek offers, it's a very appealing place to live. The mix of new and older homes in the area also means a greater spread between home prices as well. In Bee Creek, it's not unusual to see a very large, expensive house and then down the road see a little A-frame home. Prices in the



area range from the \$250s to more than \$2 million, and everyone has some access to Lake Travis.

## SPICEWOOD

City of Spicewood:  
[www.spicewoodtx.us](http://www.spicewoodtx.us)

Looking at a map, Spicewood is pretty easy to find. Of course, when driving out to the rural community, the area is a little less defined because of its small size. With a few gas stations, a few barbecue places, and a small mini grocery store, it's much less of a city than nearby Lakeway – with a country lifestyle to match.

Residents here find they can relax and enjoy beautiful views of Lake Travis and the surrounding Texas Hill Country, and wake up in the morning to the sound of birds, not the sound of traffic. Those who move to Spicewood want a vacation home or a second home in the midst of Hill Country surroundings. And for those who decide to make it the location of their primary home, they are happy to learn that their children attend school in the top rated Marble Falls Independent School District.

### THE RESERVE AT LAKE TRAVIS

Located on the highly desirable south shore, The Reserve at Lake Travis boasts panoramic lake and hill country views from beautifully treed home sites. Located near Lakeway and in the award winning Lake Travis Independent School District, it's easily accessible from major thoroughfares of Hwy 71 and Bee Creek Roads. There's even a helipad for air travelers. The Reserve is just minutes away from several championship golf courses, upscale shopping at the nearby Hill Country Galleria, and an array of fine dining, casual restaurants and many other area amenities.

Encompassing 300 lush acres of rolling hill country just minutes west of downtown



Photo Courtesy of Highland Homes

Austin and featuring 3.5 miles of pristine waterfront property along the coveted south banks of Lake Travis, The Reserve is the ultimate in Texas luxury living. Large one to five acre home sites are carefully designed to take full advantage of expansive vistas and water frontage. Complete resort amenities abound including a comprehensive equestrian center and private lake club, full service marina, lakeside restaurant, lazy river pool and much more. With Hal Jones Development's signature attention to detail, The Reserve at Lake Travis is the perfect blend of harmonious design and spectacular natural elements.

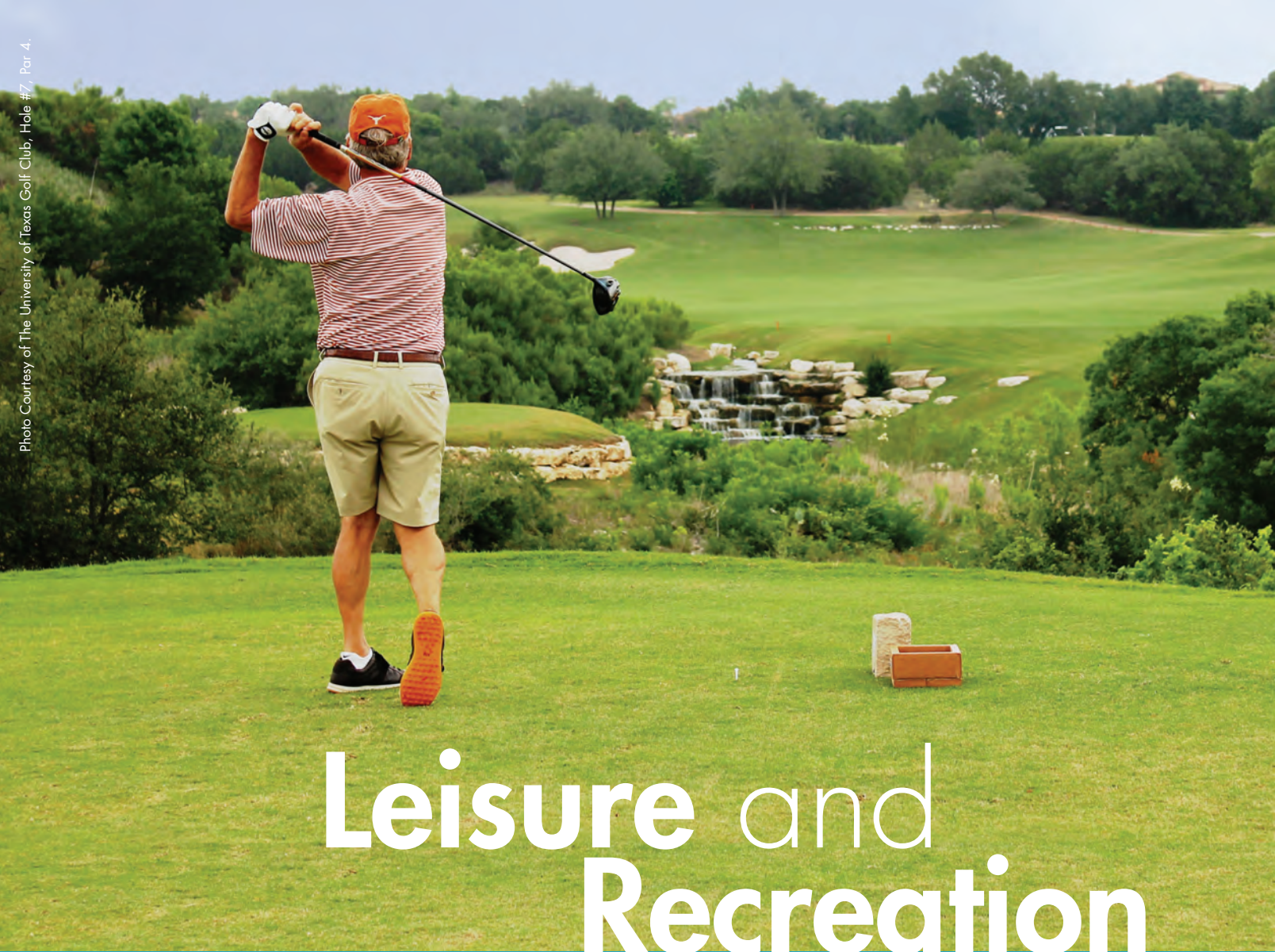
The Reserve at Lake Travis offers abundant amenities for relaxation and entertainment for those seeking true resort living. A multitude of available activities ranging from boating and water sports, to horseback riding, dining, swimming, tennis, or just relaxing with friends will all provide and enhance a casual yet elegant lifestyle. For horse enthusiasts, the Equestrian center is a full-service facility offering English and Western disciplines complete with covered and open arenas. The center also offers boarding, grooming, butler service, training, lessons, events, and trail rides.

The community's full-service public marina offers comprehensive concierge-style services; the housekeeping staff and on-site mechanics allow residents to boat virtually maintenance-free. State-of-the-art security provides maximum protection for 150 covered boat slips, which can accommodate boats up to 80 feet.

Experience carefree living to its fullest in one of The Reserve's beautifully appointed cottages where cozy farmhouse meets elegant plantation manse. The Cottages offer Texas-inspired charm in one and two story floor plans ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 square feet. Casual yet chic design features include metal rooftops, expansive outdoor living spaces, and spacious interiors.

Envision your favorite summer camp complete with all the activities you love: swimming, canoeing, badminton, bocce, horseshoes, and roasting marshmallows over open fire pits. The Cypress Club is also exclusive to residents. Members can relax at the waterfront Bar and Grille, enjoy dining outdoors or in the rustic clubhouse. Prices for homesites start at around \$200,000, and prices for the Villas start in the \$500s. ■





# Leisure and Recreation

**W**hen it comes to leisure, Austinites have a hard time with numbers. After all, there are only two days in the weekend. Trying to figure out how to fit in one, two, three, or more of the many exciting activities Austin has to offer into that one weekend can prove daunting. Should it be indoors or outdoors? Should it be on the water, on land, or even underground? Should it be in town, or an out of town daytrip? Some find that the hardest part of living in Austin is realizing that life may be too short to fit in all the activities.

The most difficult choice the new Austinite faces when trying to assimilate is “where to begin.” Perhaps you’d enjoy a trip to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, or a day of shopping along “the Drag” on Guadalupe. Want sports? There is the Round Rock Express minor league baseball or the University of Texas Longhorn football. Looking for culture? Austin has that too, with numerous museums, theaters, and galleries. Need to cool off? Lake Travis is a great place to spend the day water skiing, sailing, fishing, or just people watching.

Want to experience more of Texas? Try a weekend trip to one of our neighbors. San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston are all just a short drive away. Austin’s central location makes it an ideal location for experiencing Texas. What follows is just a small sampling of what central Texas has to offer. ■



The Blanton. Courtesy of Emery Photography, Inc. — Columbus, Ohio



# ARTS and CULTURE

## MUSEUMS

### Austin Children's Museum

201 Colorado Street  
512-472-2499

[www.austinkids.org](http://www.austinkids.org)

After different locations around the city, the Children's Museum is finally in its permanent home on Colorado. Hands-on exploration is the order of the day, with a variety of activities and exhibits geared for kids from infancy to 100-plus. Spend some time in this 19,000-square-foot, two-story building, with permanent exhibits that allow children to role-play as doctors, grocers, and weathermen, explore the human body and more. Teens will appreciate the special multimedia classes and the facility's recording studio. Look for special activities and classes for all ages throughout the year.

### Austin History Center

810 Guadalupe  
512-974-7480

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/)

As the local history collection of the Austin Public Library, the Austin History Center provides the public with information

about the history, current events and activities of Austin and Travis County. It collects and preserves information about local governments, businesses, residents, institutions and neighborhoods so that generations to come will have access to our history.

### Austin Museum of Art – Downtown

823 Congress Avenue  
512-495-9224

[www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org)

As Austin grows, it only makes sense that its natural love of the arts would grow as well. And so, the Austin Museum of Art outgrew its original villa home at Laguna Gloria and needed a new space to house its rapidly growing collection of significant 20th century American visual art. AMOA is also known for drawing unique temporary exhibits displaying the works of various local and world artists. With the museum in temporary quarters in the Frost Bank Building, plans are underway to construct a new 140,000-square-foot facility designed by Gluckman Mayner Architects of New York on the corner of 4th and Guadalupe.

### Austin Museum of Art -Laguna Gloria

3809 West 35th Street  
512-458-8191

[www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org)

The foresighted Clara Driscoll, who saved San Antonio's Alamo from destruction, also deeded her estate to the Texas Fine Arts Commission. It seems fitting, then, that this beautiful 1915 Mediterranean-style villa and grounds would become home to the Austin Museum of Art in 1961 and an art school. Currently in a state of transition, with a new downtown museum under construction and the museum temporarily quartered in the downtown Frost Bank Building, the museum space is closed, but the art school is open. After AMOA's new downtown home is finished, the art school at Laguna Gloria will expand, while maintaining small gallery space for exhibitions.

### Austin Nature and Science Center

301 Nature Center Drive  
512-327-8181

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc)

Located in the Zilker Park Nature Preserve, the center is often the first oppor- ▶

tunity for urban Austinites to see their wild neighbors up close and personal. The Birds of Prey exhibit shows injured hawks, vultures, and owls that are slowly being nursed back to health, while smaller animals are on view in the Small Wonders exhibition. Children are encouraged to participate as “Eco Detectives” and try a variety of different hands-on activities throughout the center.

### **The Blanton Museum of Art The University of Texas at Austin**

Congress Ave. and MLK Jr. Blvd.  
512-471-7324

[www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org)

With a permanent collection of more than 13,000 pieces that represent the best of 20th century American art, contemporary Latin American art, prints, and drawings, with some Renaissance and Baroque pieces thrown in for good measure, it's easy to see why this museum is considered one of the five top university art museums.

Formerly known as the Archer H. Huntington Art Gallery, the museum was renamed when this Houston financial heavyweight made a significant contribution to create a new museum space. Previously housed at the Harry Ransom Center on campus, visitors can now see the total collection since the new Blanton Museum of Art facility opened in 2006. The new facility serves multiple audiences, offering a wide range of special exhibitions and public programs while developing teaching, research and educational initiatives in addition to its permanent collection.

### **The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**

1800 North Congress Avenue  
512-936-8746

[www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com)

Nestled between the Capitol Complex and The University of Texas at Austin, this museum is impressively large – but then, what else would do when it comes to telling the story of Texas? Museum pieces

alternate between the somberly factual (cannons and old uniforms) to the refreshingly whimsical (a rhinestone-studded Cadillac) to the out-and-out amazing (an actual spacesuit from an Apollo mission)! State of the art media, including an IMAX theatre, make Texas history come alive.

### **Dougherty Arts Center**

1110 Barton Springs Road  
512-397-1458

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty)

Another fine example of Austin's ability to retrofit an art space out of the most unlikely of locations, the Dougherty originally was the site of a Naval and Marine Reserve base. Now a full-on city-sponsored home for visual and performing arts, the Dougherty boasts an art gallery, theater, and studio-lab, although the center is best known for the wide variety of arts classes offered to Austinites, including music, dance, painting, photography, and many more.

### **Elizabet Ney Museum**

304 E. 44th Street  
512-458-2255

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney)

Built in 1892, this was the home/retreat/studio of sculptor Elizabet Ney. Christened “Formosa” (the word for “beautiful” in Portuguese), Ney designed this space in two parts – first building the working studio section, then building a living space for Ney and her husband ten years later. Inside the studio section, visitors will find full-figure statues of Texas heroes sculpted by Ney while in Texas, as well as other sculptures made by Ney of European notables. Especially impressive are the sculptures of Lady Macbeth, Prometheus Bound, and SURSUM, a study of two young nude boys. Visitors are also given insights to the personal life of this unusually gifted and talented woman who made such an impact on Texas and the Texas arts community.

### **French Legation Museum**

802 San Marcos Street  
512-472-8180

[www.frenchlegationmuseum.org](http://www.frenchlegationmuseum.org)

Nestled away in east Austin, if you drive too quickly down East Seventh Street you might miss this beautiful 2.5-acre property that has come under the care of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Lovingly restored to its original grandeur, the French Legation was originally built in 1840-41, and was the short-term residence of a French diplomat during days when Texas was its own Republic. A marvelous place to stroll, the lovely, landscaped museum grounds and carriage house may also be reserved for special parties or functions.

### **George Washington Carver Museum**

1165 Angelina Street  
512-472-4809

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver)

The first African-American neighborhood museum in Texas, the George Washington Carver Museum has dedicated itself to telling the story of African-American history and culture and sponsors a number of activities and workshops for children including the annual photography workshop, “A Smile on My Face.”

### **Jones Center of Contemporary Art**

700 W. Congress Avenue  
512-453-5312

[www.arhousetexas.org](http://www.arhousetexas.org)

Arthouse at the Jones Center creates meaningful opportunities to investigate and experience the art of our time through exhibitions, programs and commissions of new work. It is the oldest statewide visual arts organization in Texas, and the only statewide visual arts organization dedicated entirely to contemporary art.

### **Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms Living History Park**

1400 Pioneer Farms Drive  
512-837-1215

[www.pioneerfarms.org](http://www.pioneerfarms.org)

Take a journey back in time when visiting this fascinating living history museum. Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm was originally a 2,000-acre cotton farm, and offers visitors a glimpse into the lives of

early Central Texas settlers with a historically accurate reenactment of pioneer life. Hands-on activities and special programs make this a history lesson that comes alive.

### Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum

2313 Red River  
512-721-0200  
www.lbjlibrary.com

The most popular and most visited of all thirteen presidential libraries, the LBJ Library and Museum houses two facilities: the library with its archives and treasured by history-loving scholars, and the museum, which allows visitors in all year to see the artifacts from the Johnson era. LBJ's colorful political career is extensively covered, from his humble Central Texas beginnings to his assumption of the Presidency. The museum is geared toward providing the visitor with an experience they'll not soon forget – including outstanding permanent exhibits that cover the culture of the Sixties, to a reproduction of the Johnson's Oval Office.

### Mexic-Arte Museum

419 Congress Ave  
512-480-9373  
www.mexic-artemuseum.org

Provocative, insightful, and thoughtful, the museum is known for its sweeping, dramatic exhibits dedicated to exploring Hispanic art and culture, and are well known for their annual Dia de los Muertos celebration every October and November.

### Neill-Cochran House Museum

2310 San Gabriel Street  
512-478-2335  
www.nchmuseum.org

Designed by Austin master builder Abner Cook, and laid out similarly to the Governor's Mansion (also designed by Cook), the museum is operated by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas. Considered one of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture, the

museum features classic furnishings from the late 18th and 19th centuries.

### National Museum of the Pacific War

340 E. Main Street, Fredericksburg  
830-997-4379

www.nimitz-museum.org

It's hard to miss the Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park-National Museum of the Pacific War when driving down Main Street in Fredericksburg. The impressive childhood home of this World War II hero stands proudly and commands attention. The only state park dedicated to telling the story of America's participation in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, the museum also tells the story of this hometown hero, from Nimitz's boyhood days, to his important role during WWII, to his death in 1966. The 7-acre site is also home to The National Museum of the Pacific War, George Bush Gallery, the Japanese Garden of Peace, the History Walk of the Pacific War, the Plaza of the Presidents, the Surface Warfare Plaza, the Memorial and Victory Walls, the Veterans Walk of Honor and the Center for Pacific War Studies. With a 24,000 sq.ft. exhibit area inside, the museum has

an impressive outdoor exhibit of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, and guns used during WWII.

### O. Henry Museum

409 E. 5th Street  
512-472-1903

www.ohenrymuseum.org

Once the home of William Sidney Porter, known to millions of devoted readers as "O. Henry", this 1891 Victorian cottage was moved to its present location, and is the site of the annual family-friendly "O. Henry Pun-Off."

### Harry Ransom Humanities

#### Research Center

Northeast corner of Guadalupe and  
21st Streets  
512-471-8944

www.hrc.utexas.edu

The Ransom Center is the home of several museums and collections. The Ransom Center has selections from the C.R. Smith Collection of Art of the American West and the Contemporary Latin American Art Collection on display, as well as antiquities from ancient Rome and Greece and medieval art on loan from New York's ▶





## LEISURE AND RECREATION

Metropolitan Museum of Art, and European paintings and sculptures from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. With other treasures that include a 1456 Gutenberg Bible (one of just 13 known to exist in the world), original manuscripts penned by Beethoven, Columbus, and Galileo, and a collection of rare books and extensive materials on theatre arts, the center is a research scholar's dream come true.

### The Republic of Texas Museum

510 E. Anderson Lane  
512-339-1997

[www.drtinfo.org](http://www.drtinfo.org)

Attended by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, this simple collection of artifacts are all from 1836-1846, when Texas was its own country. This DRT-sponsored library is one of the oldest in the state, and offers two hands-on exhibits for children: Great Grandma's Backyard, and a life-size covered wagon.

### Texas Fine Arts Association

700 W. Congress Avenue  
512-453-5312

[www.arthousetexas.org](http://www.arthousetexas.org)

Texas Fine Arts Association creates meaningful opportunities to investigate and experience the art of our time through exhibitions, programs and commissions of new work. It is the oldest statewide visual arts organization in Texas, and the only statewide visual arts organization dedicated entirely to contemporary art.

### Texas Natural Science Center

The University of Texas at Austin  
2400 Trinity Street  
512-471-1604

[www.utexas.edu/tmm](http://www.utexas.edu/tmm)

Built in 1936 to commemorate the Texas centennial, the Texas Memorial Museum includes displays of Texas and natural history, including dinosaur bones, minerals, gems, Native American artifacts, antique firearms, and the original Goddess of Liberty statue from the state capitol dome.



Loguna Gloria

### Texas Military Forces Museum

Camp Mabry  
2200 West 35th Street,  
Building 6406-6967  
512-782-5659

[www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org)

Telling the story of the history of the military in Texas from the days of the Texas Revolution to Desert Storm, the museum is home to an extensive military history library with more than 8,000 books. Special exhibit pieces include a diorama of the Battle of the Alamo, a machine gun from World War I, weapons from the Spanish- American War, and an F4 Phantom jet.

### Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Interstate 35, Waco  
254-750-8631

[www.texasranger.org](http://www.texasranger.org)

Pursuant to its nonprofit mission, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum seeks to disseminate knowledge and inspire appreciation of the Texas Rangers, a legendary symbol of Texas and the American West, and to serve as the principal repository for artifacts and archives relating to the Texas Rangers.

### Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum

605 Robert E. Lee Road  
512-445-5582

[www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org)

Stroll around the grounds, and you'll find examples of bronze, marble, and other sculptures created by world-renown artist and UT art professor Charles Umlauf. Umlauf bequeathed hundreds of his works, as well as his home, studio, and its grounds to the city in 1985. The museum's xeriscaped grounds feature sculptures of animals, religious and mythological stories, and family groups rendered in styles ranging from lyrical to abstract.

## THEATERS & COMPANIES

### Austin Playhouse at Penn Field

3601 S. Congress Avenue  
512-476-0084

[www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com)

The Austin Playhouse supplies Greater Austin with a plethora of theatrical entertainment with a mixture of genres including comedy, drama and a variety of local acts. The 2010/2011 season presents such productions as "The 39 Steps," "The Adventures of Iris and Mom" and "The Trip to Bountiful."

### Bastrop Opera House

711 Spring Street, Bastrop  
512-321-6283

[www.bastropoperahouse.com](http://www.bastropoperahouse.com)

The Bastrop Opera House has come full circle in the Bastrop community since its construction in 1889 – beginning as a theatre during Bastrop's boom days, the Opera House was turned into a motion picture theater, then became the local

teen center. Finally, in 1979, it returned to its theatrical roots when the Bastrop Opera House non-profit theatrical group took possession of the building and launched a program of historic restoration, and were recognized by the Texas Historical Commission for their efforts. This not-for-profit theatre continues to bring family entertainment and outstanding drama productions to Bastrop, and is the home of the children's group, The Bastrop Opera House YOUTHatre.

#### **Blue Theater**

916 Springdale Road  
512-684-3220  
www.bluetheater.org

An alternate entertainment establishment, the Blue Theater strives to fulfill its mission "to cultivate a hive of creative activity through the endeavors of Austin's thriving artist community." It is a sponsored project of the Greater Austin Creative Alliance.

#### **Dougherty Arts Center Theatre**

1110 Barton Springs Road  
512-397-1458

www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty

The old proscenium theatre has seen the full range of Austin talent cross its stage at one time or another. From cultural events to dance to original dramas to children's plays, the 150-seat Dougherty has provided a space and an opportunity for Austin artists to present their talents to their community.

#### **Esther's Follies**

525 E. Sixth Street  
512-320-0553

www.esthersfollies.com

An Austin classic, Esther's Follies is the reigning queen of comedy. Sharp wits and skits, combined with classic routines (Follies founder Shannon Sedwick's Patsy Cline routine, for example), and mixed with biting, edgy, up-to-the-minute political satire makes sure that the crown never slips at the "Pool."

#### **Greenhouse Theatre**

450 Old Kyle Road, Wimberley  
512-847-1592

www.wimberleyplayers.org

Bringing live theatre to the Hill Country, the Wimberley Players are the resident theatre company of this community theatre, where past productions have included performances of the political comedy *Llano Estacado* and the haunting *Rebecca*. Call first for directions, as finding the theatre can be a bit tricky.

#### **Hyde Park Theatre**

511 West 43rd Street  
512-479-7529

www.hydeparktheatre.org

Home to resident theatre company Frontera, Hyde Park Theatre has built a solid reputation as it continues to produce some of the best alternative, original theatre in the region. The 80-seat venue also presents readings, performance art, children's productions, dance performances, and other experimental projects. It also produces the annual Fronterafest, where for five weeks beginning in January, dozens of original plays are performed.

#### **Jones Theater**

Southwestern University  
1001 E. University Avenue,  
Georgetown  
512-863-1378

www.southwestern.tix.com

The Jones Theater is the official theater of the Sarofim School of Fine Arts at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Southwestern's drama department is known for their stylish productions and their acclaimed Summer Stage Repertory Theatre program, where student actors and technicians receive three hours of tuition-free course credit and all participants operate under the technical and artistic direction of faculty and professionals. Company members are selected through a highly competitive audition/interview process on the campus and at regional audition sites across the country.

#### **Long Center**

400 South First Street  
512-472-5111

www.artscenterstage.org

Palmer Auditorium is slowly transitioning. As it is restored and given a make over, it will no longer be known as Palmer, but as the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts. No longer the site for car shows and gun shows, the new auditorium will be the stage for many fine arts productions.

#### **Louise T. Peter Center**

Concordia University  
3400 I-35 North  
512-486-2000

www.concordia.edu

For a small university (relatively speaking, in a city with UT close by), Concordia has a widely varied fine arts campus community to serve, and does so ably with the newly constructed Louise T. Peter Center. The center houses Computer Labs, the Schroeder Performance Hall, music practice rooms, offices and classrooms. Built in 1996, The Peter Center also has a multi-media center with a fully functional television studio.

#### **Mary Moody Northern Theatre**

St Edward's University  
3001 South Congress Avenue  
512-448-8484

www.stedwards.edu/hum/thtr/mmnt.html

St. Edward's University is well known for its theatre department's "hands-on" approach to drama, where "real world" actors and directors come to work side by side with students to produce exciting student productions. The 180-seat theatre in the round provides a unique, up-close experience for both the audience and actors.

#### **National Comedy Theatre of Austin**

2525 W. Anderson Lane  
512-743-4330

NCTA offers good, clean fun for the whole family. Two teams of professional comics compete for laughs by playing ►

improv games that use suggestions from the audience. A referee officiates, keeping score and calling fouls. Audience participation is essential, but no one is singled out for negative attention. NCTA also offers improv training, special corporate training programs, and comedy defensive driving classes.

### **One World Theatre**

7701 Bee Caves Road  
512-330-9500

[www.oneworldtheatre.org](http://www.oneworldtheatre.org)

Looks are deceiving – that large Italian-style villa in West Austin isn't a villa at all – it's a 300-seat theatre that has been bringing some of the best touring artists in music, dance, and drama that the world has to offer. With a 360-degree performance space, One World Theatre offers its audience an incredibly intimate experience. Bookings run the gamut from chanting Tibetan monks to contemporary musicians to chamber music to jazz legends.

### **The Paramount Theatre**

713 Congress Avenue  
512-472-2901

[www.austintheatrealliance.org](http://www.austintheatrealliance.org)

The epicenter of Austin's cultural scene, the Paramount Theatre has been bringing the arts to the capital city since 1915, and is one of Austin's main attractions. With a seating capacity of 1300, the Paramount brings Broadway shows, classic movies, music, and dance to Austin and central Texas almost 300 nights a year.

### **Planet Theatre/**

#### **Vortex Repertory Company**

2307 Manor Road  
512-478-5282

[www.vortexrep.org](http://www.vortexrep.org)

So your taste in theatre runs a little more left of center? With their cutting-edge original productions ranging from cyberpunk operas to goddess plays to performance art, chances are you'll find what you're looking for here. Located in east Austin, this former warehouse is now an

intimate 80-seat theatre known for its eclectic bookings of individual artists and innovative theatre companies.

### **Salado Silver Spur Theater**

108 Royal Street, Salado  
254-947-3456

[www.saladosilverspurtheater.com](http://www.saladosilverspurtheater.com)

The Salado Silver Spur Theater offers comedy entertainment and family fun with vaudeville style comics and clowns for children and seniors alike. The Silber Spur is located in Bell County near Belton, Killeen, Temple, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, Georgetown and Waco.

### **The State Theatre Company**

719 Congress Avenue  
512-472-5143

[www.austintheatrealliance.org](http://www.austintheatrealliance.org)

Built originally as a movie theatre, the State recently completed renovations when the wandering Live Oak Theatre Company ceased its nomadic existence and decided to make the State Theatre its official home. The State houses two stages seating 400 and 100, and provides yet another outlet for Austin's theatre scene. Many well-known local playwrights have had their original plays produced here, and the State also produces classic and contemporary pieces.

### **Texas State University Theatre Center**

601 University Drive, San Marcos  
512-245-2147

[www.txstate.edu](http://www.txstate.edu)

A truly beautiful theatre facility, the round red brick Theatre Center contains two major performance spaces: The modified proscenium stage University Theatre, and the "black box" performance stage Studio Theatre. A third performance space, The Glade Theatre, is outdoors in a garden setting.

### **The University of Texas at Austin**

#### **Performing Arts Center**

Main Complex at 23rd and East Campus Drive  
512-471-1444

[www.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu)

The Performing Arts Center at UT has brought an incredible number of world-class performances to Austin. The main complex at 23rd and East Campus Drive is a virtual rabbit's warren of classrooms, rehearsal halls, studios, and theatres. Bass Concert Hall seats 3,000 and has presented touring Broadway shows such as *Les Misérables* and *Cats*, the Austin Lyric Opera's three major productions, and Austin's beloved holiday treat, *The Nutcracker*. McCullough Theatre, once known as the Opera Lab Theatre, seats 400, and is used for traveling, individual, and student productions. Away from the main complex, Bates Recital Hall in the Music Building offers its audience excellent acoustics in its 700-seat theatre. B. Iden Payne Theatre is a traditional proscenium theatre seating 500, and is part of the Drama Department's Winship Building, as is the Theatre Room, a multi-use space capable of creating unique 360-degree theatrical experiences. The Hogg Auditorium at West 24th and Whitis is newly restored, but maintains its old style proscenium arch design and classic feeling. Named for Texas governor James S. Hogg, the theatre was built in 1933.

### **Zachary Scott Theatre Center**

1510 Toomey Road  
512-476-0541

[www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com)

Austin's beloved Zach Scott Theatre, "Austin's Premiere Professional Theatre," offers two stages to entertain Austin audiences with sold-out performances year-round. The theatre's resident company, ZACH takes the main Whisenhunt Arena stage with its 200 seats to perform such plays as "Angels in America" and the wildly popular "Shear Madness," while smaller productions favor the 130-seat Kleberg Stage. Built in 1933, Zach Scott has gone from a simple community theatre to a major Central Texas regional theatre with a fine reputation.



**Zilker Hillside Theatre**

Zilker Park (Near Barton Springs Pool)  
512-477-5335 or 512-397-1463  
www.zilker.org

Austinites have been coming here for years to enjoy performances under the stars. With room for more than 2,500, the annual Zilker Summer Musical is an Austin tradition that has been performed here for more than 40 years. The Hillside Theatre is also home to the annual Austin Shakespeare Festival in the fall. The theatre provides a venue for other performances throughout the year. Pack a picnic basket, grab a blanket, and head out to the park for this unique experience.

**MUSIC****Austin Cabaret Theatre**

1005 Stobaugh Street  
512-786-6121

www.austincabaret.org

Welcome to Austin's home for cabaret-style music and comedy. Now in its eleventh season, just some recent artists to perform include Susan Lubin, Tony DeSare and Sam Harris.

**Austin Chamber Ensemble**

8908 Wildridge Drive  
512-345-3399

www.austinchamberensemble.com

The Austin Chamber Ensemble initially had a wind quintet as its core ensemble, but since those beginning days in 1981 it has gradually branched out to include all instrumental and vocal combinations in its concerts. In addition to the Austin series, the ensemble has given concerts, master classes and school concerts in many Texas cities as part of the Texas Commission on the Arts touring program.

**Austin Chamber Music Center**

3814 Medical Parkway  
512-454-7562

www.austinchambermusic.org

The Austin Chamber Music Center is dedicated to improving the quality of the Austin community by nurturing and expanding the knowledge, understanding,

and appreciation of chamber music through education and performance. TCMC provides learning opportunities to community youth through outreach programs, and by presenting over 120 public performances yearly of the highest quality.

**Austin Civic Orchestra**

11213 Tracton Lane  
512-301-7370

www.austincivicorchestra.org

Since 1977, the Austin Civic Orchestra has been enriching the Austin cultural scene with its classical music performances. A volunteer group that performs 6-7 concerts each season at affordable prices, the group strives to make quality classical music accessible to everyone, especially children.

**Austin Girls Choir**

3710 Cedar Street, #290  
512-453-0884

www.austin.girlschoir.com

The AGC is a tri-level treble choir of girls 8-18 from the Austin area. Founded in 1990 by artistic director Sara Burden-McClure the organization offers a fantastic opportunity for musically talented girls to learn and perform a wide range of music locally, statewide, and even internationally. The choir has been featured in numerous live and broadcast performances throughout the United States, England, and Germany, earning their organization a well-deserved reputation for excellence.

**Austin Lyric Opera**

901 Barton Springs Road  
512-472-5992

www.austinlyricopera.org

The only professional opera company in Central Texas, the Austin Lyric Opera has earned a fine reputation as they perform both classical and contemporary operas to sold out crowds. The company's season features a new opera performance 3 times a year from November through March. In addition to performing, the Lyric Opera is dedicated to edu-

cating young Austin audiences about music and has formed the Armstrong Community Music School at Barton Springs Road, a new facility with a recital hall, a multimedia lab, classrooms, and teaching studios.

**Austin Symphonic Band**

7900 Centre Park Drive, Suite A  
512-345-7420

www.asband.org

The official band of the City of Austin, this Texas-based group has become one of the nation's premier volunteer concert bands, and has been the recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Silver Scroll in 1993. The band continues its tradition of bringing quality music to the community with their three concert Subscription Series that features themed concerts and guest artists. The band will also present their free concerts at the Zilker Park Hillside Theatre in the fall, on Mother's Day and on Father's Day, as well as send their Microband with their own brand of light-hearted music to area senior activity centers and nursing homes.

**Austin Symphony Orchestra**

1101 Red River Street  
512-476-6064

www.austinsymphony.org

The oldest performing arts group in Austin, the Austin Symphony Orchestra has been thrilling Austin since 1911. From modern American composers to classical music to patriotic themes at the annual Fourth of July celebration on Auditorium Shores, the Austin Symphony continues to dazzle and amaze.

**Capital City Men's Chorus**

PO Box 50082  
512-477-7464

www.ccmcaustin.org

The CCMC seeks to inspire and entertain through collective pride and through singing diverse choral music. ►

## LEISURE AND RECREATION

The organization is a member of GALA Choruses (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), and strives to provide a musical, social, and service outlet for all persons interested in men's choral music and its production; and present a positive image of the gay community within the larger Austin community.

### Chamber Soloists of Austin

3922 Balcones Drive  
512-380-0065

[www.chambersoloists.com](http://www.chambersoloists.com)

Formed in 1987 with five core internationally active members, the Chamber Soloists of Austin sought to establish a resident classical chamber ensemble that would gain widespread support in the Austin Community. Flash forward to the present, where guest artists from Austin and from all over the country collaborate with the members to perform programs that combine well-known, much-loved gems of the chamber music repertoire with worthy, lesser-known works. For the past five years, in addition to the chamber ensemble concerts, the Chamber Soloists invite a number of additional musicians both from Austin and from around the United States to come together to perform as a chamber orchestra, without a conductor. And don't forget the popular annual Mozart Birthday Celebration, with about 25 musicians and individual soloists performing concertos of Mozart here in Austin.

### Chorus Austin

PO Box 204361  
512-719-3300

[www.chorusaustin.net](http://www.chorusaustin.net)

Known for their truly remarkable choral/orchestral performances, the group's performances are not limited to the Austin area. They tour the central Texas region, and often perform with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and performs an annual "Sing-It-Yourself" holiday Messiah in December and an annual summer

Musical for Children. Can't wait for one of their major performances? Call the chorus to see when this 140-member chorus performs at St.

### Matthews Episcopal Church.

#### La Follia Austin Baroque

PO Box 29773  
512-879-1993

[www.lafollia.org](http://www.lafollia.org)

If it ain't baroque, don't fix it. La Follia Austin Baroque, founded in 1980, performs Baroque music using instruments and performance styles proper to the Baroque period (c. 1600-1750). Performances are held at the First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Avenue, at the corner of 30th and Whitis.

### River City Pops

PO Box 201285  
512-350-7777

[www.rivercitypops.org](http://www.rivercitypops.org)

The River City Pops have the happy philosophy that "performing in public is cheaper than therapy, and lots more fun!" The 40 member community chorus draws its members from all walks of life in the Austin community, and are bound

by a love of singing and performing. RCP mounts two performance productions a year.

### Salon Concerts

PO Box 163501  
342-2785

[www.salonconcerts.org](http://www.salonconcerts.org)

Founded 14 years ago by violist Robert Rudié in a desire to provide Austin with small chamber music concerts in private homes, Salon Concerts has been popular with artists, patrons, and audiences alike. Combining music with gourmet refreshments and an opportunity to meet the musical artists has resulted in successful intimate performances that must be experienced. The group also performs its Rush Hour Concerts during the notorious "rush hour" on the Wednesday after a subscription concert, and features excerpts from the same program. In 1991, Rudié also created CHAMPS (Chamber Music in Public Schools), dedicated to providing student string players the opportunity to play chamber music, in 1991 he created CHAMPS under Salon Concerts auspices. ■



Photo Courtesy of Austin Symphony Orchestra



# SIGHTS and ATTRACTIONS

Photo By Robert H. McGee

## Alamo Draffhouse Cinemas

Alamo Village – Village Shopping Center  
2700 W Anderson Lane; 512-459-7090

Alamo Lake Creek –

Lake Creek Shopping Center

13729 Research Blvd; 512-219-5408

Alamo South Lamar

1120 S. Lamar; 512-707-8262

Alamo Draffhouse Ritz Downtown

320 E. 6th , 512-476-1320

[www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com)

The Alamo Draffhouse Cinemas are a movie buff's dream come true. Constantly changing movies and themes, sliding easily from one eclectic genre to another the Alamo Draffhouse Cinemas succeeds where other independent movie houses failed. Films include independent releases, Anime, the latest from Hong Kong, spaghetti western nights, midnight movies, and of course, the ever-popular Mr. Sinus Theatre – an experience unto itself. There's even UT football on the big screen. Ever true to their motto: Dinner –

Drinks – Movies – Events, the Alamo Draffhouse is a popular Austin entertainment destination.

## Antiquing

South Congress

From the Congress Avenue Bridge

south to Post Road

Looking for the perfect afternoon of shopping for antiques as you stroll along the avenue? Look no further than South Congress, with its variety of antique and what-not shops, and little eateries nestled in between.

## Aquarena Center

921 Aquarena Springs Drive, San Marcos  
512-245-7570

[www.aquarena.txstate.edu](http://www.aquarena.txstate.edu)

Aquarena Center provides people of all ages with the ability to recognize Spring Lake as an unique freshwater ecosystem through interpretative interactive experiences that engages the audience in an

exploration of interconnections between all living things and water.

## Austin City Limits (ACL Live)

The Moody Theater

310 W. Willie Nelson Boulevard

512-225-7999

[www.austincitylimits.org](http://www.austincitylimits.org)

Such a deal – if you can get the tickets to get in. Since 1975, KLRU's public television live music show has brought the best and brightest in the music world to its intimate shows, where the admission and beer is always free. Past artists have included Bonnie Raitt, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Sheryl Crow and many, many more. Call for ticket distribution information, and realize that timing really is everything, as sometimes tickets disappear within the first five minutes of distribution. Also, having a ticket doesn't always guarantee admission, so arrive early. Seating is limited, to 400, and is handled on a "first-come" basis. ▶



### **Austin City Limits Music Festival (ACL Festival)**

Zilker Park  
2100 Barton Springs Road  
512-505-4483  
[www.aclfestival.com](http://www.aclfestival.com)

Now celebrating its tenth year, this annual, three-day, Autumn musical event brings home the city's nickname as the Live Music Capital of the World by presenting a vast array of artists from the local to international stages. In all, ACL Festival hosts more than 130 acts playing rock, indie, country, folk, electronic and more on Zilker Park's eight stages, with over 70,000 fans attend the festival each day. Its carnivallike atmosphere, which is reminiscent of Woodstock, also provides patrons with food and art, most of which is from local vendors.

### **Austin Duck Adventures**

1605 W. 5th Street  
512-4-SPLASH  
[www.austinducks.com](http://www.austinducks.com)

Make a splash, and enjoy the best touring on both land and lake! Austin Duck Adventures offers the best of both land and water worlds as you tour downtown on wheels and see the State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the Bob Bullock Museum, Congress Avenue and 6th Street before taking to the lake in a revamped amphibious vehicle – a British Alvis Stewart.

### **Austin Overtures, Inc.**

512-659-9478  
[www.austinovertures.com](http://www.austinovertures.com)

All around Austin in 90 minutes! Dow and Mary Davidson, owners of the latest tour company, want you to know and love Austin as much as they do. Drive around the Capital City in their big fuchsia pink van, and see more than 30 historical and cultural points of interest on the 30-mile tour route. Dow's interest in all things historical keep the tour lively and interesting, and he narrates the tour with son Graham, all to the music of local band The Fence Cutters. Purchase tickets for this eclectic and entertaining tour at the Austin Convention Center and Visitors Bureau in

downtown Austin at 201 East 2nd Street. GPS technology will be added which will track the tour and allow the taped tour narration to perfectly sync with the van's actual location.

### **Austin Steam Train Association**

Corner of Hwy. 183 and FM 1431  
Business office- 610 Brazos St., Ste. 210  
512-477-8468  
[www.austinsteamtrain.org](http://www.austinsteamtrain.org)

All aboooooard! Step into another era as you leisurely travel aboard the Hill Country Flyer, one of several steam powered excursion trains operated by the Austin Steam Train Association. The central Texas steam train travels deep into the Hill Country and returns to Cedar Park, while another, shorter route offers a two hour excursion to Liberty Hill and back.

### **Austin Triathletes**

512-314-5773  
[www.austintriatheletes.org](http://www.austintriatheletes.org)

Good things come in threes, and members of the Austin Triathletes couldn't agree more. This multi-sport club is focused on sharing their passion of sports and fitness with others on all skill levels. Anyone who is a Triathlete, or interested in completing his or her first triathlon is encouraged to join.

### **Austin's Park**

16231 North IH-35  
512-670-9600  
[www.austinspark.com](http://www.austinspark.com)

Open year-round, Austin's Park is reminiscent of "Paradise Island" from the Disney classic movie "Pinocchio" – except you don't have to worry about sprouting donkey ears halfway through your fun. Over 22 fun-filled acres just off the Grand Parkway exit on I-35, Austin's Park features family-oriented activities such as miniature golf, go-carts, bumper cars, laser-tag, batting cages, and even a rock climbing wall. A game pavilion and an arcade help to maintain the non-stop action, and an imaginative and interactive kiddy ride and play area offers something for the younger set while older siblings scamper off.

### **Austin Zoo**

10807 Rawhide Trail  
512-288-1490  
[www.austinzoo.org](http://www.austinzoo.org)

Take a walk on the wild side. A visit to the Austin Zoo offers an up close look at animals from around the world in a safe, family-friendly environment. Bonus: there's a shady picnic area complete with grills-perfect for parties and get-togethers.

### **Beach Volleyball**

Volente Beach  
16107 Wharf Cove, Leander  
512-258-5109  
[www.volentebeach.com](http://www.volentebeach.com)

If you build it, they will come. Years ago, someone had the bright idea to build this beautiful private lakefront park, complete with windsurfing, swimming, and of course, volleyball. Three lighted sand courts await volleyball enthusiasts whose love of the game doesn't end with sundown.

### **Cap City Comedy Club**

8120 Research Blvd  
512-467-2333  
[www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com)

Blessed with some of the best local and national comic talents to hit the stage, Cap City has been keeping their audiences laughing in Central Texas for more than 15 years. Under new management, Mish Mash, Inc., the club presents and promotes newer talents from the Austin area, while assembling a strong line-up of Austin favorites. The club also hosts headlining appearances by touring national comic talents such as Paul F. Tompkins of HBO's Mr. Show and Rick Overton. Shows are every night at 8 p.m., with additional shows Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m. Non-smoking shows are at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

### **Capital Cruises**

Hyatt Regency Boat Dock  
208 Barton Springs Road  
512-480-9264  
[www.capitalcruises.com](http://www.capitalcruises.com)

Just add water! Capital Cruises offers a

variety of options for those who would like to cruise around Town Lake. Public and private dinner cruises, sightseeing cruises, and bat watching excursions are among the services offered, in addition to canoe, kayak, and electric paddle-boats. The owners of Capital Cruises also pride themselves on their all-electric boat fleet to minimize impact on the environment, as well as their involvement in the Austin community through their donation of time, and services to many area youth and non-profit organizations.

### Capital Metro Moonlight & Starlight 'Dillos

Specific Route Information:  
512-474-1200

[www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org)

Trying to get around downtown Austin for some evening entertainment? Frustrated by ever-increasing parking lot fees, if you can find parking downtown? Take Capital Metro's advice, and "Skip the limo, take the 'Dillo." From 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday nights. The 'Dillo is Cap Metro's popular and FREE historic park and ride trolley and small bus service designed to take you from your north or south Austin location to the posh downtown Austin entertainment district, without the parking hassle! The Moonlight 'Dillo runs a downtown circuit through the entertainment district, while the Starlight Dillo runs much further, running north and south from 15th Street to Riverside Drive.

### Capitol Visitors Center

112 E. 11th Street  
SE corner of the Capitol Grounds  
512-305-8400

[www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com](http://www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com)

Get a historical perspective, and learn all about the Capitol, its grounds, and the General Land Office when you visit the Capitol Visitors Center. Open seven days a week (but closed on holidays), the CVC features a theatre, a Texas Department of Transportation information kiosk, and a gift shop. Park in the nearby State Visitor



Parking garage, off 12th and 13th Streets on San Jacinto.

### Congress Avenue Bats

Congress Avenue Bridge  
512-478-0098

Mid-March through Mid-October  
Bat's Entertainment! The summer home of the 1.5 million Mexican free-tail bats that migrate here every year, the Congress Avenue Bridge also is a great place to witness the dramatic night flight that occurs every evening.

### Dave & Buster's

9333 Research Blvd.  
512-346-8015  
[www.daveandbusters.com](http://www.daveandbusters.com)

"There's no reason why you have to be a kid to have all the fun!" is the rallying call of Dave & Buster's, the games/arcade/ restaurant/bar that encourages the inner child in all adults to come out and play. Limited to the 18 and up crowd (children must be accompanied by an adult) Dave & Buster's gives grown-ups the chance to play the latest arcade games. Enjoy yourself and have all the arcade fun you've been missing since you were a teenager – only without the braces this time.

### Elite Boat Club

512-797-5358  
[www.eliteboatclub.com](http://www.eliteboatclub.com)

Westlake Beach Marina  
(Lake Austin)  
West Beach Marina  
(south shore of Lake Travis)  
Northshore Marina  
(north shore of Lake Travis)

Ahoy, matey! The newest and most exclusive boat club has landed in Austin – not to mention the most user-friendly boat club! Elite Boat Club takes out all the hassle of boat ownership, but leaves in all the fun. Club members simply need to log online, pick out the boat they want and make reservations. The capable crew at the Elite Boat Club does the rest – and will even make sure that your ship comes with life jackets, beverages and water sports equipment per your request to make your lake adventure complete. That's it – no trouble, no clean up, no maintenance! Members can choose their reservation from a variety of well-maintained, clean and late model boats without any unexpected upkeep costs, or spending time transporting, launching, preparing, or cleaning their boat, and a low member-to-boat ratio means you can book a boat for consecutive days. Have you always been a landlubber, but wanted to experience the ▶

Hamilton Pool Courtesy of TxDOT



lake lifestyle fully? Elite Boat Club has regular orientation and training classes that will soon have you out on the water in no time. In addition to their member services, Elite Boat Club also offers charter services for their 12-passenger 29-foot twin engine Cobalt.

### East Sixth Street

Intersection of East Sixth Street and Congress to I-35  
[ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/sixthmap.htm](http://ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/sixthmap.htm)  
 This is truly a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde experience. By day this section of Sixth Street is bustling with the office workers going about their normal routine and tourists attracted by the many landmarks and historical buildings in the area. By night the area is transformed, becoming a glittering strip of bars and live music clubs.

### First Thursday

South Congress Avenue  
 What started as a neighborhood block party shared among a few local businesses has grown to epic proportions. The First Thursday of each month, merchants and restaurants all along South Congress Avenue in the enchanting SoCo District throw open their doors until 10 p.m., playing host to an array of events and activities.

### Flagship Texas

124 Lakeway Drive  
 512-261-6484  
[www.theflagshiptexas.com](http://www.theflagshiptexas.com)  
 Spend a day on Lake Travis in luxury with a group of friends. The Flagship Texas is a private luxury charter catering to larger groups. Corporate events, weddings, elegant dinners and dances, birthdays, and retirement dinners are just a sample of the events you can book on The Flagship Texas.

### Fredericksburg

[www.fredericksburg-texas.com](http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com)  
 A short daytrip away, this quaint German colony town seems almost like a fairy tale. Antique shops abound, as do the historic buildings, boutiques, and German restaurants. Take the time to check out the cute peach and fruit stands, vineyards and orchards that dot Hwy 290.

### Hamilton Pool

Hamilton Pool Road  
 FM 3238 off Hwy., 71  
 512-264-2740  
 Open 9a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Thousands of years in the making, this uniquely beautiful grotto and its swimming hole have access limited to the 100 cars

that fit in its parking lot. Swimmers should call ahead to check availability.

### Hot Air Ballooning

Central Texas Ballooning Association  
 512-479-9421  
[www.main.org/ctba](http://www.main.org/ctba)  
 Up, up and away, in your beautiful balloon! The Central Texas Ballooning Association keeps an up-to-date list of members with commercial hot air balloon certificates ready, willing, and able to take you soaring aloft.

### Inner Space Cavern

I-35, Exit 259  
 Georgetown  
 512-931-CAVE  
[www.innerspace.com](http://www.innerspace.com)  
 Beauty is more than surface deep, and nowhere could that be truer than Georgetown's Inner Space Cavern. This living cavern is estimated to be over 100 million years old and continues to grow and develop.

### Just For Fun

Emerald Point Marina  
 5973 Hilene Rd.  
 512-266-9710  
[www.jff.net](http://www.jff.net)  
 Since 1987, Austinites have logged more than one-half million boating hours on Central Texas lakes thanks to Just For Fun, the watercraft rental company. Fun in the sun and enjoying the lake lifestyle may be yours for a few hours or a getaway weekend on one of the rental boats offered by Just For Fun. From late model Waverunners, ski boats, pontoon boats and even party barges for up to 70 people, Just For Fun has been helping to keep things cool in the summertime. Just For Fun also specializes in weekend houseboat rentals from their original location at Emerald Point Marina, and features the largest selection of luxury houseboats on Lake Travis. Most Just For Fun houseboats come equipped with water slides, hot tubs and queen sized beds. Another Just For Fun location is set to open in the near future at the Lake Travis Marina.



### Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center

4801 LaCrosse Ave.  
512-292-4200

[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

A veritable garden of delights, this native plant botanical garden features beautiful terraces, arbors, courtyards and meadows. Enjoy the observation tower, visitor's gallery, café, gift store and nature trails.

### Lady Bird Lake

[www.texasoutside.com/townlake](http://www.texasoutside.com/townlake)

Town Lake offers Austinites a number of ways to get out and enjoy Mother Nature right in the heart of downtown-by canoeing, kayaking the waterway or biking, running or walking around the path.

### Lake Austin Spa Resort

1755 S. Quinlan Park Rd.  
512-372-7380

[www.lakeaustin.com](http://www.lakeaustin.com)

Need a little pampering? Look no further than Lake Austin Spa Resort, where you can find the rest and relaxation you seek. In addition to their variety of spa services, Lake Austin Spa Resort also offers programs on many different topics, including health, gardening, cooking classes, and nutrition.

### Lake Travis and Lakeway Marina

103A Lakeway Dr.  
512-261-7511

[www.lakewaymarina.com](http://www.lakewaymarina.com)

The largest and longest lake in the Highland Lakes chain, Lake Travis is popular with boating and fishing enthusiasts. Of special note is Lakeway Marina, one of the larger marinas on the lake, which offers permanent or daily slips, and has a full service repair facility. Don't own a boat but want to enjoy a day on the lake? They also offer boat and wave-runner rentals, fishing guides and sunset cruises, as well as private charter boats for entertaining, corporate outings, and other events.

### LBJ Yacht Club & Marina

200 S. Wirtz Dam Road  
Marble Falls  
(Located off FM 2147 next to Horseshoe Bay)  
830-693-9172

[www.lakelbjmarina.com](http://www.lakelbjmarina.com)

Making that getaway to the lake that much easier, the LBJ Yacht Club and Marina on the Highland Lakes is only 40 minutes away from Austin proper and a world away from your everyday routine. Located next to the famous Horseshoe Bay Resort and only five minutes from historic Marble Falls, the LBJ

Yacht Club is considered one of the prettiest marinas around, and offers a host of activities perfect for a family weekend. Beach swimming, jet ski rentals, a water park and water slides keep things cool, while boating enthusiasts will enjoy LBJ Yacht Club's full service facility that includes amenities such as a public boat ramp, boat rental service, and shore power among others.

### Mt. Bonnell

3800 Mt. Bonnell Road  
512-974-6700

To visit Mt. Bonnell is to indulge in a time-honored tradition. Climb the 99 steps to one of the highest vantage points in Austin and enjoy the beautiful sunset overlooking one of the most beautiful vistas in the city.

### Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

26515 Natural Bridge Caverns Rd.

San Antonio

830-438-7400

[www.nbwildliferanchtx.com](http://www.nbwildliferanchtx.com)

Ever long to visit exciting, exotic, wild places, but lack the money and time to do so? Now there's a way to scratch that itch for adventure – take a photo safari at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch. You'll get a taste of the African Savannah, jungles of Madagascar, the outback of Australia, the North American Plains, the Rocky Mountains, and other wild habitats around the world. Visitors can also see over 500 animals from six of the seven continents, and photograph to their hearts content as they drive through this beautiful rolling Hill Country ranch.

### Rodeo Austin Star of Texas

9100 Decker Lake Road  
512-919-3005

[www.rodeoaustin.com](http://www.rodeoaustin.com)

The Capital Area's temple for all things cowboy, Rodeo Austin Star of Texas is THE venue for the Texas tradition of making one's live with dirt on one's hands and sweat on one's brow. Much more than a venue for great concerts, fairs, rodeos ▶



Mount Bonnell | Courtesy of TxDOT

## LEISURE AND RECREATION

and livestock shows, the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, contributes over \$1.6 million annually to the youth of Texas.

### San Antonio River Walk

210-227-4262

[www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

Just 79 miles to the south is a whole other world – San Antonio. After visiting the Alamo, take the time to stroll along the famous River Walk – a canal system built below the city streets along the San Antonio River. With hundreds of shops and restaurants to choose from in the downtown area, large cypress trees hanging over the water's edge, and impressive stonework along the way, the River Walk is an experience not to miss.

### Schlitterbahn

#### Waterpark Resort

305 W. Austin Street, New Braunfels

830-625-2351

[www.schlitterbahn.com](http://www.schlitterbahn.com)

Open late April - late September

Unlike any other area waterpark, Schlitterbahn means cool relief from the hot Texas summer heat for thousands of Texas families. Jump into the refreshing waters of the Comal River, and find out what all the fuss is about. With high tech rides, slides, pools, inner tube floats, and kiddie parks, it is no wonder that Schlitterbahn is consistently voted one of top waterparks in the world, and it is located right in Austin's backyard.

### South by Southwest

#### (SXSW)

512-467-7979

[www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com)

The South by Southwest (SXSW) Conferences & Festivals offer the unique convergence of original music, independent films, and emerging technologies. Fostering creative and professional growth alike, SXSW is the premier destination for discovery.

### Texas Governor's Mansion

1010 Colorado

512-463-5516

[www.txfgm.org](http://www.txfgm.org)

Home to Texas governors since 1856, the ante-bellum Mansion underwent a major restoration from 1979-1982, turning it into a museum of authentic period furniture and a modern home for the governor of Texas. Call first to check for tour times.

### Texas State Fair

3921 Martin Luther King Blvd.

Fair Park, Dallas

214-565-9931

[www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com)

End of September - October

From all across Texas, thousands come to the 277-acre park to celebrate what makes Texas so great. "Big Tex" greets visitors at the gate. From there, everything from livestock competitions to carnival rides to agriculture exhibits to skill demonstrations to live music to fireworks is waiting.

### Treaty Oak

Treaty Oak Park, on Baylor Street

between 5th and 6th Streets

The Treaty Oak southern live oak is the last surviving member of the Council Oaks, a grove of 14 trees that served as a sacred meeting place for Comanche and Tonkawa Tribes. Forestry experts estimate the Treaty Oak to be about 500 years old and, at one time, the tree's branches had a spread of 127 feet. According to legend, the oak stood as a witness to a treaty between Indians and the Anglo settlers.

### Violet Crown Cinema

434 W 2nd Street

512-495-9600

[www.violetcrowncinema.com](http://www.violetcrowncinema.com)

For only the second time in its history, Austin's vibrant downtown district has welcomed an amazing new movie theater. Opened in April of 2011, the locally owned Violet Crown Cinema is

an art house theater that brings to Greater Austin the best, and most creatively relevant, of the world's movies.

This venue also offers the added, rare advantage of providing its patrons with a bar and a café featuring great drinks and a number of excellent appetizers and snacks that go well beyond the usual popcorn-and-soda movie theater fare. This includes a great selection of beer, wine and cocktails, along with gourmet pizza, spring rolls and hot snack platters, to name just some of the delicacies offered.

As icing on the cake, Violet Crown Cinema also offers parking validation with the purchase of a movie ticket, affectively giving movie buffs a total of four hours of free parking in the AMLI Building's attached garage. Also, free valet parking is available to patrons near the Cinema's Malaga entrance. Patrons must bring their parking tickets to the box office for validation.

### Windsurfing at

#### Windy Point

Bob Wentz Park

512-340-2833

[www.co.travis.tx.us/tmr/parks](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tmr/parks)

On any sunny day, you'll find the windsurfers at Windy Point in Bob Wentz Park. In fact, Windy Point's popularity with windsurfers is the reason it has become the adopted home to the Austin Windsurfer Club.

### Zilker Botanical Gardens

2220 Barton Springs Road

512-477-8672

open 7a.m. to 6 p.m.

[www.zilker garden.org](http://www.zilker garden.org)

Twenty-two acres, forty garden clubs, and a lot of green thumbs went into making this a paradise. The acreage now includes an Oriental garden, a butterfly garden, cactus garden and the Mabel Davis Rose Garden among others. ■



# SXSW

## CONVERGENCE OF MUSIC AND ALL THINGS INTERACTIVE

**M**ost college towns calm down during Spring Break as students leave for party points beyond – but not Austin. After all, why would anyone leave when one of the biggest events in the music, interactive and film business happens right here?

Every March since 1987, *South By Southwest (SXSW)* has taken over the Capital City. One of the world's largest and most respected industry conferences, SXSW showcases two weeks of the best in new music, film, digital media and

interactive arts – plus hundreds of industry-related seminars, discussions, workshops, interviews, meetings, and panels.

Though they're all housed under the general SXSW name, the event is actually made up of three distinct industry conferences: the *SXSW Interactive Festival*; the *SXSW Film Conference & Festival*; and the *SXSW Music & Media Conference*. And no matter what your industry preference, there's no question that the festival has a huge impact on the city – economic and otherwise.

Consider that the Interactive portion alone was up 36 percent from 2010 with nearly 20,000 paying attendees, while average hotel room rates were about \$240 a night – nearly double the norm. And, downtown hotel revenue from the 2011 event was nearly \$27 million, up a whopping \$5 million from last year.

Headquartered at the Austin Convention Center, the 2012 dates are March 9-18, and it's a golden opportunity for musicians, filmmakers and interactive experts to ▶



expand horizons, network, and even get discovered.

### MUSIC AND MORE

In fact, more deals take place during the 10 days or so of SXSW than at the blackjack tables in Vegas, but the conferences combined are much more than that. The *New York Times*, in a March 2006 article, reported that SXSW is "...a hub for operating outside the recording business...It could be finding a European distributor for a self-released album or the offer of a mid-western college tour."

It's also a chance for fans to discover new favorites and genres, hear new tunes from industry veterans, see great documentaries and feature films, and learn about the latest in digital and interactive media.

SXSW celebrated its 24th anniversary with the 2011 event, and the presence of creative hipsters that descend on downtown during SXSW transform Austin's streets, clubs, theaters, restaurants and stores into a beehive of activity, making the city the only place to be for those 10 days.

Consider that impresario and multi-Grammy winning producer, composer and arranger Quincy Jones delivered the keynote address at the 2009 event. Other speakers that year included Toy Adam (Yahoo!), Martin Atkins (Invisible Records), Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival), Jose (Joe) Cuello (MTV), Eric Speck (The Island Def Jam Music Group) and Chris Benard (Microsoft). Flash forward two years later, and the convergence of technology and pop culture is evident with the registration numbers: In 2011, the interactive segment attracted nearly 20,000 registrants versus 14,000 for music – with organizers bringing in such major acts such as Big Boi, Yeasayer, and Matt and Kim to play

parties, not to mention surprise shows by such bands as the Foo Fighters on the last day of Interactive.

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT SXSW

The SXSW event starts with SXSW Interactive, overlaps slightly with SXSW Film, and is in full swing by the time the hipsters in their skinny jeans descend into town for SXSW Music, which wraps up the week.

### SXSW INTERACTIVE

Technology buffs and regular Joes are equally at home during SXSW Interactive, which emphasizes cutting-edge, creative thinking in the wide world of websites, interactivity, gaming, new media, social networking, and all things technology. This is where industry trends happen – and where the seeds germinate for what might appear on your computer screen, Twitter, *Mashable*, *Tech Crunch*, or Facebook feed in the future.

The SXSW *Web Awards* competition is also part of the fun, where finalists vie for recognition as the best websites that were either launched or completely redesigned. Winners are announced at a ceremony held during the festival and include such diverse categories as Amusement, Blog, Music, and Technical Achievement.

*ScreenBurn* is a venue for emerging game designers to pitch their concept to a jury of established professionals. Participants are challenged to excite the imagination with a description of the game they want to build. During *ScreenBurn* and after initial screenings, four finalists present their ideas to a jury of professional and modern game designers, who judge and provide meaningful game design feedback.

### SXSW FILM

SXSW Film has grown into a major event on the international movie industry calendar over the last 22 years, and the festival

has earned a reputation as a venue for launching emerging talents.

Attendees and fans screen hundreds of feature films, documentaries, animated movies and shorts over 10 days during the SXSW Film Conference & Festival, with screenings taking place at local theaters and other venues all over the city – from the latest premieres to groundbreaking and often controversial independent films.

Directors and stars often introduce their works and talk about them after the show – and offerings include everything from big-budget Hollywood studio productions to edgy, independent films made on a shoestring.

SXSW also hosts the annual (and very popular) *Texas High School Film Competition*, and the 2012 event will be its eighth year running. The contest is designed to "support and cultivate the state's next generation of filmmakers," and eligibility is limited to Texas students enrolled in the 9th through 12th grades for the full academic year. Films must be 5 minutes or shorter and completed between January 1 and December 17 the year preceding the SXSW event. A panel of independent filmmakers and industry figures judge the submissions, with prizes – including SXSW Film registrations – awarded for first, second, and third place. All films chosen as finalists are shown in a special program as part of the regular SXSW Film Festival schedule.

### SXSW MUSIC

The SXSW Music and Media Conference wraps up the week, and there's a clear distinction when film and interactive ends and when music begins. From the hipsters on the street to the multiple venues around town stacked with amps and guitars to the long wait times at every restaurant and all-night breakfast place in town, things change during music – and that's a good thing.

Consider that the 2008 conference featured more than 1,600 acts from every continent on 70 Austin stages and more than 9,000 registered attendees from all over the world. And that in 2011, there were more than 2,000 bands and more than 14,000 registered attendees – and countless others who attended free shows and more.

The annual *Austin Music Awards* kicks off the music portion of SXSW, and it's a can't-miss event. Get tickets when they go on sale, because this is one event that sells out every year. After all, though it is an industry conference, the opportunity to see bands from all over the world – especially up-and-coming artists – is far too tempting for many music fans, many of whom travel from around the country and the world just to check out the newest bands.

In past years, SXSW speakers and performers have included Pete Townsend, Jeff Beck, David Byrne, Shawn Colvin, Tony Bennett, Johnny Cash, Sheryl Crow, Billy Idol, Philip Glass, Wyclif Jean, Robert Plant, and Willie Nelson.

## MIXED METALS AND WRISTBANDS

Now that you know all about the coolest party in town each March, how do you get in? It all depends how much you want to spend. Prices run from \$375 (early registration; film-only badge) to \$1,250 (late registration/walk-up rate; platinum badge) for badges, depending on which pieces of the festival you want to attend.

The Platinum Badge gets you into all SXSW Music, Film and Interactive Events; the Music Badge covers all SXSW Music & Media Conference and Festival events; the Gold Badge offers access to all SXSW Film and SXSW Interactive events; the Film Badge gets you into all the SXSW Film Conference and Festival events; and the Interactive Badge is your



ticket to all SXSW Interactive Festival and ScreenBurn events.

For less cash, there are wristbands – but they're a hot ticket item, too. In 2011, prices were \$139 to \$165 (early bird gets the wristband!), and there were several sales – all of which happened online and only to Austin residents. Sound strict? That's the point. Organizers implemented this plan to thwart scalpers and re-sellers – and to ensure local residents had a chance to participate.

Keep in mind that the wristband doesn't get you into the industry/conference part of the event – and sometimes not even the shows. That's because admission happens on a first-come, first-serve basis, with Platinum Badge holders and specific Film or Music Badge holders (depending on if it's a band or a film you want to see) admitted first.

Best bet? No matter what you want to see at SXSW, be prepared and have a plan. If there's a list of films you want to see, get there early – and show up really early for big-buzz films. Some films are also available on a per ticket basis.

For music, the wristband covers the admission price, but if it's a hot show,

arrive early and keep your fingers crossed. Everything depends on the space available after SXSW Music and Platinum badge holders are admitted.

If you're a music lover short on cash, you'll still see and hear great music. SXSW Music offers free shows three nights a week at Auditorium Shores during the festival with great artists – Elvis Costello, Alejandro Escovedo and The Strokes have all played free shows here. There are also tons of other musical events that happen outside the official festival. In particular, the shows on South Congress Avenue and South Lamar have grown into their own – including a fun, quirky festival of music known to locals as *South By South Austin*.

No matter how you get involved, SXSW underscores Austin's undisputed position as a creative nexus of entertainment, and as Austinites, we're proud to call it our own each March. So get a sitter, splurge for a badge or a wristband, enjoy the benefits of the city's creative status, and catch some of the finest and most innovative technology, music and filmmaking anywhere. For more information about SXSW (and for details about the 2012 event), log on to [www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com). ■

# SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

SOMETHING FOR every FAN

Photo By Joe Cowdy/Portraits by Deena

## BASEBALL

### Round Rock Express

Dell Diamond  
3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd.  
Round Rock  
512-255-2255  
[www.roundrockexpress.com](http://www.roundrockexpress.com)  
*Tune in to KWNX 1260AM  
for live broadcast.*

Enjoy America's pastime with 10,000 other fans of this beloved minor league Triple A ball club in the beautiful, newly enhanced Dell Diamond – but get your tickets early, as games tend to sell out quickly, especially during playoffs. Built to be family friendly and family affordable, kids can either sit in their seats and do the seventh inning stretch, or check out the children's fun center in the berm area. Spike, the mascot of the Round Rock

Express, helps to keep spirits high during the April-September season.

## BASKETBALL

### Austin Toros

Cedar Park Center  
2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park  
512-236-8333  
[www.nba.com/dleague/austin/](http://www.nba.com/dleague/austin/)  
As a member of the NBA's Development League, the first fully affiliated minor league of the NBA, the Austin Toros opened their inaugural season in November 2005 at the Austin Convention Center. The NBA Development League, nicknamed the D-League, is designed to grow the sport of basketball, and offers fun, family entertainment at affordable prices. The D-League is a source of on-court talent for the NBA's 30 teams – training employees in management,

operations, public relations, sales and marketing positions. The Toros are affiliated with the NBA's the 2007 World Champion San Antonio Spurs.

## FOOTBALL

### Austin Outlaws

106 W. Covington  
512-796-0108  
[www.austinoutlaws.com](http://www.austinoutlaws.com)  
Now in their in their eleventh year, the Outlaws are the longest lasting of any other women's football team in the country. Working to bring the Women's Football Alliance championship title to Austin, they made great progress thusfar by winning two Division titles (in 2001 (IWFL) and 2009 (WFA)) and one Championship (in 2001 (IWFL)). Last year the Outlaws made it to the second round of the play-offs.



**HOCKEY****Texas Stars**

Cedar Park Center  
2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park  
512-GO-STARS (467-8277)  
[www.texasstarshockey.com](http://www.texasstarshockey.com)

The top affiliate of the NHL Dallas Stars, the Texas Stars came out fighting during their inaugural season in 2009-2010 with a 46-27 season and then going on to win both its Division and Conference Championships and was subsequently awarded the W. Clarke Trophy. It shares its home venue, Cedar Park Center, with its NBA counterpart, the Austin Toros.

**ROLLER DERBY****TXRD—Lonestar Rollergirls**

512-428-4475

[www.bggw.com](http://www.bggw.com)

Sexy, and on wheels. Welcome to all-girl roller-rama mama entertainment that begs to be seen to be believed. Watch the four league teams – the Putas del Fuego, the Holy Rollers, the Hellcats and the Rhinestone Cowgirls tear it up at the Playland Skate Center. Call for the full schedule.

**RUGBY****The Austin Rugby Football Club****The Austin Women's Rugby Football Club**

512-926-9017

[www.austinrugby.com](http://www.austinrugby.com)

Rugby is alive and well and kicking and

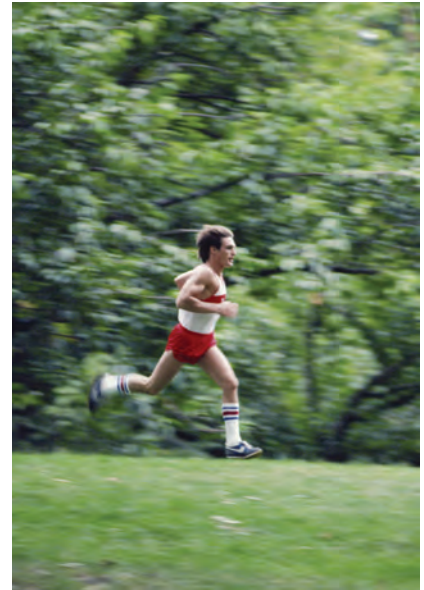
elbowing and whacking... The Austin Rugby Football Club is the original Austin area rugby club, and after its start in 1967, is still going strong with numerous wins and divisional titles to their credit. The Austin Rugby Football Club is also one of only two rugby clubs in the United States to own its own grounds and ball clubhouse. In 1992 the club incorporated and restructured to become a corporate organization by 1994, with the goals of becoming involved in community activities, charitable work and a closer involvement with the business community of Austin. Affiliated with the ARFC is The Austin Women's Rugby Football Club, the Austin Valkyries. Both groups meet Tuesdays and Thursdays of every week for practice on Burr Field, and newcomers are always welcome. Check out the website for directions, or call the clubhouse.

**The Austin Huns Rugby Football Club**

512-459-HUNS

[www.hunsrugby.com](http://www.hunsrugby.com)

The Huns splintered off from the Austin Rugby Football Club in 1972, and haven't looked back since. They have a reputation for tough and scrappy rugby, and have also toured, playing in countries such as England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, and the Caymen Islands. Players come from all walks of life. A time honored Huns tradition



is to gather at Nasty's, the neighborhood dive bar, after every game.

**RUNNING/WALKING****RunTex**

422 W. Riverside Drive

512-472-3254

9901 N. Capital of TX Hwy.

512-343-1164

2201 Lake Austin Blvd.

512-477-9464

[www.runtex.com](http://www.runtex.com)

If you're a runner, jogger, walker, or power walker in this town, eventually you'll find all roads lead to RunTex. RunTex, a runner's equipment store, has listings of calendar events and running/walking trails throughout the city.

**VOLLEYBALL**

There's nothing like a game of volleyball on sand, and with a variety of sand courts to choose from, there's no reason not to indulge.

**Austin Park Facilities**

512-974-6700

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks)

Zilker Park has four public sand volleyball courts complete with nets just north of Barton Springs Road. Pease Park has three courts without nets, but call PARD to check with them about net rental. ▶



Photo By: Steve DeMent

## LEISURE AND RECREATION

### Aussie's Bar and Grill

306 Barton Springs Road  
512-480-0952

Nets and brewskis are a natural combination. Aussie's maintains league play in the summer.

### TENNIS

Austin Parks and  
Recreation Department

512-480-3020

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks)

Call PARD for a complete listing of the

28 first-come, first-served free municipal tennis court facilities found throughout the city. The city's larger municipal facilities may charge a small usage fee and may also require reservations. ■

## AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION

One thing is for certain: when it comes to the great outdoors, Austin just can't be beat. From inner city greenbelts to nearby state parks, Austin has been enjoying an ongoing love affair with Mother Nature for years. Presented here are just a few of the many parks found in the Austin area. For more information and a complete listing of all area parks, call the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) at 512-499-6700, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) at 512-473-4083, the Travis County Parks Department at 512-473-9437, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 512-389-8900.

### Balcones Canyonland Preserve

512-473-9383

### Barton Creek Greenbelt

Access from off MoPac South west of Capital of Texas Hwy. (Loop 360), or from Zilker Park west of the pool.  
512-499-6700

### Blunn Creek Greenbelt

700 East Live Oak to 1400 Alameda, then to Riverside Drive.

### Emma Long Metropolitan Park

1600 City Park Road  
512-346-1831

### Mansfield Recreation Area

Northwest end of Mansfield Dam on RR620

### Mayfield Park and Preserve

3808 W. 35th Street

### McKinney Falls State Park

5808 McKinney Falls Parkway

### Pace Bend Park

FM 2322, off Hwy. 71

### Pease District Park and Splash Pad

North Lamar, between 12th and 24th Street

### Shoal Creek Greenbelt

From 38th Street to Town Lake

### Town Lake Metropolitan Park

Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam

### Waterloo Park

403 E. 15th Street  
Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve  
805 Capital of Texas Hwy.;  
512-327-7622

### Zilker Metropolitan Park

2100-2200 Barton Springs Road

### STATE PARKS

Camping fees vary; entrance fee.  
Reservations: 512-389-8900

### Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

16710 Ranch Rd 965  
Fredericksburg TX 78624  
915-247-3903  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/enchantd](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/enchantd)

### Garner State Park

HCR #70 Box 599  
Concan TX 78838  
830-232-6132  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner)

### Hill Country State Natural Area

10600 Bandera Creek Rd  
Bandera TX 78003  
830-796-4413  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/hillcoun](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/hillcoun)

### Kerrville-Schreiner State Park

2385 Bandera Highway  
Kerrville TX 78028  
830-257-5392 or 830-257-CAMP  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/kerrvill](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/kerrvill)

### Lost Maples State Natural Area

37221 FM 187  
Vanderpool TX 78885  
830-966-3413  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lostmap](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lostmap)  
Foliage Color Change Report:  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lostmap/foilage](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lostmap/foilage)

### Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

P O Box 238  
Stonewall TX 78671  
830-644-2252  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lbj/#farm](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lbj/#farm)

### Pedernales Falls State Park

2585 Park Road 6026  
Johnson City TX 78636  
830-868-7304  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/pederal/pederal](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/pederal/pederal)

GOLF COURSES-PRIVATE						
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE	HOLES/PAR	USGA RATING/SLOPE	LENGTH IN YARDS
Austin Country Club	Austin	512-328-0090	<a href="http://www.austincountryclub.com">www.austincountryclub.com</a>	18/72	73.5/135	6,848
Balcones Country Club	Austin	512-258-2775	<a href="http://www.balconescountryclub.com">www.balconescountryclub.com</a>	18/70	69.8/115	6,360
Barton Creek Country Club Fazio Hills Fazio Canyons Crenshaw Canyons Palmer Lakeside	Austin	866-572-7369	<a href="http://www.bartoncreek.com/golf.aspx">www.bartoncreek.com/golf.aspx</a>	18/72 18/72 18/72 18/72	74.0/138 75.1/141 70.8/121 72.2/133	7,125 7,153 7,100 7,150
The Hills of Lakeway The Hills Flintrock Falls Yaupon Live Oak	Austin	512-333-0340 512-333-0340 512-261-7175 512-261-7173	<a href="http://www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/The-Hills-of-Lakeway">www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/ The-Hills-of-Lakeway</a>	18/72 18/72 18/72 18/72	73.8/140 74.1/140 71.6/121	7,035 7,051 7,045 6,643
Great Hills Golf Club	Austin	512-345-0505	<a href="http://www.greathillsc.org">www.greathillsc.org</a>	18/71	72.2/171	6,607
Lost Creek Country Club	Austin	512-892-1205	<a href="http://www.lostcreekclub.com">www.lostcreekclub.com</a>	18/72	68.8/130	6,700
Onion Creek Club	Austin	512-282-2150	<a href="http://www.onioncreekclub.com">www.onioncreekclub.com</a>	27/70	71.1/124	6,500
River Place Country Club	Austin	512-346-6784	<a href="http://www.riverplaceclub.com">www.riverplaceclub.com</a>	18/71	72.0/128	6,611
University of Texas Golf Club	Austin	512-266-6464	<a href="http://www.utgolfclub.com">www.utgolfclub.com</a>	18/71	74.4/130	7,154
Spicewood Golf Course	Austin	512-258-1621	<a href="http://www.balconescountryclub.com">www.balconescountryclub.com</a>	18/72	71.3/118	6,769
Spanish Oaks Golf Club	Bee Cave	512-421-8530	<a href="http://www.spanishoaks.com/golf-club">www.spanishoaks.com/golf-club</a>	18/71	73.7/144	6,954
Twin Creeks Country Club	Cedar Park	512-331-5900	<a href="http://www.twincreeksaustin.com/golf">www.twincreeksaustin.com/golf</a>	18/72	75.7/142	7,033
Cimarron Hills	Georgetwon	877-561-3331	<a href="http://www.cimarronhills.com">www.cimarronhills.com</a>	18/72	74.3/135	7,302
Berry Creek Country Club	Georgetown	512-930-4615	<a href="http://www.berrycreekcc.com">www.berrycreekcc.com</a>	18/72	71.6/126	6,648
Blue Lake Golf	Horseshoe Bay	830-598-5524	<a href="http://www.bluelakegolf.com">www.bluelakegolf.com</a>	9/32	31.6/104	2,336
Horseshoe Bay Resort	Horseshoe Bay	830-598-2511	<a href="http://www.horseshoebaytexas.com">www.horseshoebaytexas.com</a>	18/72	75.4/136	7,000
GOLF COURSES-PUBLIC						
Avery Ranch Golf Club	Austin	512-248-2442	<a href="http://www.averyranch.com">www.averyranch.com</a>	18/72	18/72	7,121
Bluebonnet Hill Golf Club	Austin	512-272-4228	<a href="http://www.bluebonnehillgolf.com">www.bluebonnehillgolf.com</a>	18/72	70.0/113	6,500
Falconhead Golf Club	Austin	512-402-1558	<a href="http://www.falconheadaustin.com">www.falconheadaustin.com</a>	18/72	75/129	7,302
Grey Rock Golf Club	Austin	512-288-4297	<a href="http://www.greyrockgolfclub.com">www.greyrockgolfclub.com</a>	18/72	72.7/122	6,859
Hancock Golf Course	Austin	512-453-0276	<a href="http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancockgc">www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancockgc</a>	9/35	65.2/112	5,266
Jimmy Clay Golf Course	Austin	512-444-0999	<a href="http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/jimmyclay">www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/jimmyclay</a>	18/72	72.4/124	6,900
Lions Municipal Golf Course	Austin	512-477-6963	<a href="http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/lions">www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/lions</a>	18/71	68.9/118	6,001
Morris Williams Golf Course	Austin	512-926-1298	<a href="http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/morriswilliams">www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/morriswilliams</a>	18/72	71.5/121	6,636
Riverside Golf Course	Austin	512-386-7077	<a href="http://www.golfersweb.com/golfsan/rivside">www.golfersweb.com/golfsan/rivside</a>	18/71	69.0/123	6,300
Roy Kizer Golf Course	Austin	512-444-0999	<a href="http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/kizer">www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/kizer</a>	18/71	71.6/125	6,814
Lost Pines Golf Club	Bastrop	512-321-2327	<a href="http://www.lostpinesgolfclub.com">www.lostpinesgolfclub.com</a>	18/72	71.1/117	6,646
Pine Forest Golf Club	Bastrop	512-321-1181	<a href="http://www.pineforestgolfclub.com">www.pineforestgolfclub.com</a>	18/72	71.5/126	6,600
Delaware Springs Municipal	Burnet	512-756-8471	<a href="http://www.delawaresprings.com">www.delawaresprings.com</a>	18/72	72/121	6,891
Cowan Creek Golf Club	Georgetown	512-864-1111	<a href="http://www.golfsctx.com">www.golfsctx.com</a>	18/72	73.9/129	7,050
Legacy Hills Golf Course	Georgetown	512-864-1222	<a href="http://www.golfsctx.com">www.golfsctx.com</a>	18/72	73.4/127	7,088
White Wing Golf Course	Georgetown	512-864-1244	<a href="http://www.golfsctx.com">www.golfsctx.com</a>	18/72	71.6/126	6,700
The Golf Club of Star Ranch	Hutto	512-252-4653	<a href="http://www.starranchgolf.com">www.starranchgolf.com</a>	18/71	73.5/130	7,017
Plum Creek Golf Club	Kyle	512-262-5555	<a href="http://www.plumcreekgolf.com">www.plumcreekgolf.com</a>	18/72	74.0/125	7,132
Highland Lakes Golf Club	Lago Vista	512-382-6529	<a href="http://www.highlandlakesgolfclub.com">www.highlandlakesgolfclub.com</a>	18/72	70.0/118	6,579
The Golf Club at Crystal Falls	Leander	512-259-5855	<a href="http://www.golfclubatcrystalfalls.com">www.golfclubatcrystalfalls.com</a>	18/72	72.3/126	6,654
Lago Vista Golf Club	Lago Vista	512-267-1170	<a href="http://www.lagovistagc.com">www.lagovistagc.com</a>	18/72	71.0/129	6,579
Point Venture Golf Course	Leander	512-267-2768	<a href="http://www.pointventuregolf.com">www.pointventuregolf.com</a>	9/36	67.2/110	5,853
Wolfdancer Golf Club	Lost Pines	512-308-9653	<a href="http://www.wolfdancerclub.com">www.wolfdancerclub.com</a>	18/72	76.1/137	7,205
Shadow Glen Golf Club	Manor	512-278-1304	<a href="http://www.shadowglengolf.com">www.shadowglengolf.com</a>	18/72	74.2/139	7,174
Forest Creek Golf Course	Round Rock	512-388-2874	<a href="http://www.forestcreek.com">www.forestcreek.com</a>	18/72	73.8/136	7,147
Blackhawk Golf Club	Pflugerville	512-251-9000	<a href="http://www.blackhawkgolf.com">www.blackhawkgolf.com</a>	18/72	73.3/123	7,103
Teravista Golf Club	Round Rock	512-651-9850	<a href="http://www.teravistagolf.com">www.teravistagolf.com</a>	18/72	74.3/140	7,039
Pedernales Golf Club	Spicewood	512-264-1489	<a href="http://www.pedernalesgolfclub.com">www.pedernalesgolfclub.com</a>	9/36	70/110	3,400



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY

### First Thursday on South Congress Avenue (Monthly Event)

South Congress between Barton Spring Road and Elizabeth Street • [www.firstthursday.info](http://www.firstthursday.info)  
First Thursday is a popular monthly event that takes on the atmosphere of a giant block party. On the first Thursday of each month, South Congress stores stay open late, with some of stores having special sales on items, food and drinks. Booths also line the street, selling handcrafted jewelry, photography and art, pottery, homemade soap, clothes and more. Live music and other activities also take place.



Photo By H. Chase Seal

## FEBRUARY

### Carnaval in Austin

Austin • [www.sambaparty.com](http://www.sambaparty.com)

Known as "Austin's Best Party," Carnaval in Austin is one of the biggest celebrations outside Brazil. Music and wild abandon merge into relentless fun for all.



### Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon

Austin • 512-476-7223 • [www.youraustinmarathon.com](http://www.youraustinmarathon.com)

For more than 20 years the Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon hosts as many as 20,000 runners every year and has generated more than \$90 million for the local economy and \$6 million for Austin non-profits. In all the Marathon has hosted an international field of some 130,000 runners, and is the 23rd largest marathon in the United States.

## MARCH

### Zilker Kite Festival

Zilker Park, Austin • 512-448-5481 • [www.zilkerkitefestival.com](http://www.zilkerkitefestival.com)

Started in 1929, the Zilker Kite Festival is a staple in annual Austin events and celebrates the beauty of the homemade kite. Each year thousands of kites take to the air, painting the blue sky with a miasma of bright colors. While attendees are encouraged to bring their own homemade kites to participate, the Festival is for anyone who wants to attend. Other activities include face painting, games and contests, rock wall climbing, moonwalks, and plenty of tasty food.



### Capitol 10,000

Austin • 512-445-3598 • [www.statesman.com/cap10k/](http://www.statesman.com/cap10k/)

The Statesman Capitol 10,000 is the largest 10K run (or walk, if you wish) in Texas and the fifth largest in the nation. In its 34th year, the Capitol 10,000 has become an annual rite of spring in the region.

### It's My Park! Day

Austin • 512-445-3598 • [www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html](http://www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html)

It's My Park! Day is an annual community service day focused on improvements to Austin's parks. Individuals and community groups lead projects ranging from simple cleaning and repair to trail building and playground installation.



# GREATER AUSTIN IN EVERY SEASON

## South by Southwest (SXSW)

Austin • 512-467-7979 • [www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com)

South by Southwest (SXSW) offers the unique convergence of original music, independent films and emerging technologies. Fostering creative and professional growth alike, SXSW is the premier destination for discovery.

## Rodeo Austin Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo

Austin • 512-919-3000 • [www.rodeoaustin.com](http://www.rodeoaustin.com)

Founded in 1938, the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo hosts the world's fifth largest indoor, regular season pro rodeo. Along with Rodeo Austin, the organization delivers superior entertainment to fans year-round, while boasting an economic impact that exceeds \$54 million annually.

## APRIL

### Eeyore's Birthday Party

Austin • 512-448-5160 • [www.eeyores.com](http://www.eeyores.com)

A fun event for all ages, Eeyores Birthday Party is a fundraiser to benefit non-profit groups in Austin. Some of these groups will be selling hot and cold food (including vegetarian), soft drinks, juices, spring water, and Texas beer at the event. Among other activities, prizes are given out for the best costume.

### Art City Austin

Austin • 512-609-8591 • [www.artallianceaustin.org/art\\_city\\_austin.html](http://www.artallianceaustin.org/art_city_austin.html)

Reflecting Austin's intense creative energy, Art City Austin is an art bastion where curious and delightful discoveries await! Join us in the heart of the 2nd Street District to celebrate art Austin-style! Artists, live music, local eats, a Kid's Block and so much more.

### Old Settler's Music Festival

Austin • 512-609-8591 • [www.artallianceaustin.org/art\\_city\\_austin.html](http://www.artallianceaustin.org/art_city_austin.html)

Old Settler's Music Festival is Central Texas' signature music event featuring Grammy winning Americana, arts & crafts, camping, food & libations. Some musical genres represented at the Festival include acoustic jazz & blues, bluegrass, old-time local favorites & award-winning artists from around the world.

## MAY

### Annual O. Henry Pun-Off World Championship

Austin • [www.punpunpun.com](http://www.punpunpun.com)

Celebrate the lowest form of humor in high style at the O. Henry Pun-Off World Championships! The festivities include live music, BBQ and a vintage book sale. Many will be left out standing in their fields as they attempt to harvest this year's bumper crop of corn. Up for grabs will be the title of "Punniest of Show." This freestyle competition for punsters with prepared material allows 90 seconds for creative have-wits from every crook and nanny to stuff their struts. ▶



Photo Courtesy of TxDOT



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY (CONTINUED)

### Austin Wine and Music Festival

Austin • [www.austinwineandmusicfestival.com](http://www.austinwineandmusicfestival.com)

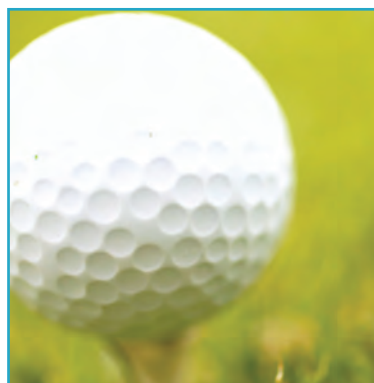
Great music, great wine and great company merge with seminars, vendors and so much more to make a Festival devoted to the beauty of and art of both disciplines.



### Kerrville Folk Festival

Bastrop • 830-257-3599 • [www.kerrville-music.com](http://www.kerrville-music.com)

This annual summer festival, which runs from May into June, features some 100 of the top folk musicians in the country. Some artists and musical groups include 3 Penny Acre, Del Rey, Flyin' A's, Guy Forsyth and Ronny Cox.



### Beyond the Lights Celebrity Golf Classic

Austin • 323-359-8680 • [www.beyondthelights.org](http://www.beyondthelights.org)

Inspired by the hit TV show *Friday Night Lights*, Beyond the Lights Celebrity Golf Classic raises funds to help those with spinal cord injuries. Join celebrity hosts Kyle Chandler and Brad Leland of *FNL*, for this fun and noteworthy golfing event, as well as enjoy an evening with a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, dinner, charity presentation and entertainment.

## JUNE

### Keep Austin Weird Fest and 5k

Long Center, Austin • 512-524-2953 • [www.keepaustinweirdfest.com](http://www.keepaustinweirdfest.com)

Keep Austin Weird Fest as a salute to the nonconformist in every Austinite. True to, the festival presents a wide variety of entertainment and events that celebrates the the eclectic and artistic nature of the community, such as a symphonic selection of music, family activities watching fellow attendees in weird and wacky costumes as well as local vendors in an air of hospitality and fun.



### Republic of Texas Biker Rally

Austin • 512-252-9768 • [www.rotrally.com](http://www.rotrally.com)

The Republic of Texas Biker Rally is the biggest motorcycle rally in Texas and one of largest motorcycle events in the U.S. Come and enjoy the amazing motorcycles and the Austin nightlife during the four-day event. The Rally is known for great music, with just some headliners include Hank Williams Jr., Willie Nelson, Bret Michaels, Joan Jett, Paul Rogers, Steppenwolf, David Allen Coe and Charlie Daniels.



### KGSR's Blues on the Green

Austin • [www.kgsr.com/other/blues/](http://www.kgsr.com/other/blues/)

Bring your friends and family out every other Wednesday evening between June and August to enjoy six big nights of Austin's longest running FREE music series. Patrons can enjoy food and non-alcoholic beverages from local restaurants, and stop by the local charity area for volunteer and donation information. Blankets, lawn chairs, dogs on leashes and children are all welcome.



# GREATER AUSTIN IN EVERY SEASON

## Juneteenth

Austin • 512-369-2725 • [www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com](http://www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com)

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth honors African American heritage by commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. State of Texas in 1865, and is recognized as a state holiday in 37 U.S. states. A day of both reflection and celebration, it features great entertainment, vendors, a pageant and a parade, as well as a 2K Freedom Run/Walk.



## JULY

### H-E-B Austin Symphony July Fourth Concert and Fireworks

Austin • 512-476-6242 • [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org)

This yearly celebration of independence at Austin's Town Lake is marked by music and a spectacular fireworks display. Bring a blanket and come early!

## AUGUST

### Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival

Austin • 512-454-5766 • [www.austinchronicle.com/grobase/Market/HotSauce](http://www.austinchronicle.com/grobase/Market/HotSauce)

Come join this beautiful confluence of music and hot culinary delights! This spicy event is free with a donation of 3 non-perishable food items for The Capital Area Food Bank of Texas.



Photo Courtesy of TADOT

### Austin Ice Cream Festival

Austin • 512-480-5966 • [www.icecreamfestival.org](http://www.icecreamfestival.org)

The Austin Ice Cream Festival is an event centered around family, fun and ice cream which harkens back to a time when ice cream trucks roamed the streets and running through sprinklers was an art form. Come out and enjoy contests, music and, of course, iced treats.



### Batfest/Night of the Bat

Austin • 512-441-9015

This unique celebration of one of the region's most entrancing natural wonders features arts and crafts, music, food, bat watching, children's activities and educational displays. Estimated attendance is around 40,000! Enjoy the scenic backdrop of Lady Bird Lake and downtown Austin, as up to two million Mexican Free Tail Bats emerge for their nightly flight. All for FREE!

## SEPTEMBER

### Austin City Limits Music Festival (ACL Fest)

Zilker Park • 2100 Barton Springs Road • 512-505-4483 • [www.aclfestival.com](http://www.aclfestival.com)

This annual, three-day, Autumn musical event brings home the city's nickname as the Live Music Capital of the World by presenting a vast array of artists from the local to international stages. In all, ACL Festival hosts more than 130 acts playing rock, indie, country, folk, electronic and more on Zilker Park's eight stages, with over 70,000 fans attend the festival each day. Its carnival-like atmosphere, which is reminiscent of Woodstock, also provides patrons with food and art, most of which is from local vendors. ▶



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Pecan Street Festival

Austin • 512-485-3190 • [www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com](http://www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com)

The Pecan Street Festival has been an Austin tradition for more than 33 years. The show features artisans from all over the United States who display and sell homemade art and craftwork. Festival attendees can find paintings, sculpture, woodwork, candles, jewelry, cowboy hats, home decor, games and other useful and whimsical household items. It also occurs in the Spring.



## AVIA Austin Triathlon

Austin • 512-472-5646 • [www.theaustintriathlon.com](http://www.theaustintriathlon.com)

With Austin as its backdrop, this annual, world-class event brings together an international collection athletes and spectators in an atmosphere that combines the best of a large event with the intimacy of a small town race. Enjoy also the FREE after-party.



## OCTOBER

### Austin Chocolate Festival

Austin • 512-637-0479 • [www.austinchocolatefestival.com](http://www.austinchocolatefestival.com)

Finally! A chocolate event that's guilt-free! The Austin Chocolate Festival is a nonprofit fundraiser for local charities that consists of local chocolatiers and chocolate artisans including restaurants, bakeries, chocolatiers, patisseries, authors and catering companies from Texas. The vendors compete against each other in several categories, offer samples to festival guests and sell their products.



### Austin Film Festival

Austin • 512-478-4795 • [www.austinfilmfestival.com](http://www.austinfilmfestival.com)

The Austin Film Festival furthers the art and craft of filmmaking by inspiring and championing the work of screenwriters, filmmakers, and all artists who use the language of film to tell a story. The Austin Film Festival is the event to attend if you are looking to meet and speak with top notch movie executives and producers, screenwriters and filmmakers.

### Texas Book Festival

Austin • 512-478-4795 • [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org)

Established in 1995 by First Lady Laura Bush, a former librarian and an ardent advocate of literacy, the Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas and imagination. Since its inception, the Festival has quickly evolved into one of the premier literary events in the country, annually hosting over 200 Texas and nationally known authors. Approximately 40,000 visitors participate annually in a weekend of author readings and presentations, panel discussions, book signings, and musical entertainment.



# GREATER AUSTIN IN EVERY SEASON

## NOVEMBER

### East Austin Studio Tour

Austin • 512-385-1670 • [www.eastaustinstudiotour.com](http://www.eastaustinstudiotour.com)

Come and explore the creative enclave of East Austin as you participate in a tour of dozens of artist studios.

### Austin Celtic Festival

Austin • 512-385-1670 • [www.austincelticfestival.com](http://www.austincelticfestival.com)

The Austin Celtic Festival is the largest gathering of celtic in Central Texas. Its attractions and activities run the gambit of celtic culture, including music, dance, athletic competitions, history, animals and artisans.

### ThunderCloud Sub's Turkey Trot

Zilker Park, Austin • 512-479-8805 • [www.thundercloud.com/index.php/trot](http://www.thundercloud.com/index.php/trot)

For the past 20 years, the ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot has raised over one million dollars in for local meaningful causes. This unique running event has something for everyone, including a chip-timed five-mile run, a one-mile walk and the Stepping Stone School Kids K.



## DECEMBER

### Zilker Tree Lighting Ceremony

Zilker Park, Austin • 512-972-9867 • [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/zhtree.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/zhtree.htm)

Come to Zilker Park every night in December and watch the spectacle of the light of the Zilker Tree, which stands 155 feet tall and is composed of 39 streamers holding a total of 3,309 lights. At the top of the tree, a double star measures 10 feet from point to point.

### Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

Austin • 512-477-1605 • [www.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.armadillobazaar.com)

Now in its 36th season, the Armadillo presents an amazing array of original work by some 160 artists and artisans, from affordable gifts to high-end art. It's the city's favorite shopping party, with live music and a full bar. Gift givers, art collectors and music lovers can grab a beer, dance a bit and have fun while they shop.

### North Pole Flyer

Cear Park • 512-477-8468 • [www.austinsteamtrain.org](http://www.austinsteamtrain.org)

The Austin Steam Train Association helps Santa Claus and Mrs Claus celebrate Christmas aboard the North Pole Flyer (Most weekends in December). This 2 to 2 1/2 hour round trip holiday celebration train ride is sure to please young and old alike as they experience the train's own Christmas story. All events take place on the train, which does not stop or deboard. ■



## AUSTIN AREA EVENTS

The Austin annual calendar is filled with festivals and events. To request to have an event added in next year's calendar, email [lmendez@argpub.com](mailto:lmendez@argpub.com)





# Shopping and Dining

**a**ustinites are known for having a longtime love affair with food, and there's no better proof than the thriving restaurant scene you'll find here. Dining out is not reserved for a single special night out, but is considered a community pastime. Look around, and you'll find something for every taste and wallet – from spunky upstart bistros to mom and pop eateries to classic haute cuisine dining – the culinary side of Austin is waiting for you. Austin's global cuisine allows you to sip and sample the best of edible delights from around the world. Satisfy your hunger for exotic fare by visiting restaurants that offer delicious and exotic dishes from Asia, the Pacific Rim, Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. Or, if your taste runs a little closer to home, you'll find you have your pick of homey Texas fare. Whether it's TexMex, southwestern-style, barbecue, or home cooking, it's here, hot and ready and waiting for you. So, get out and see what all the fuss is about. You owe it to yourself and your taste buds to explore Austin's culinary delights.

All that eating requires walking it off – and shopping in the Capital City is the way to burn off those calories! Whether your taste is in antiques, luxury items, funky vintage, trendy, or everyday needs, you can build up a healthy appetite running from one mall, shopping center or independent boutique to the next – scoring one great deal after another. From work clothes to French fashion, chess to video games, tennis shoes to pumps, Austin will make your day on the town unforgettable! ■



**S**tyl e, artistry, quality, experience: though diverse in goods and services, these are the essence of what makes shopping in Austin unique. Austin is known for its eclectic tastes, and retailers here aim to please with a bountiful selection.

Are you looking for something new, straight from the designer's personal showcase? Austin is sure to have it, with the latest cutting edge styles. Do you love antiques? Then get ready to fall in love with the beautiful items selected by Austin antique dealers who have done a marvelous job of assembling pieces from around the globe for their stores. If your idea of a great weekend is a trek in the wilderness, take advantage and gear up at one of the outdoor recreation shops in town that have quality merchandise and knowledgeable employees. These are just a few examples of the many choices available to you as you delve into shopping for those necessities and elements that help make life enjoyable.

Austin's inviting atmosphere encourages you to take your time, and enjoy shopping as an experience unto itself. In a city that prides itself on its active lifestyle, Austin also prides itself on doing things "the old fashioned way" in these fast-paced, high tech times. Austin's unique environment also adds to the shopping experience, and its diverse culture is part and parcel of that experience. Whether shopping at one of the newest malls or venturing into one of Austin's singularly famous boutiques, you're sure to find that fabulous treasure you've been searching the world over for, right here at home.

### SHOPPING MALLS

#### Barton Creek Square Mall

2901 Capital of Texas Highway  
512-327-7040

[www.simon.com/mall/?id=223](http://www.simon.com/mall/?id=223)

Shopping is a whole new experience at Barton Creek Square, one of Austin's most popular malls. The mall features a 145,000-square-foot Nordstrom depart-

ment store – known to avid shoppers everywhere as the place to go for shoes, shoes, shoes.

Barton Creek Square, located just off Mopac and 360, is also the new home to several specialty shops, including Talbots, Talbot's Petites and Talbot's Woman, Williams-Sonoma, Coach, J.Jill, Cache and Steve Madden. For the kids, there's Build-A-Bear, Janie and Jack, Pottery Barn Kids, The Children's Place, and Gymboree. The mall has also undergone extensive remodeling, creating comfortable spaces for shoppers to relax throughout the mall. If that's not enough, there's the Day Spa and Salon at Barton Creek; it's the perfect place to relax and get a facial, manicure, pedicure or massage.

#### Lakeline Mall

11200 Lakeline Mall Drive, Cedar Park  
512-257-7467

[www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?id=227](http://www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?id=227) ▶



## SHOPPING AND DINING

Located at the northwest corner of Austin on the border of Cedar Park, Lakeline Mall is a home to anchor stores Dillard's, Macy's, JCPenney, and Sears. The mall also includes more than 150 specialty stores, a 9-screen theatre, two sit-down restaurants and a Food Court featuring the architecture of downtown Austin.

Lakeline Plaza is located adjacent to Lakeline Mall and offers customers an additional 11 anchor stores, including Best Buy, Toys "R" Us, Rooms To Go, Haverty's and Old Navy, plus 20 other specialty stores. Find a meal to suit everyone's taste at any one of several sit-down restaurants—Chili's, Applebee's, and Souper Salad. Lakeline Mall and Lakeline Plaza—You love it? They've got it!

### **Tanger Outlet Center and Prime Outlets** 4015 South I-35, San Marcos 800-408-8424

[www.tangeroutlet.com/sanmarcos](http://www.tangeroutlet.com/sanmarcos)

Ready for an all day shopping excursion? Then the Tanger Outlet Center and Prime Outlets mall in San Marcos is for you. Wear comfy shoes, and hike all over the 200 shops in the shopping centers as you search for the best bargains. Tanger shops include 40 new stores such as Eddie Bauer, Old Navy and Nike Warehouse that were recently added to a second shopping complex. Popular stores at Prime Outlets are Ellen Tracy, Dooney & Burke, Nike, Sony, and Bose. A new section has also been added to Prime Outlets, with the emphasis on home decor and furnishings, including Pottery Barn, Home Company Fine Furniture Direct, and Kirkland's Home and Couristan Rugs.

### **SHOPPING CENTERS & DESTINATION SHOPPING**

#### **The Arboretum**

10000 Research Boulevard  
at Great Hills Trail  
512-338-4437

Nature has a way of soothing the soul...

especially when it accepts all major credit cards. The Arboretum at Great Hills, features over 40 of Austin's finest shops including Heroes and Legacies, C. Kirk Root, Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, and Banana Republic and restaurants like The Cheesecake Factory, all in a relaxed outdoor environment. You'll love the tranquility of the surrounding landscape as you stroll from store to store. And after a long day of shopping, do what Austinites have been doing for years – visit Amy's Ice Cream, and take that frosty treat out under the trees and climb on the stone cow sculptures. The Arboretum at Great Hills offers great shopping in a beautiful environment!

#### **Brodie Oaks Shopping Center**

4115 South Capital of Texas Highway  
Although the Brodie Oaks Shopping Center is sprawling, the variety of stores and the satisfying shopping experience more than make up for it. With Starbucks and Sun Harvest Foods on one side, and Toys R Us on the other, and Neiman Marcus Last Call and Hobby Lobby, in between, Brodie Oaks is also home to many other exquisite and varied specialty stores, including Enchante, Sally's Beauty Supply, Tuesday Morning, and Tabu Lingerie, among others. Restaurants in the center run the gamut of tastes, too – take your pick from Texican Cafe, Chili's, Olive Garden, and Schlotzsky's Deli.

#### **Cabela's**

11570 IH 35  
512-295-1100

[www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)

Cabela's, "The World's Foremost Outfitter," continues to provide everything under the sun for the outdoor adventurer. Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, boating and so much more is represented within its 185,000-square-foot showroom, which also serves as an educational attraction featuring realistic, museum-quality animal displays and huge aquariums.

#### **Capital Plaza**

5451 N. IH 35 #B  
512-482-8383

An Austin landmark, Capital Plaza is the oldest shopping center still operating in the city, and just recently received a revitalizing economic boost with the opening of a new 134,000 sq.ft. Target store as one of its main anchor stores. Convenient to downtown, the Capitol and the UT campus, Capital Plaza is also home to Conn's Appliance and OfficeMax, as well as Suit City and Fashion Bug. Restaurants include Amaya's Taco Village, Cici's Pizza, McDonald's and Grandy's. Bank One has a large branch office located in Capital Plaza, and Walgreen's offers 24-hour convenience.

#### **The Domain**

11410 Century Oaks Terrace  
512-795-4320

[www.thedomainaustin.com](http://www.thedomainaustin.com)

Opened in 2007, The Domain features 1.3 million square feet of luxury fashion and restaurant space. High-end retailers such as Barneys CO-OP, CALYPSO, Tiffany & Co., Tommy Bahama, Macy's, BCBG Max Azria, and Austin's first Neiman Marcus caters to Austin's more affluent population. The center also includes several first-class restaurants including, Daily Grill, NoRTH, Sushi Zushi, McCormick & Schmick's, The Steeping Room, Jasper's, Kona Grill, California Pizza Kitchen, and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse. The Domain also offers 75,000 square feet of Class A office space, 390 high-end apartments, and a Westin Hotel.

#### **Gateway Market**

9901 Capital of Texas Highway  
at Research Blvd.  
512-418-1600

What this outdoor mall lacks in personality, it more than makes up for in sheer volume and variety of stores. From Whole Foods Market to Old Navy to Best Buy and Cracker Barrel, shoppers are sure to find a store that satisfies that shopping need.



### Hill Country Galleria

12700 Hill Country Boulevard, Bee Cave  
[www.hillcountrygalleria.com](http://www.hillcountrygalleria.com)

Experience the best of both worlds. Explore Bee Cave's newest lifestyle center – 152 acres of expansive natural beauty mixed with eclectic shopping, dining and entertainment, as well as first-class office and residential space. Wrapped in a verdant nature preserve cloaked with wildflowers, native trees and rocky streams, Hill Country Galleria is more than a fashion icon, more than a thriving business district or residential utopia – it's a social evolution. And there is much more to come. Visit often and watch them evolve!

### IKEA Round Rock

1 IKEA Way, Round Rock  
 512-828-4532  
[www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)

Is it possible for a furniture store to have fans? The answer is a resounding YES, judging by the number of Central Texans who started camping out three days in advance of IKEA Round Rock's opening day. Wildly anticipated, the much-heralded debut of this Swedish retailer has been all the buzz among those who love their economically priced home furnishings that put the

"fun" back in functional. The 252,000 square-foot store is located along I-35 at the University Boulevard exit, and features 10,000 exclusively designed home furnishings under one roof, a 300-seat IKEA restaurant and a supervised children's play area.

### North Loop Plaza

5222 Burnet Road  
 Located between North Loop and 45th Street, North Loop Plaza features anchor store Sue Patrick, where shoppers can find brands such as Foxcroft, Thymes Bath and Body and an extensive selection of University of Texas apparel, souvenirs and memorabilia.

### Round Rock Premium Outlets

4401 North IH-35, Round Rock  
 512-863-6688  
[www.premiumoutlets.com](http://www.premiumoutlets.com)  
 Get ready! Get set! Get shopping! Round Rock Premium Outlets features 120 designer and name-brand outlet stores, and savvy shoppers will appreciate the everyday savings of 25 to 65 percent on upscale goods. Shoppers will be delighted to find an impressive variety of merchandise including designer apparel for women, men and children, shoes, fashion accessories, high quality leather goods,

home furnishings, gifts and more at this new Premium Outlet Center just 20 minutes north of Austin off Interstate 35 at University Boulevard (formerly Chandler Road), in Round Rock, Texas. The center's Hill Country architecture invites visitors to relax and stroll along 157 acres as they enjoy shopping in the boutique-style stores featuring high-end brands such as Adidas, AG Adriano Goldschmeid, Ann Taylor, Banana Republic, Brooks Brothers, Burberry, Calvin Klein, Coach, Cole Haan, Gap Outlet, J.Crew, Michael Kors, Miss Sixty/Energie, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Puma, Swarovski, Theory and more.

### San Marcos Premium Outlets

3939 IH-35 South #900  
 512-396-2200  
[www.premiumoutlets.com](http://www.premiumoutlets.com)  
 Save on luxury as you peruse through the 140 luxury stores that call San Marcos Premium Outlets home, including Betsey Johnson, Cole Haan, Fendi, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Michael Kors, Last Call by Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th, Salvatore Ferragamo and more.

### The Shops at Arbor Walk

10515 North Mopac Expressway  
 512-338-4755  
[www.simon.com/mall/?id=1224](http://www.simon.com/mall/?id=1224)  
 Located at the southeast corner of MoPac Expressway and Braker Lane, The Shops at Arbor Walk is part of the new shopping explosion that has hit the Austin area. Opened in the later part of 2006, the 450,000 square foot mall is home to such names as The Home Depot, Marshalls, JoAnn Fabrics, and DSW Shoe Warehouse. Shoppers looking for fun food options will find many at The Shops at Arbor Walk, including Mimi's Café, Chipotle, Camille's, Mighty Fine Burgers and Chuck E. Cheese's.

### Sunset Valley

5400 Brodie Lane  
[www.sunsetvalley.org](http://www.sunsetvalley.org)  
 Once pristine farmland, there's still green ▶



South Congress. Photo By H. Chase Sed

## SHOPPING AND DINING

that's being harvested on this property, but it's a cash crop of a different kind. Building these outdoor shopping centers has meant big property tax breaks for the Sunset Valley residents, while penny-wise shoppers know that dollars spent here means a slightly lower sales tax than shopping elsewhere in the Austin area. Shops include Bed Bath & Beyond, TJ Maxx, a 24-hour Home Depot, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, and Cost Plus.

### Village at Westlake

701 S. Capital of Texas Highway  
512-327-3628

Tucked away around a bend, it's easy to miss the Village at Westlake at first glance. Entering the driveway reveals that looks from the highway are deceiving, as this shopping center encompasses shops, restaurants, and an upscale Albertson's grocery store.

### Wolf Ranch

Southwest Corner of I-35 and SR29,  
Georgetown  
512-930-8008

Wolf Ranch makes shopping more convenient than ever for residents in the fast-growing North Austin/Williamson County area. This new 750,000 square-foot open-air retail shopping center owned by Simon Property Group opened in the summer of 2005, and is home to a mix of "big box" anchor stores, specialty retail stores, and unique restaurants. Wolf Ranch is also a delight to the eyes, with its walking paths and park benches and beautiful landscaping.

## STREET SHOPPING

### "The Drag"

Guadalupe Street - MLK to 29th Street  
Sure, the national chains such as Barnes and Noble and the Gap have moved in, but the small, funky shops that the Drag is known for are still there. Hunt for a legal parking space (or use one of the paid parking lots as a last resort), and take the time to meander and discover the joys of



South Congress: Photo By H. Chase Seel

street vendors at 23rd Street, beads and baubles at Nomadic Notions, and other funky finds.

### Kerbey Lane/Jefferson Square

38th Street, from Lamar to MoPac  
Running along the length of 38th Street, veering off to Kerbey Lane and culminating in Jefferson Square, this area offers quaint shops that invite exploration. Jefferson Square is the home to Anderson & Co. Coffee, where the smell of freshly roasted coffee beans lingers in the air. Other small businesses are just as eclectic—from a store that sells dolls and doll accessories to a clock shop, a lamp shop, a shop that sells only architectural antiques, the list goes on and on, and is best investigated during an afternoon with time to dawdle. Finish up with a good meal at Kerbey Lane Café—or begin your day there—it's open 24 hours.

### North Lamar Blvd.

12th Street to 6th Street & 6th Street - North Lamar Blvd to West Lynn  
Walk along this intersection and you'll find every part of Austin represented. Hip, funky, cool, laidback with a touch of tradition, it's all here. Diversity abounds on these two streets. Just a few of the

stores on North Lamar include BookPeople, a much beloved locally-owned independent bookstore; Eclectic, a store that lives up to its name with its exclusive imports; Emeralds, with its ultra chic women's fashions; and Waterloo Records, an independent record/CD/DVD/video store with deep roots in the Austin music scene. Going west on Sixth, look for Whit Hanks Antiques with its 70 antiques and arts dealers under one roof, Wiggy's with its large selection of fine wines, spirits and cigars, Sweetish Hill Bakery with its delectable delights.

### South Congress Avenue, or "So-Co"

Nellie Street to Mary Street  
Reborn and rediscovered, the SoCo District is enjoying a renaissance. From the renovated Austin Motel and San Jose Motel, to Jo's Coffee, to new stores such as Wet and old favorites like Terra Toys, this is the perfect strolling shopping experience. Parking is plentiful along South Congress, and shopping in the neighborhood is the perfect activity for one of those lazy Sunday afternoons. Be sure to come down for "First Thursday" where every First Thursday of the month stores, galleries and restaurants host an evening neighborhood block party. ■

# LET'S EAT

## AUSTIN'S *delicious* DINING SCENE

### Bess Bistro on Pecan

500 W. Sixth Street  
Stratford Arms Building  
512-477-BESS(2377)  
[www.bessbistro.com](http://www.bessbistro.com)

After four years in the planning, Sandra Bullock's restaurant opened to rave reviews in November of 2006. Located in the basement of the Stratford Arms building, in what was originally the Stratford Apartments built in 1918, Bess's kitchen is located in what had been the building's bank vault. The setting is intimate, casual elegance amidst the historic brick columns and arches, iron railings and old timbers. Bess's menu is best described as old South comfort food with a European flair.

### Carlos' n Charlie's

973 Hilina Road  
512-266-1683  
[www.cncaustin.com](http://www.cncaustin.com)

The little restaurant that started in Mexico City has expanded to over 100 locations in Mexico, Spain, Brazil, and now the U.S. Featuring mostly Mexican-style cuisine with a heavy side order of "manana" attitude, patrons are encouraged to relax and forget about the rules for a while in this Lake Travis location.

### The Cheesecake Factory

10000 Research Blvd, Suite 4602  
512-241-0777  
[www.thecheesecakefactory.com](http://www.thecheesecakefactory.com)

The Cheesecake Factory took up residence in what was formerly the Arbor 7 Movie Theatre in the Arboretum Shopping Center, so it should come as no surprise that this restaurant is big, measuring 12,200 sq.ft., and capable of seating 400 hungry diners. The Cheesecake Factory serves so much more than just its world-famous cheesecake desserts. Diners can choose from a wide and varied menu that includes pizza, pastas, fish and seafood, steaks and salads. The Cheesecake Factory also hosts a delicious Sunday Brunch until 2 p.m. that includes such breakfast delights as Belgian Waffles and a Smoked Salmon Platter.

### Chuy's

Arbor Trails – 4301 W. William Cannon  
512-899-2489  
Barton Springs – 1728 Barton Springs Road  
512-474-4452  
Highway 183 – 11680 N. Research Blvd.  
512-342-0011  
North Lamar – 10520 N. Lamar  
512-836-3218  
Round Rock – 2320 N. IH-35, Exit 254  
512-255-2211  
[www.chuys.com](http://www.chuys.com)

It started in 1982 and hasn't stopped since. With a unique décor and a menu of some of the most savory and delectable tex-mex food around – to say nothing of the ubiquitous Elvis Shrine – Chuy's cult following has garnered a reputation as a fun and friendly spot where a great time can be had at a great price.

### Cool River Café Steakhouse and Southwestern Grille

4001 Parmer Lane  
512-835-0010  
[www.coolrivercafe.com](http://www.coolrivercafe.com)

A restaurant experience like no other in Austin, Cool River Café features a rich and varied menu, from smoked prime rib quesadillas to their shrimp, lobster and blue crab stuffed empanada ventana. Large banquet facilities make the perfect location to host that next office party, and the cigar lounge keeps cigar aficionados happy. Check the Cool River Café website for the latest live entertainment listings. ▶



## SHOPPING AND DINING

### Cover 3

2700 W. Anderson Lance #202

512-374-1121

[www.cover-3.com](http://www.cover-3.com)

Is it a restaurant? Is it a sports bar? Who says it can't be both? Cover 3 strives to provide its clientele with its holy trinity of great nightlife—dining, spirits and sports—in an atmosphere that is friendly and caters to the diverse Austin community. Enjoy a fine drink from the premium bar or an elegant meal from the kitchen as you watch your favorite team ride the path to glory.

### Eddie V's

Downtown: 301 E. 5th

512-472-1860

Arboretum: 9400-B Arboretum Blvd

512-342-2642

[www.eddiev.com](http://www.eddiev.com)

Bringing together an award-winning combination of the freshest seafood, prime steaks, and live music, Eddie V's is sure to please. Specializing in Gulf Coast Cuisine, Eddie V's is famous for their oysters, gulf snapper, fresh tuna, and lobster. Enjoy live music while you dine at the downtown location, while The Arboretum location offers breathtaking hill country views and patio dining.

### Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Downtown - 320 E. 2nd Street

512-457-1500

The Domain - 11600 Century Oaks Terrace

512-835-9463

[www.flemingssteakhouse.com](http://www.flemingssteakhouse.com)

Known for their cooked-to-perfection steaks, Fleming's also offers a superb wine list, boasting more than 100 wines available by the glass, and another 100 available by the bottle. Wine lovers agree that an evening at Fleming's leaves them feeling a bit like kids in a candy store. The darkly elegant atmosphere makes Fleming's the perfect place to linger over dessert and order an after-dinner cappuccino.

## COVER 3: REDEFINED UPSCALE DINING, WITH A LOVE OF THE GAME

Owners Matt Dodson and Doug Young, native Austinites, have joined their shared passion for outstanding food, exceptional service and a pure love of sports into one amazing establishment. Cover 3 is truly an Austin original— an elegant, stylish, yet unpretentious new culinary concept that captures the excitement and entertainment of having a private box at your favorite sporting event.

Whether you're looking for a place to watch your favorite team, eat an exceptional meal or mix with the diverse Austin crowd, Cover 3 has what you're looking for.

Cover 3 offers up a premium bar with a spectacular selection of spirits, serving some of Austin's coldest beer, courtesy of 10 iced Cobra taps and 2 chilled liquor taps with over 100 wines from our distinctive wine cellar.

### COVER 3. UNIQUE. CLASSIC. AUSTIN.

**Upstairs lounge:** 1000 square feet of comfortable couches and high-top cocktail tables in an upstairs lounge that offers a clear line-of-sight to all of the action... imagine the tree house you always wanted as a kid, but with much nicer wood, killer TVs, theater lighting, and better sound. All with the perfect mix of spirits and sports.

**Weekend "U Mix it Up" Bloody Mary Bar:** Join us for a special treat on Sundays when you become the Master Mary Mixer. You pick the vodka, we'll give you a glass, and you take it from there. Choose from a selection of mixes and condiments ranging from celery, jalapenos, olives, blue cheese, pickles, hot sauces and spices.

**Line-of-sight:** With 15 52" inch HD TVs and 2 massive 60 square-foot multi-channel displays, all of the action is clearly visible from every seat in the restaurant. All day, every day—Cover 3 has what you want to see.

**Private Parties:** Whether it's a business or social affair, Cover 3 is the place to celebrate your next great moment!

**Cover 3's Private Dining Room accommodates up to 70 people and features state-of-the-art technology:** A/V connections, direct laptop plug-in capabilities, WiFi, and a giant presentation screen.

Formal dinner, casual get together, Powerpoint presentation or internet-based meeting...we have your needs covered!

**Fogo de Chao Churrascaria**

309 E. 3rd Street

512-472-0220

www.fogodechao.com

Quickly becoming Downtown Austin's most popular dining destination, recently opened Fogo de Chao, an authentic Southern Brazilian Steakhouse, offers a prix-fixe menu. The menu includes an unlimited selection of over 30 salads, vegetables and cheeses from around the world, several side dishes, as well as the main course... 15 cuts of meat served tableside by Brazilian Gaucho Chefs! In addition to exceptional food and service the elegant dining room and award winning wine list have helped make dining at Fogo de Chao an experience that can't be missed.

**Garrido's**

360 Nueces

512-320-8226

www.garridosaustin.com

Enjoy high-end Mexican cuisine in an elegant environment that only exists at Garrido's. Try their signature tacos, gourmet enchiladas and chile rellenos, or their heady 10-ounce rib eye steak, the "Vaquero"! Your dining experience can only be augmented by its rich selection of wine, beer and spirits. Reservations are accepted.

**Iguana Grill**

2900 RR 620 N., Austin

512-266-8439

www.iguanagrillaustin.com

If your timing is just right, you could find yourself sitting out on the patio in the early evening, watching the sun go down over the lake while you enjoy a margarita with your Tex-Mex dinner. Seasons may come and go elsewhere, but it always feels like summer here at the Iguana Grill.

**Iron Cactus**

Sixth Street: 606 Trinity

512-472-9240

North: 10001 Stonelake Boulevard

512-794-8778

South: 13420 Galleria Circle

512-263-7636

www.ironcactus.com | Cont'd on page 149 ▶

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WWW.COVER-3.COM



**W**ouldn't it be nice to go out to dinner without feeling guilty? Garrido's Restaurant is the safe-haven for vibrant and delicious foods without that greasy feeling you can sometimes get from dining out.

David Garrido, the Chef de Cuisine, took his time when creating Garrido's. David had spent over twenty years in the food industry, working at very upscale restaurants, spending time learning from them. He was able to educate himself and work until he could create something amazing to call his own, his shining star Garrido's.

At Garrido's, each table, including the wrap-around bar, is reclaimed wood from Gilley's, the bar in the movie *Urban Cowboy*. The tiles from the back wall of the restaurant came from a church in Vietnam dating back to the 18th Century. The outdoor seating area of the restaurant is a sight to see. Palms were imported from Florida, planted underneath the level of the patio so that the leaves would entrap you into a Caribbean Oasis. While David personally believes in recycling and doing what he can to help the earth, he wanted to create a restaurant that could do the same.

David's mission is to be known for good food that makes you feel great. Due to his heritage, it was only natural to create an Interior-style Mexican food Kitchen with a contemporary flare. There are a variety of items on the menu that are packed full of flavor, are organic when possible, and almost all are gluten free. David

Garrido wanted to be about making healthy eating exciting again. The perfect example of this would be David's Grandmother's Zucchini Cake with lemon crema. It transforms you back to a time of chipped china and loved ones gathered together for time well spent.

Garrido's also features an assortment of tostadas: including a divine pork tostada with goat cheese, pepitas, watermelon and a chipotle glaze. Others include a shrimp tostada with mango salsa and slaw, and an oyster tostada on a yucca chip with Habanero aioli; an item that he's known for in Austin. These are just a few of the shining stars of the "Antojitos" Menu.

The menu has tapas style tacos so you can order in small quantities or get full entrees like the famous enchiladas, chile Rellenos and the fresh Gulf Snapper for two with guacamole, pico, fresh tomatillo salsa and tortillas.

Lunch and Dinner are just as original and appetizing. Our focus on flavorful healthy food seamlessly continues into our later-day fares. Garrido's is ready for you to take our taste challenge. We are sure that we can turn you into a believer of healthy and organic being brave, bold, and beautiful.

*Garrido's is located at 360 Nueces Street, at the end of 3rd street on the Northwest corner of Nueces on 3rd. For more information visit [www.garridosaustin.com](http://www.garridosaustin.com), call 512-320-8226 or email us at [info@garridosaustin.com](mailto:info@garridosaustin.com)* ■



**Cont'd from page 147** | Known for their variety of margaritas and tequila drinks, the Iron Cactus has been named one of the top ten tequila bars in the country, with over 80 selections of the best in Mexican tequila. All of their restaurants feature excellent Southwestern cuisine with influences from Southern Mexico to Southern Utah. Call the north location for special events hosted weekly, or check their website.

### Jeffrey's

1204 West Lynn Street  
512-477-5584  
www.jeffreysaustintx.com  
Founders Ron & Peggy Weiss and Jeffrey Weinberger are the native Texans behind the enduring success of Jeffrey's and the Austin bistro restaurant concept. For over 30 years they have been winning local and national awards for their food and wine. This Austin institution features Executive Chef Alma Alcocer's "Contemporary Texas Cuisine", with a menu that changes daily using the freshest seasonal ingredients. Jeffrey's wine program is given as much attention as the food, covering as many wine regions as possible. The wine selection is constantly updated and ranges from wines their guests are familiar with to new and exciting choices for those more adventurous.

### Johnny Carino's Country Italian

5601 Brodie Lane, Suite 1600  
512-899-0572  
12901 N. I-35 Service Road  
512-989-6464  
9500 S. I-35 Service Road  
512-292-1568  
11620 N. FM 620(Cedar Park)  
512-506-8181  
2600 N. I-35 (Round Rock)  
512-238-8288  
www.carinos.com  
When dining here, expect the best in authentic country southern Italian cuisine. Johnny Carino's, with its open kitchen style and exhibition cooking, gives diners a warm invitation to sit down and enjoy the whole dining experience. Johnny Carino's

menu includes traditional favorites like homemade lasagna and wood-fired pizzas, and featured items like spicy shrimp and chicken, chicken scaloppini, baked cheese tortellini and baked fish Romano.

### Jorge's Restaurant

2203 Hancock Drive  
512-454-1980  
www.jorges.com  
In the mood for a casual time out with the family while enjoying great margaritas and southwestern cuisine made from the best natural ingredients using a family tradition of great recipes? A dining patio and two bars accentuate the laid-back atmosphere. Meal services include lunch, dinner and happy hour, as well as a private party room for special occasions (please arrange in advance). And don't forget to ask about their great, hand-made tortillas!

### Kenichi

419 Colorado Street  
512-320-8883  
www.kenichiaustin.com  
With its smooth and sophisticated atmosphere, Kenichi is known to Austin's glitterati as the place to see and be seen. Master sushi chef Kenichi Kanada has brought regional far-eastern cuisine, including fresh sushi and sashimi, to Austin's warehouse district in style. Kenichi also offers the widest selection of sake in Texas. Enjoy the restaurant's glamorous design while dining at the sushi bar, or opt for the full dining experience – you won't be disappointed.

### Magnolia Café

2304 Lake Austin Boulevard  
512-478-8645  
1920 S. Congress Avenue  
512-445-0000  
www.themagnoliacafe.com  
The sign says, "Sorry! We're Open!" But when you step inside you won't be sorry, and you'll see why "Everybody knows, everybody goes," to the Magnolia Café. Its menu runs the gambit of great food,

from light fare to classic burgers and sandwiches to Mexican dishes, there's something there that sate even the more ardent appetite. And let's not forget the Café's famous 24-hour breakfast!

### Maria Maria

415 Colorado Street  
512-687-6800  
www.mariamariarestaurants.com  
Its inspiration, Carlos Santana, is known world-wide for performing some of the hottest guitar licks in rock'n'roll history, but you'll be inspired as you lick your fingers clean of the pure deliciousness of its hotly passionate and spiritual Mexican dishes rooted in tradition with a modern flair. Lose yourself in tender meat awash in magical spices and sauces that accentuate the meals' simple goodness.

### Maudies Tex-Mex

Café – 2608 W. 7th Street  
512-473-3740  
Too – 1212 S. Lamar  
512-440-8088  
North Lamar – 10205 N. Lamar  
512-832-0900  
Hacienda – 9911 Brodie Lane  
512-280-8700  
Milagro–3801 N. Capital of Texas Hwy  
512-306-8080  
Hill Country – 12506 Shops Pkwy, Bee Cave  
512-263-1116  
www.maudies.com  
Maudie's Café has been a tradition in Austin since the early 50's serving the best home-style cooking around. Faithful clientele stand in long lines for breakfast and lunch. Maudie's has won numerous awards over the years for its Tex-Mex food and fresh-squeezed margaritas. With six successful city restaurants, Maudie's has become a true tradition in Austin.

### The Melting Pot

13343 U.S. Hwy. 183 N., Suite 350  
512-401-2424  
305 E. Third Street  
512-401-2424  
www.meltingpot.com | **Cont'd on page 151** ▶

# Jorge's

## WHERE THE LOCOS EAT

When it comes to Tex-Mex traditions, Jorge's recipes go back 50 years. Started in 1951 by Manuel and Feliz Veloz in Midland, Texas as a small burrito stand, it has grown in every direction. The Veloz family has a Jorge's in five major Texas cities with hopes to grow as the family grows. Their plate combinations and recipes are always the same, but the ingredients are always local to the region. You'll find more beef in Amarillo with its cow-town roots, more veggies in hip Austin, lots of flare in Dallas, and strict traditions in Midland and Odessa. But what always stays strong in true Jorge's form, is their ever popular Margarita's.



all of the ingredients, she did tweak the type of ingredients. The corn masa became all natural and stone ground, making her homemade tamales and corn tortillas the best in the business. Soon after came hand rolled, homemade flour tortillas, made with natural vegetable oils and unbleached flours. Another item you'll find in Austin are the vegetarian friendly meals. But what

really made a difference to the old traditions was the purchasing of free-range, antibiotic free, grass fed meats and poultry.

Drop in on any given day, at any given Jorge's and you'll always find a Veloz serving up a plate of our famous grilled tacos. It takes a village to make a great meal. And it takes a big state like Texas to fit all that tradition on one plate. Jorge's is changing the way people see Tex-Mex. They want to increase the flavor index and decrease your waistline. ■

In 2002, the sibling team George II, Diana, and Sylvia, the founder's grandchildren, opened the Jorge's location in central Austin. With big dreams of a Jorge's different from the rest, Diana Veloz began cooking with the old recipes. Though she didn't tweak



# Where the **LOCOS** eat!

### Now Serving!

- free-range, antibiotic free, hormone free meats and poultry
- extensive tequila and margarita menus
- stone ground, all natural corn tortillas and tamales
- hand rolled flour tortillas
- vegetarian cuisine available

[www.jorges.com](http://www.jorges.com)

2203 Hancock Drive  
Austin, Texas 78756  
512-454-1980



**Cont'd from page 149** | As Cole Porter would say, "Do that fondue that you do so well." At the Melting Pot, fondue becomes a memorable four-course dining experience where patrons can "Dip into something different." Guests enjoy a choice of four different fondue cooking styles and a variety of unique entrees combined with special dipping sauces that they can cook at their own table. Upscale and intimate, The Melting Pot is the perfect location for that romantic date or even a corporate dinner party.

**Mesa Ranch**

8108 Mesa Drive  
512-853-9480  
www.mesaranchaustin.com

Mesa Ranch is a true Texas grill, thanks to owner Steve E. Ray, who old Austin foodies will remember from his days at the old Texas Tumbleweed restaurant on FM 2222. The setting at Mesa Ranch is typical laid-back Austin with a southwestern down-home feeling, but there's nothing laid-back about the attention to detail when it comes to its excellent wild game, steaks and chops. With a great bar and live music on most nights, Mesa Ranch is the perfect place to enjoy an excellent meal in traditional atmosphere.

**Mighty Fine Burgers, Fries and Shakes**

5601 Brodie Lane (Sunset Valley)  
512-735-2800  
10515 N Mopac Expy Suite 205  
512-524-2400  
201 University Oaks Blvd Suite 1380 (Round Rock)  
512-381-3310  
1335 E Whitestone Blvd  
Building #AC Suite #100 (Cedar Park)  
512-528-5421  
www.mightyfineburgers.com

The name says it all! Quality is everything at Mighty Fine, where they serve up burgers, dogs, fries and shakes in the classic Texas style. All ingredients are fresh and carefully chosen to bring out that "bold" Texas taste. Burgers start with fresh, all-natural chuck ground on-site and



Photo Courtesy of TADOT

hand-formed into classically thick patties right out in the open. Shakes are hand-dipped with Blue Bell ice cream and lemonade is made every two hours from fresh lemons. There are burgers, and then there are Mighty Fine burgers. One taste and you will be hooked.

**Mizu Prime Steak and Sushi**

3001 Ranch Road 620 South, The Hills  
512-263-2801  
www.mizuaustion.com

What's better than a full-service bar featuring the finest wine, cocktails and beer, with "perfect" ice hand-made every day using natural spring water? Enjoying your drink with high-end sushi and outstanding Japanese cuisine in an elegant and serene atmosphere that includes a heated patio with a fire place.

**NXNW**

10010 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.  
512-231-8157  
www.nxnwbrew.com  
Located in North Austin's so-called "Golden Triangle" Arboretum/ Gateway area, NXNW brews tasty delights for those with a real appreciation of the care and craftsmanship that goes into brewing a good pint of beer. Those with a taste for

more solid fare will appreciate NXNW's Mediterranean and Asian-influenced menu (wood-fired oven pizzas! Mmmmm!). NXNW is a large restaurant capable of seating 300, but the warmth of the design and the attention to atmospheric detail makes this restaurant seem much cozier.

**The Oasis**

6550 Comanche Trail  
512-266-2442  
www.oasis-austin.com

"The Sunset Capital of Texas" is the claim made by The Oasis, and after one visit, you'll see why. Most people come to watch the sun go down from this fantastic vantage point on one of 40 decks perched 450 feet over Lake Travis, but what makes them stay is the relaxed atmosphere and the unpretentious fare-seafood, steaks, and fajitas.

**Roaring Fork**

701 Congress Avenue  
512-583-0000  
10850 Stonelake Boulevard  
www.eddiev.com

A member of the Eddie V's family of restaurants, Roaring Fork offers its patrons outstanding American cuisine through wood-fired grilling, roasting or rotisserie cooking. ▶



## SHOPPING AND DINING

Its impeccable selection of prime meats and fish, coupled with top-of-the-line service and atmosphere, makes the Roaring Fork dining experience unforgettable.

### Second Bar & Kitchen

200 Congress Avenue  
512-827-2750

[www.congressaustin.com](http://www.congressaustin.com)

An elite cadre of outstanding chefs use seasonal ingredients and locally produced products to bring the "Natural American" cuisine of Second City Bar and Kitchen to life, including rotisserie selections, salads, sandwiches, pizzas and desserts. The full-service bar offers a wide selection of hand-crafted beer, wine, cocktails and non-alcoholic selections.

### Shoreline Grill

98 San Jacinto Boulevard  
512-477-3300

[www.shorelinegrill.com](http://www.shorelinegrill.com)

Sophisticated and friendly. Eclectic and dazzling. Prepare to be amazed by the Shoreline Grill, giving you the

best of Austin cuisine with a superb menu that sets new standards in haute cuisine. Enjoy your meal set against an unparalleled view of Town Lake. Known as the restaurant of choice for those who enjoy fine dining, The Shoreline Grill is the perfect choice for anyone seeking an elegant but relaxed dining experience.

### Steiner Ranch Steakhouse

5425 Steiner Ranch Boulevard  
512-381-0800

[www.steinersteakhouse.com](http://www.steinersteakhouse.com)

With its gorgeous location overlooking the beautiful Lake Travis and the Texas Hill Country, the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse serves up more than just an evening of fine dining to its patrons. Established on land owned at one time by the Steiner family for which the steakhouse is named, the restaurant is the proud owner of a legacy as big and wide as the blue skies of Texas, and is known for its down home hospitality and excellent fare. USDA prime steaks top a menu that features

seafood, poultry, venison and other items that offer the best of Texas and guaranteed to please the palate.

### Texas Land & Cattle Company

6007 N. I-35, 512-451-6555

1101 S. MoPac, 512-330-0030

5510 S. I-35, 512-442-6448

14010 N. Hwy. 183, 512-258-3733

[www.texaslandandcattle.com](http://www.texaslandandcattle.com)

There are three Texas Land & Cattle Company restaurants that do their best to answer the age-old question, "Where can I get a good steak around here?" Known for their excellent and attentive wait staff and friendly atmosphere, Texas Land & Cattle Company is known for serving the best in Texas beef. Signature drinks include the Trail Boss Margarita, a 16-ounce frozen Margarita made with Jose Cuervo Gold Tequila and a special lime mixture; and Branding Iron Margaritas, hand-shaken sipping margaritas, featuring a choice of top-shelf tequilas. For sheer dessert decadence, try the Jack Daniels pie.



**THE**  
**CLASSIC TEXAS BURGER**

ARBORWALK  
BRAKER & MOPAC N.

SUNSET VALLEY VILLAGE  
BRODIE & 290

UNIVERSITY OAKS  
NEXT TO IKEA

1890 RANCH  
1431 & TOLLWAY

**MIGHTY FINE**  
BURGERS FRIES SHAKES

[WWW.MIGHTYFINEBURGERS.COM](http://WWW.MIGHTYFINEBURGERS.COM)

**Texican Cafe**

11066 Pecan Park Blvd., Cedar Park  
 (one block north of 183 & 620)  
 512-506-9900  
 11940 Manchaca Road, Austin  
 (1.5 miles South of Slaughter)  
 512-282-9094  
 4141 Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin  
 512-707-1733  
 www.texicancafe.com

Since 1988, the Texican Cafe has been serving up its own signature style of “Santa Fe meets El Paso meets Austin” – much to the appreciation of Tex-Mex lovers everywhere! And it’s not just the locals who are raving about the great plates of delicious steaks, fajitas, chile rellenos and seafood served up big and hearty here. The Texican Cafe has won numerous awards and accolades over the years, including “Best Cabrito” by *Texas Monthly* magazine, “Best Queso” by the *Austin Chronicle* and “Best Enchiladas” by the *Austin American-Statesman*.

**Truluck’s**

400 Colorado  
 512-482-9000  
 10225 Research Blvd, Suite 4000  
 512-794-8300  
 www.trulucks.com

Known for their famous stone crabs, Truluck’s is the place to come for the best in steaks and seafood. With their attentive wait staff and excellent wine menu, Truluck’s is a top notch dining experience.

**Vince Young Steakhouse**

301 San Jacinto Boulevard  
 512-45-STEAK (78325)  
 www.vinceyoungsteakhouse.com

Named after the former Longhorn NCAA National Champion quarterback, the eponymous Vince Young Steakhouse makes every occasion a great one. Serving only the finest food—including its signature steaks—, drinks in the middle of Austin’s lively downtown atmosphere, it strives to leave you with the memory of an exceptional dining experience.

**Wing Zone**

907 W. 244th Street  
 512-370-2473  
 www.wingzone.com  
 Mmmmmmmmm! Hot wings! And the Wing Zone is where to get them, with 15 different wing flavors from which to choose, including the standard mild/medium/hot flavors, as well as nuclear, spicy BBQ, hot honey teriyaki, ragin’ Cajun, Thai chili, garlic parmesan, buffalo bleu, kickin’ ranch, honey BBQ, sweet teriyaki, honey mustard an lemon pepper. It also offers patrons a great selection of chicken fingers, sandwiches, burgers, salads and shrimp

**Z’ Tejas Southwestern Grill**

1110 W. 6th Street  
 512-478-5355  
 9400-A Arboretum Blvd.  
 512-346-3506  
 10525 W. Parmer Lane  
 512-388-7772  
 www.ztejas.com

Born in 1989, in an old Victorian home on Sixth Street, Z’ Tejas now has three locations in the Austin Area. The menu, largely influenced by the owner’s southern backgrounds, exemplifies the flavors of Arizona, California, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas. All Z’ restaurants share the same passion and soul, characterized by their award-winning food, signature margaritas and an unpretentious atmosphere. The founding corporate chef is a genius in creating complex blends of spices, ingredients and techniques. The result is a menu selection that includes seafood, pork, beef and chicken dishes that will keep you coming back to try them all.

Enjoy Happy Hour Monday – Friday from 4pm – 7pm with half-price appetizers, dollar-off margaritas and mixed drinks, and 50¢ off beer and house wine. Lunch and Dinner served every day, Brunch on Saturday and Sunday. ■

**WING @ ZONE**

**For People Who Love FLAVOR!**

15 amazing flavors that “tangify” wings, fingers, sandwiches, burgers, shrimp, salads and so much more!

**AUSTIN** 907 West 24th Street (512) 370-2473  
**SAN ANTONIO** 7863 Calaghan Rd. (210)-979-9464

**wingzone.com**

<b>AMERICAN</b>			
Bartlett's	2408 W. Anderson Lane	512-451-7333	www.bartlettsaustin.com
Bess Bistro on Pecan	500 W. Sixth Street, Stratford Arms Bldg.	512-477-BESS	www.bessbistro.com
The Cheesecake Factory	10000 Research Blvd, Suite 4602	512-241-0777	www.thecheesecakefactory.com
Chez Zee	5406 Balcones Drive	512-454-2666	www.chez-zee.com
Cover 3	2700 W. Anderson Lance #202	512-374-1121	www.cover-3.com
The Grill at Rough Hollow	103 Yacht Club Cove	512-261-3444	www.grillatroughhollow.com
Jeffrey's	1204 West Lynn Street	512-477-5584	www.jeffreysofaustin.com
Magnolia Café	2304 Lake Austin Boulevard 1920 S. Congress Avenue	512-478-8645 512-445-0000	www.themagnoliacafe.com
The Melting Pot	13343 U.S. Hwy. 183 N., Suite 350 305 E. Third Street	512-401-2424 512-401-2424	www.meltingpot.com
Monument Café	500 S. Austin Avenue, Georgetown	512-930-9586	www.themonumentcafe.com
NXNW	10010 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.	512-231-8157	www.nxnwbrew.com
Plus Four Dining	110 E. 7th Street, Georgetown	512-869-6686	www.plusfourdining.com
Roaring Fork	701 Congress Avenue	512-583-0000	www.eddiev.com
Second Bar & Kitchen	200 Congress Avenue	512-827-2750	www.congressaustin.com
Wildfire	812 S. Austin Avenue, Georgetown	512-869-3473	www.wildfiretexas.com
<b>BARBECUE</b>			
Black's Barbeque	215 N. Main Street, Lockhart	888-632-8225	www.blacksbbq.com
Buster's BBQ	2125 Lohmans Crossing,	512-263-2340	www.busterslakeway.com
The County Line	On the Hill (Bee Cave Road just past 360) On the Lake (FM 2222 just before 360)	512-327-1742 512-346-3664	www.countyline.com
Louie Mueller Barbecue	206 W. 2nd Street, Taylor	512-352-6206	www.louiemuellerbarbecue.com
Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q	2451 Capital of Texas Hwy, S., Austin 11570 Research Blvd., Austin 7709 FM 620, Austin 2400 N. IH-35, Round Rock	512-329-5554 512-418-9898 512-250-8002 512-244-2936	www.rudys.com
The Salt Lick	18300 FM 1826, Driftwood	512-858-4959	www.saltlickbbq.com
Southside Market & Barbeque	HWY 290 & Hwy 95 N, Elgin	512-281-4650	www.southsidemarket.com
Stubb's BAR-B-Q	801 Red River	512-480-8341	www.stubbsaustin.com
Uncle Billy's	1530 Barton Springs Road 6550 Comanche Trail	512-476-0100 512-266-0111	www.unclebillysaustin.com
<b>BURGERS, WINGS, AND CASUAL DINING</b>			
Mighty Fine Burgers, Fries and Shakes	5601 Brodie Lane (Sunset Valley) 10515 N Mopac Expy Suite 205 201 University Oaks Blvd Suite 1380 (Round Rock) 1335 E Whitestone Blvd Suite#100 (Cedar Park)	512-735-2800 512-524-2400 512-381-3310 512-528-5421	www.mightyfineburgers.com
Threadgill's Home Cookin'	6416 N. Lamar 301 W. Riverside Drive	512-451-5440 512-472-9304	www.threadgills.com
Wing Zone	907 W. 24th Street	512-370-2473	www.wingzone.com
<b>FRENCH</b>			
La Maison	204 E. 8th Street, Georgetown	512-868-8885	www.facebook.com/pages/La-Maison/
<b>ITALIAN AND PIZZA</b>			
Brick Oven Restaurant	12th & Red River Downtown Jollyville & Braker North Brodie & Slaughter South	512-477-7006 512-345-6181 512-292-3939	www.brickovenrestaurant.com
Carmelo's	504 E. 5th Street	512-477-7497	www.carmelosrestaurant.com
Johnny Carino's Country Italian	5601 Brodie Lane, Suite 1600 12901 N. I-35 Service Road 9500 S. I-35 Service Road 11620 N. FM 620 (Cedar Park) 2600 N. I-35 (Round Rock)	512-989-6464 512-899-0572 512-292-1568 512-506-8181 512-238-8288	www.carinos.com
Mangieri's Pizza Café	5900 Slaughter Lance #490 2133 Lohmans Crossing Road	512-301-0063 512-263-0188	www.mangieris.com
Siena	6203 N. Capital of TX Hwy, Bldg B	512-349-7667	www.sienarestaurant.com



<b>MEXICAN</b>			
Carlos' n Charlie's	973 Hiline Road	512-266-1683	www.cncaustin.com
Flores	7900 FM 620 N 2127 Lohmans Crossing 6705 W. HWY 290 2440 E. HWY 290 W	512-996-9636 512-263-9546 512-892-4845 512-858-2221	www.floresmexican.com
Garrido's	360 Nueces	512-320-8226	www.garridosaustin.com
Jorge's Restaurant	2203 Hancock Drive	512-454-1980	www.jorges.com
Manuel's	310 Congress Avenue 10201 Jollyville Road	512-472-7555 512-345-1042	www.manuels.com
Maria Maria	415 Colorado Street	512-687-6800	www.mariamariarestaurants.com
<b>ORIENTAL AND SUSHI</b>			
Bistro 88	2712 Bee Caves Road	512-328-8888	www.bistro88.com
Cho Sushi	4300 N. Quinlan Park Road, #105	512-266-8700	www.chosushi.com
Kenichi	419 Colorado Street	512-320-8883	www.kenichiaustin.com
Kona Grill	11410 Century Oaks Terrace	512-835-5900	www.konagrill.com
Mama Fu's Asian House	100 Colorado Street 4615 N. Lamar Boulevard #307	512-637-6774 512-637-6773	www.mamafus.com
Mizu Prime Steak and Sushi	3001 Ranch Road 620 South, The Hills	512-263-2801	www.mizuauktion.com
<b>STEAK AND SEAFOOD</b>			
Cool River Café Steakhouse and Southwestern Grille	4001 Parmer Lane	512-835-0010	www.coolrivercafe.com
Eddie V's	Downtown: 301 E. 5th Arboretum: 9400-B Arboretum Blvd	512-472-1860 512-342-2642	www.eddiev.com
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar	Downtown - 320 E. 2nd Street Domain - 11600 Century Oaks Terrace	512-457-1500 512-835-9463	www.flemingssteakhouse.com
Fogo de Chao Churrascaria	309 E. 3rd Street	512-472-0220	www.fogodechao.com
Jasper's	11506 Century Oaks #128	512-834-4111	www.jaspers-restaurant.com
McCormick & Schmicks	11600 Century Oaks Terrace	512-836-0500	www.mccormickandschmicks.com
Mesa Ranch	8108 Mesa Drive	512-853-9480	www.mesaranchaustin.com
The Oasis	6550 Comanche Trail	512-266-2442	www.oasis-austin.com
Truluck's	400 Colorado 10225 Research Blvd, Suite 4000	512-482-9000 512-794-8300	www.trulucks.com
Ruth's Chris Steak House	107 W. 6th Street	512-477-7884	www.ruthschris.com
Steiner Ranch Steakhouse	5425 Steiner Ranch Boulevard	512-381-0800	www.steinersteakhouse.com
Vince Young Steakhouse	301 San Jacinto Boulevard	512-45-STEAK	www.vinceyoungsteakhouse.com
<b>TEX-MEX</b>			
Chuy's	4301 W. William Cannon 1728 Barton Springs Road 11680 N. Research Boulevard 10520 N. Lamar 2320 N. IH-35, Exit 254	512-899-2489 512-474-4452 512-342-0011 512-836-3218 512-255-2211	www.chuys.com
Iron Cactus	Sixth Street: 606 Trinity North: 10001 Stonelake Boulevard South: 13420 Galleria Circle	512-472-9240 512-794-8778 512-263-7636	www.ironcactus.com
Matt's Famous El Rancho	2613 South Lamar Boulevard	512-462-9333	www.mattselrancho.com
Maudies Tex-Mex	2608 W. 7th Street 1212 S. Lamar 10205 N. Lamar 9911 Brodie Lane 3801 N. Capital of Texas Highway 12506 Shops Parkway, Bee Cave	512-473-3740 512-440-8088 512-832-0900 512-280-8700 512-306-8080 512-263-1116	www.maudies.com
Vivo	2015 Manor Road 12233 RR620 #105	512-482-0300 512-331-4660	www.vivo-austin.com
Z' Tejas Southwestern Grill	1110 W. 6th Street 9400-A Arboretum Blvd. 10525 W. Parmer Lane	512-478-5355 512-346-3506 512-388-7772	www.ztejas.com



# FORKS UP!

BY AMY LEMEN

## Barbecue in Central Texas

**I**f there's one pastime in Austin, Texas that hasn't changed over the years, it's eating. From Tex-Mex to nationally known chefs and restaurants, there's no question that Austin is a foodie kind of town. After all, we were one of the first cities to have a "food trailer" subculture; those early beginnings have since spawned food trailer parks in at least three different areas of the city and inspired many more.

## FOOD, SCHMOOD – WHAT ABOUT BARBECUE?

While Austinites certainly have an appreciation for all things edible, they're obsessive about barbecue. That's because in Texas, beef is king. And its rulers and subjects are mostly located right here in Central Texas.

In fact, the *brisket*, a cut that is the cornerstone of the Texas tradition, owes its status to the long cattle drives of that bygone era – and to the creative culinary genius of multiple Texas barbecue masters. Considered tough and almost worthless in the beginning, it's what was left over after the so-called prime cuts had been taken. Other meat staples in a true Texas barbecue include sausage (normally made from beef) and pork ribs, an import from the Midwest.

Texas barbecue can even be broken down by region. In west Texas, the meat is cooked using direct heat with mesquite wood, an approach also seen in Arizona and New Mexico. In eastern Texas, beef is often slow-cooked over hickory after marinating in a tomato sauce. And here in Central Texas, meat is often dry-rubbed with spices and cooked using indirect heat over either oak, pecan or mesquite. The South Texas style features thick sauces, normally with a molasses base.

## WHO NEEDS A PLATE? ORDER UP!

When it comes to ordering barbecue, Texans have their own style there, too. Most places serve beef ribs, brisket, chicken and pork ribs by the pound, or by the link for sausage, and forgo plates – instead choosing to serve meats on plain white butcher paper.

Typical side dishes and drinks here in the Lone Star state include pinto beans, potato salad, coleslaw, creamed corn, pickles, onions, jalapenos, cold beer, iced tea, lemonade – and, of course, plenty of slices of plain white bread.

As for the sauce, it's generally an optional thing – and some Central Texas barbecue institutions don't offer sauce at all. That's because the emphasis is on the meat, not necessarily the sauce. Roll it up in a slice of white bread, add pickles, onions and maybe some coleslaw on top, and it's like heaven on earth.

## YOU SAY TOMATO . . .

According to the National Barbecue Association, the three essential elements of barbecue are good meat; the process of slow cooking at a low temperature; and the fuel used for heat and flavor. This is not the backyard style barbecue where Mom or Dad fires up the gas or charcoal grill. At its heart, barbecue is slow cooking, using cuts of meat that, in the past, were considered inferior – until super slow cooking for hours at a time turned them into something worth savoring and craving.

The native peoples of the Caribbean, who used a combination of low heat, wood smoke and sun to preserve their meat, first practiced what we know as barbecue at the time Columbus discovered the New World. Known first as "barbacoa," it made its way to the mainland where it diversified, both in location and style.

Now? It's an art form – and it varies from state to state, region to region, and neighbor to neighbor. From the pulled pork of the Carolinas to the heavy sauciness of Kansas City to the sweetness of Memphis, barbecue – and the way it's cooked – is a varied culinary tradition whose rules are based mainly on location and what Grandpa did. Pork or pork sausage are a barbecue stalwart, especially in the

southeastern United States. And it's not surprising to find very expensive smokers cooking up brisket, sausage, ham, turkey and more for a crowd at University of Texas tailgates (and at every other college football game in Texas).

## ROAD TRIP: NO FORKS NECESSARY

Clearly, the best way to experience this mouth-watering culinary experience is to take a road trip and try it all. Because we're famous for this stuff, especially here in Central Texas – and those who live here know all too well what a gift it is to experience it when the craving strikes. And it will. Over and over again.

The following is a guide to Central Texas barbecue Meccas – use our tips to take your own delicious, sticky fingers jaunt across barbecue heaven. Visit [www.tourism-tools.com/texasbbq](http://www.tourism-tools.com/texasbbq) for more information. And don't forget the napkins! ▶



Photo courtesy of Black's Barbecue



### AUSTIN

#### Artz Rib House

2330 South Lamar,  
512-442-8283

With a tagline of “Having a tough day? Come eat some ribs!” Artz is an Austin favorite for – you guessed it – mouth-watering ribs. Founder Art Blondin started serving both baby back and country-style ribs in an old caboose north of the river and immediately started winning food awards – and lots of fans. Equally known for its dedication to local and live music, Artz even has its own record label, called *Rib House Records*, of course.

#### The County Line

County Line on the Hill (original location),  
6500 W. Bee Cave Rd.,  
512-327-11742

County Line on the Lake,  
5204 FM 2222 (off Bull Creek),  
512-346-3664

Founded in 1975 and now boasting several locations, The County Line is an Austin barbecue institution. The restaurant’s barbecue philosophy has just four principles: Deliver highest quality smoked barbecue – ribs, brisket, sausage and chicken – with traditional sides of cole slaw, potato salad and beans;

Offer generous portions at reasonable prices; Hire staff and offer friendly table service with linens and bar service; and Serve it all in an authentic location that celebrates the heritage of Texas. It’s no wonder that the restaurant’s tagline is that it’s so good, you’ll want to “Get It All Over Ya!”

#### The Green Mesquite

1400 Barton Springs Road,  
512-479-0485

9900 South IH-35 at Southpark Meadows,  
512-282-7100

Known for “BBQ, Blues & Bluegrass,” the Green Mesquite is another Austin favorite with two locations – the original on Barton Springs and another in the Southpark Meadows shopping center off I-35 South. With a menu that includes such classic and delicious sides as fried okra, hush puppies, green beans, cole slaw, and potato salad, and barbecue plates with a choice of beef brisket, pork ribs, pulled pork, chicken, sausage, ham, smoked wings or turkey – plus live music – it’s a meat lover’s (and music lover’s!) paradise.

#### Hoover’s Cooking

2002 Manor Rd.,  
512-479-5006 (original location)  
13376 Research Blvd., #400  
(at Anderson Mill),  
512-335-0300

Known more for its traditional Southern-style cooking and deep Texas roots of founder Hoover Alexander – a fifth-generation Texan whose food include elements of his mom’s home cooking, East Texas Cajun flavors, and the mouth-watering fare of barbecue pit bosses – Hoover’s isn’t your traditional barbecue restaurant. But Alexander’s ribs are out of this world, and the restaurant has become known equally for its barbecue offerings. Choose from chicken wings or halves, pork ribs, Elgin sausage and even jerk chicken – all come in giant portions with a deep-red-brown and spicysweet sauce. Sides include the decadent macaroni and cheese, jalapeño creamed spinach, cole slaw, and classic pork and beans, among classic Southern specialties as mustard greens and fried okra.

#### House Park Bar-B-Q

900 W. 12th (at Lamar),  
512-472-9621

When your eyes find the “Need Teef to Eat my Beef” sign, you’ll know you’ve arrived at House Park Bar-B-Q. Open since 1943, this favorite neighborhood (and city-wide) barbecue joint takes the best brisket cuts, lays them in a pit – and leaves them alone for up to 18 hours. The result is flaky, super-tender brisket cooked over a mesquite fire that is so tender that, well, if you didn’t happen to have “teef,” it wouldn’t matter. House Park also serves up pork and beef sausage, and pork loin, plus such sides as sweet beans (secret recipe; don’t ask – and same goes for the sauce), coleslaw, and a sweet potato-and-egg salad. ▶







★ WE'VE BEEN ★

# AUSTIN'S

— place for —

# BAR-B-Q

★ SINCE 1975 ★

For over 35 years, we've been THE place to get the best bar-b-q in town. We're famous for our big meaty ribs, extra lean brisket and spicy German sausage. But there's more than great food to enjoy at The County Line. Our spectacular Hill Country views and Texas roadhouse decor are as unique and legendary as the food we serve.

THE HILL ★ 327-1742  
6500 W. BEE CAVE RD.



THE LAKE ★ 346-3664  
5204 FM 2222

countyline.com  



## SHOPPING AND DINING

### Ironworks Barbecue

100 Red River,  
512-478-4855

A family-owned ironworks before it became a barbecue favorite in 1978 (check out the Weigl family-crafted weathervane on the restaurant's roof), Ironworks is not only an Austin favorite, but also counts among its many fans such visiting Austin celebs as Kevin Costner, Leonardo DiCaprio, Bob Dylan, and Jay Leno. Offering both barbecue plates and meat by the pound, specialties include sliced beef brisket, chopped beef, beef ribs, smoked pork loin, pork ribs, chicken, Ironworks hot sausage, ham and smoked turkey, plus classic sides that include beans and potato salad.

### Ruby's BBQ

29th & Guadalupe,  
512-477-1651

Open since 1988, Ruby's specializes in "real, pit-smoked barbecue" with traditional and non-traditional sides, plus several

Cajun and vegetarian dishes. What? Vegetarian dishes at a barbecue joint? Ruby's is all that and more – and it's still a favorite. With tender, juicy, hormone-free beef, smoked Elgin sausage, pork ribs, and a spicy sauce, it'll make meat lovers happy, too. Sides include enough variety for all persuasions, including two kinds of beans (black and BBQ), several kinds of cole slaw, collard greens, and such Cajun classics as chicken/sausage gumbo, red beans, and jambalaya.

### Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q

11570 Research Blvd.,  
512-418-9898  
2451 S. Capital of Texas Hwy.,  
512-329-5554  
7709 Ranch Road 620,  
512-250-8002

Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q had its early beginnings in Leon Springs – a small community founded just outside of San Antonio in the 1800s by Max Ave. Max's son Rudolph later opened a one-stop gas

station, garage, and grocery store. It took a while, but barbecue was added to the operation in 1989, and Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q was born. Rudy's uses 100 percent wood-fired pits with oak, a slower burning wood than mesquite, and cook brisket, sausage, turkey and more with a dry spice for unique flavors. Add Rudy's famous "Sause," dill pickles, onions and white bread, and a tasty meal is minutes away.

### Stubb's

801 Red River,  
512-480-8341

"Stubb's is the delicious brainchild of Christopher B. Stubblefield of Navasota,

**Rudy's**  
"COUNTRY STORE"  
AND BAR-B-Q®

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2400 IH-35 at FM 3406  
244-2936

**NORTH**  
11570 Research Blvd.  
418-9898

**NORTHWEST**  
620 & 2222  
250-8002

**SOUTH**  
2451 Cap. of Texas Hwy. S.  
329-5554

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**The Pit on Burnet Road**

4707 Burnet Road,  
512-453-6464

Family-owned and operated since 1969, The Pit is another Austin favorite, with area residents flocking to this small, down-home restaurant to feast on juicy brisket, turkey, sausage, ribs, and chicken, plus the Pit's signature peach cobbler and banana pudding. All meats are smoked in-house, and the Pit is known for its house-made sides – including potato salad and beans.

juicy brisket, ribs, and more. Specialties include the family-style meal, which includes huge servings of beef, sausage, and pork ribs served with potato salad, cole slaw, beans, bread, pickles and onions. Homemade pecan pie and peach cobbler round out the simple and delicious menu – and those who have cravings but who don't live in Central Texas can order complete meals online that are shipped directly to their door.

Texas, who learned to cook in the 1930s when the family moved to Lubbock to pick cotton – and Stubb started working in local restaurants and hotels. Those skills translated into his own restaurant, which he opened in Lubbock in 1968 – cooking barbecue on a hickory pit behind his place and playing the blues on the jukebox. The Lubbock location closed – and an Austin location followed. It soon became as much known for good music as for good barbecue, with musicians like Joe Ely and Stevie Ray Vaughn, Muddy Waters, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and others playing there regularly. Today, it's still about the food, music and cold beer – try the brisket, pork ribs, chicken, pork loin, turkey or sausage plate – and definitely add the sauce made in-house, and the beans, cole slaw and potato salad.

**Texas Rib Kings**

9012 Research Blvd, Suite C-4  
(near Burnet Road),  
512-451-7427

Founded in 1986, Texas Rib Kings BBQ & Catering had its beginnings in the west campus area near the University of Texas. The restaurant moved to north Austin in 1994, and has earned rave reviews for its brisket, sausage, boneless skinless chicken or turkey breast, honey glazed ham, and signature pork and beef ribs. With daily lunch specials that include a sandwich, side and drink, and an all-you-can-eat Monday buffet, there's something for everyone.

**DRIFTWOOD**

**The Salt Lick**

18300 FM 1826,  
(original location)  
512-894-3117

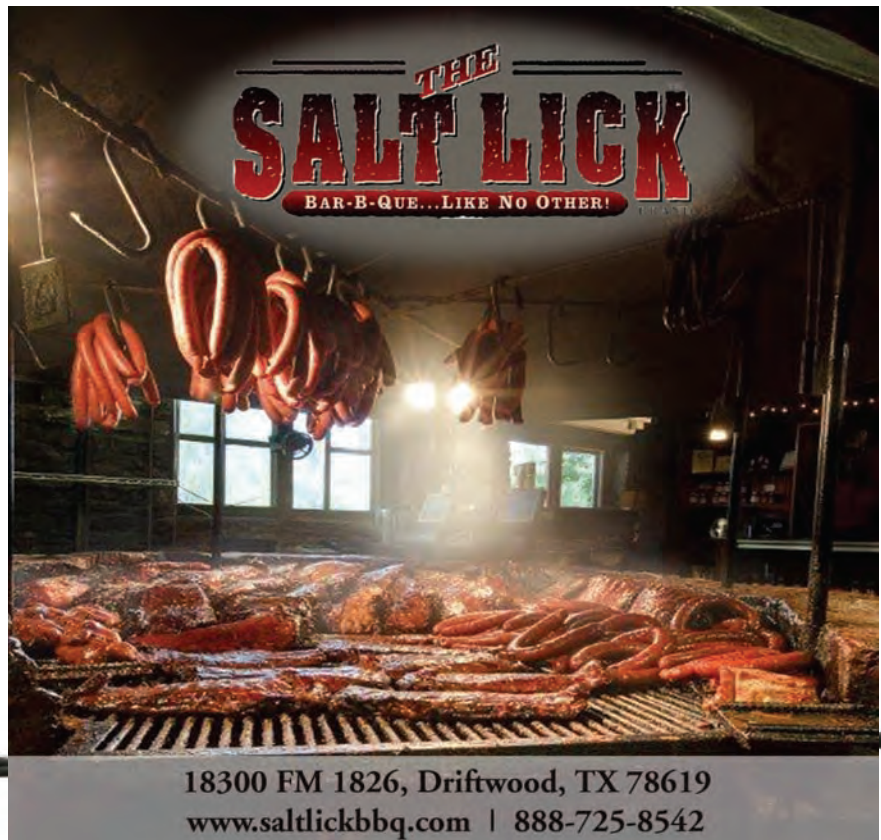
Founded in Driftwood 1967 by the Roberts family, The Salt Lick has a long history of serving great barbecue. People drive from all over Central Texas and beyond to relax among the picnic tables at the rustic outdoor pavilion and enjoy

**ELGIN**

**Southside Market & Barbecue**

1212 U.S. 290 East,  
512-281-4650

This more-than-100-year-old sausage factory is one of the main reasons Elgin is known as the "sausage capital of Texas." Great varieties of sausage and \$2 per pound brisket trimmings are a real treat, too. With such authentic Texas barbecue that includes beef brisket, signature sauce, a million awards and accolades and of ▶



18300 FM 1826, Driftwood, TX 78619  
www.saltlickbbq.com | 888-725-8542

## SHOPPING AND DINING

course that sausage, it's a barbecue lover's must-stop destination – and an excellent reason to drive to Elgin.

### Meyer's Elgin Sausage & Smokehouse

188 U.S. 290 East,  
281-3331

A family-owned business, Meyer's Elgin Sausage expanded the family business to a restaurant that serves smoked pork ribs, turkey breast, brisket, and that famous sausage. Try the three-meat combo with your choice of beef sausage, smoked turkey, pork ribs, lots of sauce, German-style potato salad, spicy beans, and a pickle. And definitely grab some sausage to take home so you can have it whenever you want.

## LAKEWAY

### Buster's BBQ

2125 Lohmans Crossing,  
512-263-2340

For over 17 years, Buster's BBQ has been serving up delicious eats for the Lake Travis community. Located in the heart of Lakeway, Buster's sits in a shopping center at the Northwest corner of Lohman's Crossing and RR 620. Diners can enjoy eating inside, or wander out back and enjoy live music during the summer on the kid friendly and shaded outdoor patio and beer garden. Buster's Meats can be ordered either by the pound or on a sandwich, platter, or family pack.

Options include: Beef Brisker (sliced or Block Chopped); Pulled Pork (Pork Butt, Fresh Pulled and Fork Shredded); Pork Spareribs (Rubbed with Brown Sugar); Pork Shoulder (Stuffed with Fresh Garlic); Turkey Brest (Skinless, Smoked in Mayonnaise and Cracked Black Pepper); Chicken Thighs (Boneless and Skinless, Seasoned with Sweet Rib Rub); and more. Buster's features two smoke pits, Macon (named after owner Tim Cook's oldest grandson) and Beau (named after his youngest grandson).

## LEXINGTON

(Located between Austin & College Station)

### Snow's BBQ

516 Main Street,  
512-979-4640

One piece of advice about Snow's—Get there early. One of Central Texas' most famous barbecue pilgrimages, Snow's is **only open on Saturdays** from 8 a.m. until the meat is gone – and that's usually by noon. Why? Consider that the brisket at Snow's is cooked at low heat (250 to 300 degrees) for six hours, then wrapped in foil and put back into the smoker for however long the pit experts at Snow's think it should be in there. Kind of like the Jedi masters of barbecue. The result is you-don't-need-teeth tender beef that's smoked to perfection. The menu here is small and simple; the folks at Snow's decided to focus only on doing a few things very well: brisket, sausage, chicken, pork, ribs, potato salad, cole slaw, and beans. After all, what else do you need?

**THE FOOD**

- \* FAMILY STYLE DINING
- \* BRISKET, PULLED PORK
- \* H-BOMB, RIBS

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## LLANO

### Laird's BBQ

1600 Ford Street,  
325-247-5234

Located just south of town, Laird's is a Llano barbecue favorite founded by Ken and Esther Laird. Barbecue here is cooked in a pit using only mesquite wood, and the Laird's smoke their briskets for up to eight hours. Everything except the white bread is made here, too. The sausage is half-beef and half-pork with lots of garlic, and the pork ribs are usually gone pretty quickly, so it's always wise to get there early.

### Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que

604 W. Young (Hwy. 71 West),  
915-247-5713

The original location and still the most famous of all the Cooper's outlets (there's also one in New Braunfels and in Fort Worth), Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que is usually tops on the list for obsessed barbecue fans. Known for its "Big Chop" – a 2-inch-thick, center cut juicy pork chop cooked over mesquite coals – the Llano institution that's "All About the Meat" invites guests to pick their favorite from a number of huge grills just outside the



Photo courtesy of The County Line

front door, whether it's ribs, brisket, pork, sausage or that famous chop. Walk inside to add beans, cole slaw, potato salad, pickles and all the fixins' inside, and then enjoy your feast at family-style tables.

### Inman's Kitchen Pit Bar-B-Q & Catering

809 W. Young  
(Hwy. 71 West),  
915-247-5257

Inman's has been "Smokin' the Good Stuff Since 1967," and they're not kidding. The Inman family recipe for turkey sausage is what made Inman's famous, and it still does. A caterer for everything

from weddings, birthdays and anniversaries to Willie Nelson's annual Fourth of July Picnic and even Huntsville Prison Rodeos, Inman's meat specialties include the famous turkey sausage, jalapeno turkey sausage, beef brisket, ham, pork ribs, turkey breast, and chicken – plus all-you-can-eat pinto beans and fixins' and of course potato salad and cole slaw.

## LOCKHART

### Kreuz Market

619 N. Colorado,  
512-398-2361

Yet another famous Hill Country barbecue Mecca, Charles Kreuz opened Kreuz Market as a meat market and grocery store in 1900. ▶





## SHOPPING AND DINING



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Charles Kreuz opened Kreuz Market in 1900 as a meat market and grocery store. Customers would buy slow-smoked barbecue and sausage wrapped in butcher paper, add

some staples from the store to go with it – like crackers, bread, pickles, onions and cheese – and eat it off the butcher paper with their hands, and without

sauce. A family-owned business until Charles Kreuz sold it in 1948 to longtime employee Edgar Schmidt, and today it's Schmidt's sons who run Kreuz Market. And the same traditions are still alive and well – super-tender meat, no silverware, and still no sauce. Besides brisket and sausage, this German-inspired barbecue landmark also features such other favorites as pork spare ribs, beans, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and jalapeno-cheese sausage.

### Black's Barbecue

215 N. Main Street,  
512-398-2712

Besides its reputation for great barbecue, Black's is also known as the oldest barbecue restaurant in Central Texas that is still operated by the same family. Founded in 1932 by Norma and Edgar Black, this barbecue institution has a slogan of "8 Days a Week," and the sign out front says it, too. Even though Black's is open seven days a week, Norma Black says "if you're here as much as we are, you find a few extra days in that time. It's easier to remember when we're closed –

Thanksgiving and Christmas – than when we're open." That dedication comes through in the barbecue – slow-smoked beef brisket, pork ribs, pork loin, turkey, homemade sausage, chicken, a range of sandwiches and classic sides like black-eyed peas, cole slaw, pinto beans, creamed corn and more.

### Smitty's Market

208 S. Commerce Street,  
512-398-9344

In Texas, good barbecue runs in the family – and Smitty's is just one example. Ina Schmidt Sells started Smitty's Market in 1999 in the building that was the home to her father Edgar Schmidt's Kreuz Market for more than 50 years – after he purchased the



business from original owner Charles Kreuz. Sells' son is now the pit master at Smitty's, and the restaurant is known for its long-smoked brisket and juicy boneless prime rib – plus potato salad, beans, and coleslaw. And, just like at Kreuz's, there aren't any forks (though you can get a knife and spoon if you ask), and no sauce.

## MARBLE FALLS

Peete Mesquite Bar-B-Que

2407 Hwy. 281 N.,  
830-693-6531

Regularly voted the "Best Barbecue in Burnet County," Peete Mesquite's is the perfect pick-up joint for those heading to the lake, or those who just have a craving for darn good barbecue. Owned by Wayne and Lanell Henderson and serving the Marble Falls area for the last 20 years, Peete Mesquite's menu includes Angus brisket, pork ribs, pork steak,

smoked chicken, turkey breast and regular or jalapeno sausage. With your choice of seven side dishes, seven varieties of sandwiches, and homemade peach and blackberry cobblers and pecan pies, you can guarantee that no one's going home hungry.

## SAN MARCOS

Fuschak's Pit BBQ

1701 I-35 South,  
512-353-2712

Founded in 1966 in San Marcos, Fuschak's Pit Bar-B-Q is family-owned and operated, with meat specialties that include brisket, fajitas, sausage, chicken, ribs smoked turkey, and a daily buffet. Meats are smoked over hickory in a rotisserie pit and are served with traditional sides like potato salad, cole slaw and beans, plus homemade banana pudding and pecan pie.

## TAYLOR

Louie Mueller Barbecue

206 W. Second,  
512-352-6206

Founded in 1949, this is one restaurant of many in the Texas Hill Country that is well worth the drive. A no-frills kind of place that puts all the emphasis on the meat, the menu is written on butcher paper and there is always a line. Meats are sold by the pound and are mouth-wateringly tender. Try the famous brisket – made with a salt and pepper rub and then slow-cooked in 50 year-old horizontal brick and steel pits using post oak wood. Word to the wise: They often sell out, so if you're bringing out-of-town guests (or planning to go yourself), it's better to call and place your order in advance. ■

**LOUIE MUELLER BARBECUE**  
TAYLOR TEXAS  
EST. 1949

Award-Winning Beef Brisket

...Awards Are Great...  
But The **Only Opinion**  
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...Is Yours!

"AN AUTHENTIC TEXAS TRADITION SINCE 1949"

**LOUIE MUELLER BARBECUE**

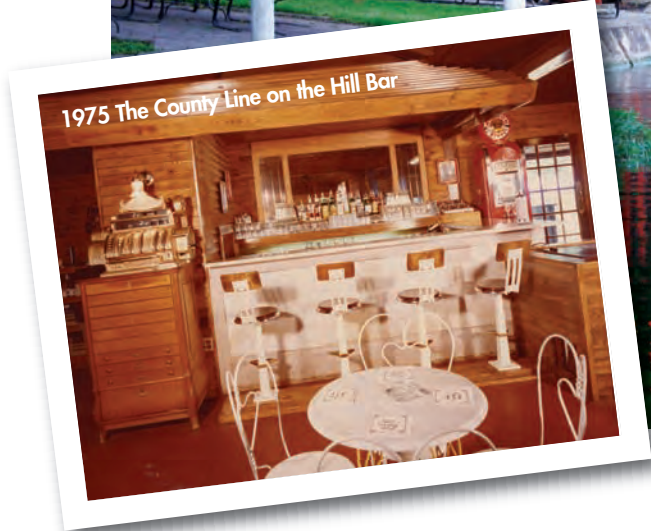
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206 W 2nd St., Taylor, TX 512 | 352-6206





Whether it's On the Hill or On the Lake, there's no doubt that The County Line is not only a Central Texas barbeque destination – it's a Texas barbeque destination. With a rich history (and an even richer smoked brisket!), the County Line is the stuff of legend – barbeque and otherwise – that is so good, you'll want to "Get It All Over Ya!"

Founded in 1975, The County Line's 'cue philosophy has just four principles: serve the highest quality smoked barbecue – ribs, brisket, sausage and chicken – with traditional sides of cole slaw, potato salad and beans; offer generous portions at reasonable prices; hire happy staff and offer friendly table service with linens and bar service; and serve it all in an authentic location that celebrates the heritage of Texas.

That's happened for the last 35 years at both *The County Line on the Hill* (the restaurant's original location atop the third-highest hill in Travis County) and *The County Line on the Lake* (an equally stunning setting off picturesque Bull Creek that offers waterfront views). And both offer up good stories.

**FROM FOOD TO GAMBLING TO FOOD AGAIN...**

Emmett Shelton thought the future County Line on the Hill site would make a great location for a house and café – a "party house," as he called it back then. Stretching from just north of what's now St. Stephen's School to St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Bee Cave Road, those 129 acres were in for a bit if a transformation that started Shelton soliciting help to build 10 miles of road to access nearby Bee Cave.

Shelton got busy in a hurry, starting construction of the *Moose Head Lodge*. He ordered pine trees from Bastrop, Texas for the lodge and cabins – and consulted with restaurant consultant C.C. Hill about the rest. The *Moose Head Lodge* opened in 1922, boasting a red-tinted concrete floor – a first for Travis County from the Maufrais Brothers (whose name is on virtually every sidewalk in Austin) – and serving steak and potatoes for dinner. Unfortunately, their customers were more interested in spending money on bootleg whiskey than steaks – and using the Lodge as a place to drink moonshine, not eat.

The Lodge closed in 1923, and a fire destroyed it in 1931 – leaving only the red-tinted floor and a painted mirror with two moose fighting. But it would soon resurface as a gambling hall in 1934, when new owner Marvin Ash thought it



best that gambling money should stay in Austin – not other towns. The stone building was renamed The Cedar Crest Lodge – and it’s the building that stands today. Ash was successful, but the “King of Gamblers,” as he was called, also liked bootlegging and ended up in jail because of it. The Cedar Crest Lodge became more of an eating and drinking place than a gambling place, which didn’t make Ash very happy, so the building closed again in the late 1930s.

### A NEW BEGINNING – AND THE BIRTH OF A BARBEQUE LEGEND

After multiple owners and another closing in the 1960s, Bruce Walcutt – who’d moved to the area with his family in 1955 as an eight-year-old and had always been intrigued by the building’s possibilities – decided to rent the building with two partners, Rick Goss and Ed Norton. Already a successful restaurateur with his first restaurant, The Pelican Wharf, Walcutt saw a location with promise that was also ripe for a name change.

The County Line opened in 1975, and the three partners bought the property outright

six years later. All three were huge barbeque fans and, though they didn’t have much experience actually cooking it, they knew they needed to start things out the right way. They had an expert build a custom-made brick pit and, after a few false starts, developed the meat smoking process that makes The County Line’s brisket so good.

### THE COUNTY LINE TODAY

*The County Line on the Hill*, as it’s called now, has since spawned nine other locations, including The County Line on the Lake. And there are multiple reminders of its colorful history – including that red-tinted floor and the mirror with two fighting moose.

Today, owner **Skeeter Miller** is every bit as iconic and dedicated as all of those involved with the building and restaurant’s long history, and every bit as passionate about good barbeque. Miller started working at the County Line more than 35 years ago – as the company’s first dishwasher. He soon had experience working every job at the restaurant, and later moved to El

SKEETER MILLER



*Come Eat, Austin!*

County Line on the Hill  
(original location)  
6500 W. Bee Cave Rd.,  
512-327-1742

\*\*\*

County Line on the Lake  
5204 FM 2222  
(off Bull Creek),  
512-346-3664

Paso to help open a second location, called *The State Line Restaurant*.

Named general manager of the El Paso location in 1977, the rest – as they say – is history. As the owner and president of The County Line Restaurants, Skeeter runs all operations, and has been featured in numerous local and International publications. He was recently featured on ShopNBC, Food Network TV’s Road Tasted with Paula Deen’s sons and represented the State of Texas as a featured Chef at the Toronto Food and Wine Festival.

Visitors and locals alike flock to The County Line almost daily to enjoy mouth-watering barbeque – including the famous, slow-smoked, marbled and cut brisket, original lean brisket, juicy peppered turkey breast, succulent sausage, beef ribs, and generous bowls of homemade sides that include potato salad, cole slaw, beans, and homemade bread. Get it all over ya? Most definitely! ■



1975 The County Line on the Hill rear view



The County Line on the Hill present day entrance



# Austin, Texas Active Adults

**L**ong gone are the days of mandatory retirement at age 65, and with it, the idea that one's golden years were to be spent simply sitting quietly on the front porch in a rocking chair as they watch life go by. To begin with, forget about that rocking chair – how does a morning spent working out in the gym or pedaling along the hike and bike trail sound? As for the front porch, seniors in Austin, Texas find that they have a wide variety of housing options that can accommodate their budget, while enjoying their lifestyle in a community that encourages the development and pursuit of their personal interests, goals and activities.

While aging is inevitable, medical advances, as well as healthy lifestyle choices, are responsible for increasing the number of years a person may live, as well as improving that person's lifestyle. The result is that the demographics of seniors in Austin, Texas have undergone some significant changes: the term "senior" may describe an active person in his/her late 50's, or someone in his/her early 80's. Baby Boomers now entering the senior arena are faced with the responsibility of preparing not only for their own retirement, but with making retirement and housing plans for their elderly parents as well.



Fortunately, Austin offers a wide array of options to accommodate the different requirements and lifestyles of its seniors. From upscale retirement communities offering residents a choice of social, cultural, travel and sporting opportunities to active seniors, to full-care facilities specializing in caring for the elderly with mental and physical disabilities, there is a senior citizen living solution to fit every need.

## TAKING STOCK OF YOURSELF

When making retirement housing plans, there's no denying that the number and diversity of choices available might make the process feel overwhelming. Begin by taking a personal inventory that takes into account personal living expenses, health, interests and expectations.

**Budget Inventory:** Make a list of monthly expenses, from rental or housing fees to day-to-day living expenses such as dry cleaning and energy bills to current or anticipated medical expenses. The point is to be realistic about everyday expenses now, so there are no rude surprises later.

**Lifestyle Inventory:** Active golf enthusiasts, for example, might want close proximity to a local golf course. Those who want to use this time for community involvement might want to live close to schools, churches or community centers, while others who want to continue developing and pursuing an active lifestyle might want easy access to hike and bike trails, fitness centers, etc. Again, being realistic on the front end helps determine smart choices that can only benefit later.

## SHOULD YOU STAY OR SHOULD YOU GO?

**Staying Put:** Packing up and selling a loved home with so many memories is a difficult decision for many longtime Austin residents. One viable option open to senior homeowners is the reverse mortgage, which allows homeowners to turn the value of their home into cash without having to move or repay the loan each

month. Guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD offers seniors a federally insured private loan as a means to provide financial security and supplement social security, meet unexpected medical expenses, make home improvements, and more.

The money from a reverse loan may be paid to the borrower in a variety of ways, from a lump sum to a regular monthly cash advance, as a credit line account or in any combination of the above. Typically, borrowers do not have to pay anything back until they permanently move out of the home, sell, or pass away. Eligibility for most reverse mortgages requires that the home should be owned outright by the applicant, and that the applicant is 62 years of age or older. (Visit AARP's website and use their Reverse Mortgage Calculator: ([www.rmaarp.com](http://www.rmaarp.com))).

A reverse mortgage offers retirees a distinct advantage. Since most lenders require that borrowers have some sort of income so they can determine a borrower's ability to pay back the loan, many retired seniors simply cannot qualify for a traditional home equity loan. But a reverse mortgage does not require monthly payments, and therefore no minimum amount of income is required for the loan application. Most reverse mortgages require no repayment as long as the owner, or any co-owner, lives in the home.

The best way to determine if a reverse mortgage is the best fit for one's retirement plan is to honestly assess the following:

- How much would the home sell for on today's market?
- What would the cost be to buy and maintain, or rent, a new home?
- Would there be any money left over from the purchase of a new home that could be safely invested?

- What are the options for downsizing into a less expensive home, renting an apartment, or moving into an assisted living or alternative senior housing situation?

Jumping into borrowing money for a reverse mortgage is not advised until looking into all of these senior living options. By being honest about current needs and housing trends, and exploring all the options, seniors can rest easy that they have selected the best housing choice that custom fits their particular budget and lifestyle needs.

**Pack It Up:** Being realistic about your life, finances and longevity is a must if you decide to move to another community, says Calvin Chamness, real estate agent/ developer and builder with JW Development Inc. "You have to think about your health and your future," advises Chamness, "and expand your thinking beyond the average life expectation. Make sure that you're close to hospitals and doctors that can provide you with the best care. Do they accept your insurance? All of this needs to be considered when moving from your current circle of friends and community to a new area. This is where a real estate agent can really help a person or family trying to find a retirement situation for someone, as they have access to the most current facts and figures to help you make an informed decision."

"Many who are making these decisions for themselves need to learn to be a little bit selfish," says Chamness. "I mean, be selfish in a good way," he laughs. "Move to a community or area that you enjoy. Many of my senior-aged clients are downsizing their lifestyles and selling a home they've owned for 30 years. They're trading down in price range, want to be in a good area and need to select a home that's a good investment for them. If your health is good, and you're reasonably active, you also want an area



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with residents of a similar age and situation – just like you, they’ve raised their kids, have a lot of interests and a lot to talk about, and can help each other.”

### SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that private senior care housing can range in cost from \$20,000 to \$200,000 per year, depending on the services and degree of care offered by a facility. Many senior care housing communities employ medically trained staff, and provide house-keeping and meal preparation services, as well as transportation for shopping, medical visits, and social outings. HUD also notes that as Baby Boomers approach their own retirement years, the trend toward creating active retirement communities where residents are involved and physically active will continue, and seniors are encouraged to live as independently as they are capable of handling.

“The time to begin thinking about a retirement community isn’t when you have to have it,” advises Terry Martinez with Parmer Woods Retirement & Assisted Living. “The time to think about it is when you don’t need it. There are not enough retirement communities to keep up with the demand, and you want to be sure that you know your options and what’s available beforehand.”

Martinez says that more than 60 percent of her facility’s residents are not from Austin, but have moved here when their adult children have decided to relocate to Central Texas. Martinez also credits the Internet as a source for families to learn more about retirement communities, check on specific programs and associated costs.

“When you’re trying to stay within a particular price range, you want to match your living requirements with services offered,” she says. “If someone’s parents

are very independent and don’t need assistance – they just want a meal plan, for example – then the associated costs are much less than for someone’s parents who require more care.”

Remember, says Martinez, Medicare generally does not pay for long-term care, only for services deemed medically necessary that are provided by a skilled facility or home health care that meets certain conditions. Medicaid will pay for certain health services and nursing home care for older people with low incomes and limited assets. Optimally, the selected community should have someone on staff familiar with the requirements and criteria of both programs.

### ACTIVE SENIOR HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Many seniors find that they simply do not want to worry about the upkeep and maintenance of a home, preferring to spend their leisure time in other ways. Independent seniors in good health may find that they need nothing more than a community where they can fully enjoy pursuing their personal interests. For them, moving to an active independent living retirement community might be the best fit for their budget and lifestyle, where options include renting an apartment or the outright purchase of a property in a senior community.

Many active senior communities have information packets that may be requested in advance, and offer tours of the community itself. A personal visit will give valuable, first-hand information and an opportunity to visit with current residents who can offer their own experiences and provide an insider’s view on the community. Be sure to determine that personal interests and pursuits are offered, such as health and fitness programs, organized activities, sports, etc. Other day-to-day living arrangements should also be considered, such as shopping centers and grocery stores within easy walking



distance, or are transportation services provided? Where is the community located in proximity to major health care providers? And, what security measures are in place for residents? For ultimate peace of mind, some seniors rent a home under a short-term agreement at first to make sure the community provides for their needs and lives up to their expectations.

### CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

A Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) offers 360-degree care in residential community for seniors, with a full menu of services and living situations. Residents at a CCRC may move between independent living, assisted living and nursing home care, depending on their individual, changing needs. Seniors electing to live in a CCRC (also known as “Continuing Care Retirement Facilities,” “Life-Care Facilities” and “Life-Care Communities”) contract with the community in advance for a lifetime commitment to provide care, regardless of their future health and needs. They then live in the residential community for the remainder of their lives, and are placed within a living situation appropriate to their needs and abilities.

Seniors or family members of seniors who are concerned about future security find CCRCs a safe bet, addressing any worries about future health problems down the road and alleviating any concerns about hidden costs along the way. A CCRC generally offers seniors a contract or contracts that provide a continuum of care that includes access to housing, services, and health care for more than one year, or the balance of their lives. Usually, it is a wise idea for seniors to move into a CCRC sooner rather than later, as most CCRCs require that new residents be capable of living independently when they first move in.

There are a number of contract options offered by CCRCs to seniors and their

families. An extensive care contract is the most expensive, but affords the least risk, providing unlimited long-term nursing care at little or no additional cost for as long as nursing home services are needed by the client. A modified care contract comes with medium financial risk, and provides long-term health or nursing services for a specified period of time, after which, the senior or their guardian is responsible for the additional cost. A fee-for-service contract offers an a la carte approach, requiring that residents pay separately for all health and medical services provided by the facility, as well as long-term care. While a fee-for-service contract is the least expensive contract, it does have the highest risk, as costs can run very high for seniors who require unanticipated extensive care later in life.

The most common element in a CCRC contract is an entrance fee, where regardless of whether the contract is an extensive, modified or fee-for-service contract, the resident pays a lump sum entrance fee, plus monthly fees thereafter. Another CCRC contract option may require an equity agreement where seniors purchase a condominium or co-op apartment on the property instead of paying an entrance fee. Less commonly found are CCRC contracts where residents pay monthly fees only. Seniors and their families are advised to be sure to read the fine print on the contract carefully to ensure that they are signing an agreement that guarantees the lifetime of services and support over an extended period of time that they are looking for. There are so-called copycat senior-care residences that claim to offer all the benefits of a CCRC, but in reality the services guaranteed by the actual contract fall far short of the claims made by management.

Before signing a contract with a CCRC, seniors should conduct a thorough review of the facility’s services, operations and

finances, and determine that the CCRC is appropriate to their needs, lifestyle and expectations. It’s also a good idea to ask a family attorney or accountant to review the contract as well. If the contract is found agreeable, ask to spend at least one night and two days at the facility, to test drive the community and make sure it is a good fit. Some points to consider include:

- Are pets allowed in your residence?
- What social, recreational and cultural activities are offered?
- Is food prepared onsite? If so, how is it?
- Are there fitness facilities onsite?
- Is the staff friendly and knowledgeable?
- What healthcare and personal care services are available?
- What preparations have been made for handling medical and evacuation emergency situations?

CCRCs are an excellent option for those who are independent and in good health, but might need some assistance with daily living needs or require skilled nursing care. The variety of housing offered by CCRCs is varied as well, ranging from ultra-urban high-rise apartment communities to cottages, townhouses, duplexes or even single-family homes located in a beautiful, natural setting.

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

An Assisted Living Community (ALC) bridges the gap for seniors who need assistance with daily activities as a nursing home might offer, but wish to live as independently as they are capable of living for as long as possible. Residents in an ALC are unable to live by themselves, but do not require constant supervision. An ALC offers its residents assistance ►

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with eating, bathing, dressing, laundry, housekeeping, and keeping track of medications. They often have centers for medical services, but typically do not offer the extensive medical services provided by a nursing home. An ALC is not a substitute for a nursing home, but rather is a stepping stone between complete independence and service provided by a nursing home.

Often, an ALC will create an individualized service plan for seniors upon admission, detailing personal services that will be provided to the resident. This plan is periodically reviewed and updated to provide the correct care each resident receives. Housing in an ALC may be studio or one-bedroom apartments with small kitchen facilities. Typically, ALC housing units have group dining facilities and common areas where residents gather to enjoy social and recreational activities.

An ALC may be licensed as a "Type A" or "Type B" facility, says Martinez. "A facility with a Type A licensing means that the residents are mentally and physically able to vacate the building without assistance within 15 minutes," says Martinez. "A Type B certification means that residents require assistance to vacate the building within 15 minutes. Our facility is licensed for Type B, as we are also certified to care for residents with Alzheimer's Disease."

"Your first impression of an Assisted Living Community is the most important," says Martinez. "What do you see when you get out of the car? How do they take care of the lawn? What is your first impression of the staff? Are the residents properly dressed? How's the lighting inside the buildings? What activities are available? Are staff members all in the same uniform? Scrubs are not appropriate for an Assisted Living Community, but nametags are important.

"I'm not bragging about our own facility," says Martinez of her own community,

Parmer Woods Retirement & Assisted Living, "but people comment all the time about that first impression when they walk into my building, go on the tour, and acknowledge that they like what they see."

### NURSING CARE FACILITIES

A Nursing Care Facility (NCF) is a state licensed, private-care facility that provides 24-hour skilled hospital care for residents who do not require hospitalization but cannot be cared for at home. Also called Long Term Care Facilities, the majority of nursing homes are staffed by caring, trained persons who provide an excellent level of service for their residents.

It pays to shop around when selecting a NCF. Seniors should consult with a trusted doctor or health care practitioner for recommendations of nearby facilities. Plan on visiting at least four or five area facilities, and make an appointment with the administrator or director of nursing. Check to make sure that information provided is consistent with information gathered during the facility tour. Discrepancies between provided information and your own observations indicate possible problems later on. A nursing care facility should have clean floors, and a clean smell. Facilities with dirty floors and a sour smell do not put a high priority on cleanliness, and should not be considered.

Ask to see the compliance survey report prepared by the State of Texas on the considered facility. The report will list deficiencies found in resident care during routine inspections, and the facility's effort to correct the problem. Under Texas law, nursing homes must make this and other survey compliance reports available upon request, as well as provide an accessible and well-lit place for review.

Another option available is to call the Texas Department of Human Services at 800-458-9858. While state law prohibits agency employees from recommending

one facility over another, they can answer the following TDHS recommended questions about any such facility:

- Have there been any proposed license terminations in the past two years?
- How many complaints have been filed in the past year?
- How many complaints in the past year have been found to be valid?
- How many deficiencies have been cited in the past two years?
- How many "quality of care" violations have been cited in the past two years?
- When did TDHS last visit the facility, and what was the purpose of the visit?
- Has the owner of this facility had other facilities recommended for license termination?

The answers to these questions, combined with observations and impressions made during facility tours and staff interviews will ease the task of selecting the right nursing care facility.

### ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA CARE FACILITIES

Residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia need specialized care. Assisted Living Facilities offer services and separate facilities for residents with early onset symptoms, but because of the progressive nature of the disease, it may become necessary to transfer the resident to another facility that can provide more appropriate care.

Facilities specializing in the treatment of Alzheimer's and dementia should provide a treatment plan that takes into account not only the resident's medical needs, but also the needs of the entire family with social services and professional consultations and individualized treatment



reviews. Emphasis within the facility should be placed on providing a calming, soothing environment that is sensitive to the needs of the patient.

Please visit the Area Agency on Aging of The Capital Area at [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org) for additional information on care for the elderly.

## AUSTIN AREA ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITIES

### Longhorn Village

12501 Longhorn Parkway  
Austin, TX 78732  
512-266-5600  
[www.longhornvillage.com](http://www.longhornvillage.com)

Located in the heart of Texas Hill country and developed in association with The Ex-Students' Association of The University of Texas as part of Steiner Ranch master-planned community, Longhorn Village offers its residents a luxurious, service-oriented senior living lifestyle.

Amenities include a fitness center, enclosed heated pool; day spa; arts & crafts studio; club room; card room; on-site banking; chapel/meditation room; convenience store/gift shop; mail and communications center; library; an on-site Health Care Center with a full continuum of care including assisted living, skilled nursing and memory support; clinic; and wellness center for assistance and education.

### Heritage Oaks

4805 Big Bend  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
512-930-4005  
[www.jacobshomes.com/Communities-Heritage-Oaks](http://www.jacobshomes.com/Communities-Heritage-Oaks)

Quality custom designed homes on 398 heavily wooded home sites in active adult 55+ community. Features club-house/amenity center, hike and bike trails, and

offers excellent location and proximity to major medical and retail services as well as easy convenience to recreation such as Lake Georgetown and several private and public Golf Courses. Heritage Oaks offers a premier quality of life without heavy restrictions and fees.

### Mariposa Apartment Homes at Hunter Road

2600 Hunter Road  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-392-9588  
[hunterroad.mariposaapartmenthomes.com](http://hunterroad.mariposaapartmenthomes.com)  
Tucked among shady oak trees in enchanting San Marcos, Mariposa is a charming, yet affordable community for active adults 55+. Enriched lifestyle with activities and elegant commons including movie theatre, gardens, fitness studio, pool, salon, library, card room and more. ▶

SENIOR CENTERS		
<b>CENTRAL</b>		
Austin Recreation Center	1301 Shoal Creek	512-476-5662
Hancock Recreation Center	811 East 41st	512-453-7765
Hyde Park Senior Center	3901 Speedway	512-465-8382
Senior Activity Center	2874 Shoal Crest	512-474-5921
<b>EAST</b>		
Chalmers Court Senior Center	1801 East 4th	512-477-1643
Conley-Guerrero Senior Center	808 Nile	512-478-7695
Dottie Jordan Rec Center	2803 Loyola	512-926-3491
East Rural Community Center	600 West Carrie	512-272-5561
Salina Senior Center	1143 Salina	512-477-2414
<b>NORTH</b>		
Allen R. Baca Center	301 Bagdad Ave., Bldg 2	512-255-4970
Gaston Place Senior Center	1941 Gaston Pl	512-926-8955
Georgian Manor	110 Bolles Cir	512-834-1504
North Rural Corn Center	Pflugerville	512-251-4168
Northwest Recreation Center	2913 Northland	512-458-4107
Stonehaven Senior Center	1704 Hart Hart, Georgetown	512-863-5141
Treasure of the Hills Center	408 Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Park	512-331-6000
<b>SOUTH</b>		
Montopolis Rec Center	1200 Montopolis	512-385-5931
South Austin Senior Center	3911 Manchaca	512-448-0787
South Rural Corn Center	3518 FM 973 S, Del Valle	512-247-4407
West Rural Corn Center	Oak Hill	512-892-0226



### Mariposa Apartment Homes at River Bend

121 River Bend Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
512-930-4242

[riverbend.mariposaapartmenthomes.com](http://riverbend.mariposaapartmenthomes.com)  
Enjoy convenient, small town Georgetown surroundings with charming yet affordable cottage and apartment home living for active adults 55+. Enrich your active lifestyle among friends at your community pool, movie theatre, salon, fitness studio, activity room with dance floor, card room and more.

### Sun City Texas

1501 Sun City Boulevard  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
877-805-1411

[www.delwebb.com/communities/Texas/georgetown/sun-city-texas/index.aspx](http://www.delwebb.com/communities/Texas/georgetown/sun-city-texas/index.aspx)  
Premier independent living for active seniors 55+, Single-family homes, golf, biking trails, tennis courts, aerobics, weight room, Senior University, concerts, planned events/entertainment, fine dining.

### The Village at the Arboretum

9306 Great Hills Trail  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-346-4900  
[www.vparboretum.com](http://www.vparboretum.com)

Exclusively designed for the active senior, the Village at the Arboretum blends the finest architecture with the charm and legacy of hill country living. Combining signature amenities and services, such as a full service concierge, 24-hour security, and superb restaurant style dining, with exciting social and recreational activities, The Village at the Arboretum provides residents the independent lifestyle they desire. Located in the beautiful Arboretum area of Austin, residents maintain life-long connections to family and community while cultivating new friendships and a lifestyle like no other.

### RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

(RET) - Retirement/Independent Living  
(SNF) - Skilled Nursing Facility  
(AL) - Assisted Living  
(RSP) - Respite Care  
(ALZ) - Alzheimer's Care

### Ashwood Retirement

(RET, AL)  
12151 Hunter's Chase Drive  
Austin, TX 78729  
512-336-4100  
[www.ashwoodassistedliving.com](http://www.ashwoodassistedliving.com)  
Three meals per day, full activities

program, scheduled transportation, weekly housekeeping, paid utilities, kitchenette, 24-hour staff.

### Buckner Villas

(RET, AL, ALZ, RSP)  
11110 Tom Adams Drive  
Austin, TX 78753  
512-836-1515  
[www.bucknerretirement.org](http://www.bucknerretirement.org)  
1,090 sq. ft. garden home apartments with two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, full kitchen. Housekeeping and transportation services included. A continuum of care facility, Buckner Villas also offers personal care (assisted living), nursing care, a memory impaired day program and Alzheimer's care.

### Carestone of Austin

(RET, AL, RSP)  
7017 Manchaca Road  
Austin, TX 78745  
512-916-4095  
[www.austin.hscsd.com](http://www.austin.hscsd.com)  
Monthly rates include accommodations, three meals a day, 24-hour staff, medication supervision, bathing, dressing, emergency call system and scheduled transportation.

### The Conservatory at Wells Branch

(RET)  
14320 Tandem Boulevard  
Austin, TX 78728  
512-600-1532  
[www.conservatoryseniorliving.com/retirement\\_living/Austin\\_TEXAS/zip\\_78728/conservatory\\_senior\\_living/3732](http://www.conservatoryseniorliving.com/retirement_living/Austin_TEXAS/zip_78728/conservatory_senior_living/3732)  
A new standard of choice for seniors, 55 and over, who want to live a luxurious lifestyle of active independence. Spacious apartment suites with walk-in closets and full-size gourmet kitchens. A resort style swimming pool and spa, personalized fitness programs and classes, in-house movie theater, beauty salon and barber are available. Other services include scheduled transportation, full-time social director and state-of-the art monitored emergency response system.

## The Court at Round Rock (RET)

2700 Sunrise Road  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
512-310-0002

Monthly rate includes apartment rental, three meals per day, activities, weekly housekeeping, linen service, transportation, emergency response system, 24-hour security and covered parking.

## Emeritus At Spicewood Springs (AL, SNF)

4401 Spicewood Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-418-8822

Support with daily living activities in apartment-style setting, three meals per day served restaurant style, regular health and wellness assessments, stimulating activities and scheduled transportation.

## Heartland Health Care Center (AL, SNF, RSP)

11406 Rustic Rock Drive  
Austin, TX 78750  
512-335-5028

[hcr-manorcare.com/heartlandnursing/austin](http://hcr-manorcare.com/heartlandnursing/austin)  
Assisted living and skilled nursing center located in Northwest Austin offering a unique range of services including: long-term nursing care, rehabilitation, Alzheimer's care, day programs and respite care.

## Heritage at Gaines Ranch (RET, AL)

4409 Gaines Ranch Loop  
Austin, TX 78735  
512-721-3100

[www.brookdaleliving.com/the-heritage-at-gaines-ranch.aspx](http://www.brookdaleliving.com/the-heritage-at-gaines-ranch.aspx)

This is a premier retirement community offering studio, one and two-bedroom apartments. The Lifestyle II plan includes restaurant style dining, housekeeping, utilities, scheduled transportation, indoor pool, convenience store, deli and exercise equipment. The Heritage also can arrange for assisted living services.

## Lakeline Oaks Retirement Community (RET)

1905 South Lakeline Blvd.  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
512-331-4100

[www.lakelineoaksretirement.com](http://www.lakelineoaksretirement.com)

Lakeline Oaks Retirement Community offers studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments with beautifully designed living spaces, fully-equipped kitchens, luxurious private baths, and many smart details to complement a busy lifestyle. Light housekeeping is provided regularly. Gracious common areas are ideal for gathering with friends and neighbors. The Lakeline Oaks theater provides movies and other varied entertainment. Lakeline Oaks also offers an in-house bank and gift shop. Lakeline Oaks can provide you with comfort, independence, security, convenience and a friendly community in a place you can call home.

## Lodge at Merriltown Apartment Homes (RET)

14745 Merriltown Road  
Austin, TX 78728  
512-651-3555

[www.thelodgeatmerriltownapartments.com](http://www.thelodgeatmerriltownapartments.com)  
Independent living apartment community. Scheduled transportation, pool, spa, exercise/weight room, gated access, barber/beauty shop, a library with computer access, gameroom/craft room and billiards.

## Loyalton of Austin (AL, RSP)

5310 Duval Road  
Austin, TX 78727  
512-418-8228

This community is ideal for seniors who need support with daily living activities such as bathing, dressing and medication reminders. They offer a single-story design, three meals daily, health/ wellness assessments, recreational activities and scheduled transportation.

## Merrill Gardens at Round Rock (AL, ALZ, RET, RSP)

8005 Cornerwood Drive  
Austin, TX 78717  
512-238-7200  
[www.merrillgardens.com](http://www.merrillgardens.com)

Independent living as well as assisted living and special care. Choose from three different floor plans, with anytime-dining, weekly housekeeping, flat linen service, planned activities and scheduled transportation.

## Merrill Gardens at San Marcos (AL, ALZ, RET, RSP)

1720 Ranch Road 12  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-392-7200

[www.merrillgardens.com](http://www.merrillgardens.com)

Independent living as well as assisted living and special care. Choose from three different floor plans, with anytime-dining, weekly housekeeping, flat linen service, planned activities and scheduled transportation.

## Merrill Gardens at Parmer Woods (AL, ALZ, RSP)

12429 Scofield Farms Drive  
Austin, TX 78758  
512-835-9080

[www.merrillgardens.com](http://www.merrillgardens.com)

Offering studio, one and two-bedroom apartments built around a landscaped courtyard. 24-hour staff to help with daily living activities, weekly laundry and housekeeping. Three daily restaurant-style meals and planned activities.

## Parsons House Austin (RET, RSP)

1130 Camino La Costa  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-454-0524

[www.parsonshouseaustin.com](http://www.parsonshouseaustin.com)

Independent apartment living with planned activities, and separate assisted living center. Month-to-month leases available.

## Pointe at Cedar Park (AL, ALZ, RSP)

450 Discovery Boulevard  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
512-259-6525

[www.seniorlifestyles.com](http://www.seniorlifestyles.com)

Charming, and comfortable designed to create a "family" atmosphere. Providing assistance for all personal care needs as well as medication management. ►



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### Primrose of Shadow Creek

(RET)

1026 Clayton Lane

Austin, TX 78723

512-419-1525

Independent living for age 55+. One and two bedroom apartments, handicapped accessible. Gated access, elevators in each building, clubhouse, business center with fax, computer and copier. Heated swimming pool with wheelchair access, pets welcome.

### The Summit at Westlake Hills

(RET, AL, SNF)

1034 Liberty Park Drive

Austin, TX 78746

512-328-3775

[www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-westlake-hills.aspx](http://www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-westlake-hills.aspx)

Elegant full-service independent living offering spacious apartments, fine dining, community outings, water aerobics, exercise room, planned activities and more.

### The Summit at

#### Northwest Hills

(AL, ALZ)

5715 Mesa Drive

Austin, TX 78731

512-454-5900

[www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-northwest-hills.aspx](http://www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-northwest-hills.aspx)

Elegant assisted living facilities offering daily meals, daily activities, weekly housekeeping, scheduled transportation and a 24-hour emergency response system.

### The Summit at Lakeway

(AL, ALZ)

1915 Lohman's Crossing Road

Lakeway, TX 78734

512-261-7146

[www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-lakeway.aspx](http://www.brookdaleliving.com/the-summit-at-lakeway.aspx)

Elegant assisted living facilities offering daily meals, daily activities, weekly housekeeping, scheduled transportation and a 24-hour emergency response system.

### Vista Oaks of Lakeway

(AL, RSP)

1604 Lohman's Crossing

Austin, TX, 78734

512-261-6653

[www.vistaaaksal.com](http://www.vistaaaksal.com)

Three levels of care with 24-hour nursing assistance, plus an elegant restaurant style dining, private rooms with kitchenette, personal voicemail, spa room and whirlpool, laundry and housekeeping, on-site salon. Activities, special events, small pets welcome.

### Westminster Manor

(RET, AL, SNF)

4100 Jackson Avenue

Austin, TX 78731

512-454-4711

[www.westminstermanor.org](http://www.westminstermanor.org)

The only "life care" community in Austin, offering independent living, assistance with daily activities and nursing care, all on-site. Elegant, with 12 floor plans to choose from, Westminster has been an Austin landmark for more than 35 years.

### Wesleyan Retirement Center

(RET)

1105 Church Street

Georgetown, TX 78626

512-863-9511 / 888-408-2528

[www.wesleyanhomes.org](http://www.wesleyanhomes.org)

This community offers private rooms, bedroom suites, one and two-bedroom apartments. Three meals per day, utilities, cable TV, housekeeping, bed and bath linens, planned activities and 24-hour staff.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

### Austin Groups for the Elderly/ Elderhaven Adult Day Centers

3710 Cedar Street, Box 2

Austin, TX 78705

512-451-4611

[www.ageofaustin.org](http://www.ageofaustin.org)

Austin Groups for the Elderly is a non-profit organization empowering caregivers, the elderly and their families through education, advocacy, resources and support through four programs: Elderhaven Adult Day Care,

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Retirees across Central Texas continue to give back to the community through business and volunteer work. Some serve as corporate board members; others contribute their time to church, art and human services. Austin deeply appreciates the work of its generous seniors and welcomes senior volunteers in a host of senior service organizations, including:

#### Family Eldercare

512-450-0844

[www.familyeldercare.org](http://www.familyeldercare.org)

#### Foster Grandparents Program

512-374-6098

[www.texaseniorcorps.org/text/fgp\\_nf.htm](http://www.texaseniorcorps.org/text/fgp_nf.htm)

#### Meals on Wheels and More

512-476-6325

[www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org)

#### United Way/

Capital Area's First Call for Help Information and Referral

512-324-1899

[www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org](http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org)

Caregiver Resource Center, SeniorNet® Computer Learning Institute and Historic AGE Building Houses Nonprofits.

## **Aging Services Council of Central Texas**

Becker Elementary  
906 W. Milton Street, Room 201  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-414-0323  
www.caction.org

Formed in response to provide for the needs of older adults in Austin and Travis County, the Aging Services Council of Central Texas enjoys a broad membership of faith-based, nonprofit and public service providers dedicated to making sure older adults and caregivers have the information and services they need to support themselves and family members as they age.

The ASCCT has three goals:

- To maximize resources for aging services through a formalized collaborative process,
- To promote community awareness and investment around aging issues,
- To develop a model system of support to guide planning in the Travis County community.

## **ASCCT Members Include:**

### **Accountable Aging, Inc.**

8133 Mesa Drive, #108  
Austin, TX 78759  
512-342-9800  
www.accountableaging.com

Accountable Aging, Inc. is a onestop resource for seniors and their families to find knowledge, resources, and ongoing assistance related to aging or providing care for an elderly loved one. AAI is staffed by a knowledgeable, multitalented and experienced staff to help provide elderly and their families a virtual safety net of support.

### **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Adult Protective Services**

701 W. 51st Street  
Austin, TX 78751  
800-252-5400  
www.dfps.state.Texas.us/Adult\_Protection/About\_Adult\_Protective\_Services/

From in-home investigations and services to prevention of elder abuse and public awareness, APS is responsible for investigating abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults who are elderly or have disabilities. They also provide public education.

## **Alzheimer's Association, Capital of Texas Chapter**

3429 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78731  
800-272-3900  
www.alz.org/texascapital/

The Alzheimer's Association-Capital of Texas Chapter is a non-profit organization that provides family support, community education, public awareness and supports research for the prevention, cure and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

## **Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area**

6800 Burleson Road,  
Building 310, Suite 165  
Austin, TX 78744  
888-622-9111  
www.aacap.org

The Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area provides services for adults 60 years old or older, as well as their caregivers living in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties.

## **Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services**

PO Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767  
512-974-2000  
www.ci.austin.Texas.us/health/  
Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services works in partnership with the public to promote health, safety and well-being of the community it serves.

## **Capital Area Metro**

2910 E. 5th Street  
Austin, TX 78702  
800-474-1201  
www.capmetro.org

Capital Metro provides bus service on flexible, convenient schedules at more than 3,000 bus stops throughout the Capital area, including special transit services for the disabled.

## **The Care Communities**

7215 Cameron Road  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-459-5883  
www.interfaithcarealliance.org  
The Care Communities, formerly known as Interfaith Care Alliance, is a non-profit, faith-based organization providing Care Team services to those in the Austin area living with cancer or AIDS.

## **Catholic Charities of Central Texas**

1817 East 6th Street  
Austin, TX 78702  
512-651-6100  
www.cccTexas.org/service\_senior.php  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas works with the Commission on Aging to create community awareness on the needs of the senior population within the Diocese of Austin. Senior services and programs are designed to offer support and services to seniors who are living independently or with family members and are in need of assistance.

## **Faith in Action Caregivers**

Multiple Locations  
www.faithinactioncaregivers.org  
Faith in Action Caregivers is an interfaith, non-profit, community-focused, volunteer-based service organization, whose services are designed to enhance the quality of life for older persons, to maximize their ability to meet their own needs, to prevent premature institutionalization, and to encourage independence. The purpose of Faith in Action Caregivers is to provide a supportive network of services for older persons. Eight Austin area caregiver groups service the following areas: Northwest Austin, Georgetown, North Central Austin, Northeast Austin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, South Austin and West Austin. ►

## ACTIVE ADULTS AND SENIOR LIVING

### Family Eldercare

1700 Rutherford Lane

Austin, TX 78754

512-450-0844

[www.familyeldercare.org](http://www.familyeldercare.org)

Family Eldercare provides community-based services supporting older adults and people with disabilities, including in-home care and respite, guardianship, bill-payer services, consultations and service coordination. Family Eldercare also operates an Elder Shelter and Lyons Gardens, a senior housing community.

### Gray Panthers of Austin

3710 Cedar St., Box 15

Austin, TX 78705

512-458-3738

[www.graypanthersaustin.org](http://www.graypanthersaustin.org)

Working for social and economic justice and peace for all people, the Gray Panthers is a grass-roots organization dedicated to honoring maturity and creating a humane society that puts the needs of people over profits, responsibility over power and democracy over institutions. The Gray Panthers seek to fulfill their goals by bringing together groups of young, old, women, men, persons of all ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds for the study and promotion of social justice by influencing local and federal policy for the well-being of all.

### Greater Austin CARES

512-825-1868

[www.greataustincares.org](http://www.greataustincares.org)

Greater Austin CARES is a collaboration of faith-based dementia respite programs in Austin, Round Rock, Georgetown, Burnet and surrounding communities. Each respite program is a ministry of its host organization and serves memory-impaired individuals by providing socially enriching activities, and serves caregivers by offering a break from caregiving responsibilities. Program expenses are covered by in-kind contributions from area businesses and individuals.

### Jewish Family Services

7300 Hart Lane

Austin, TX 78731

512-250-1043

[www.jcaaonline.org](http://www.jcaaonline.org)

Jewish Family Services provides assessment, counseling, information and referral for older adults. JFS also offers a wide range of social, educational, and fitness programs at the Dell Jewish Community Campus and transportation to these programs.

### Meals on Wheels and More

3227 E. 5th Street

Austin, TX 78702

512-476-6325

[www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org)

Meals on Wheels and More volunteers deliver hot, nutritious lunchtime meals each weekday to homebound people who can no longer prepare balanced meals for themselves. Care Managers assist clients with other life-enriching programs and services that promote independent living, including home safety repairs, grocery shopping assistance, rides to the doctor, and other services.

### Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

100 North I-35, Suite 3800

Austin, TX 78701

512-854-7787

[www.rsvpaustin.org](http://www.rsvpaustin.org)

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program matches skilled seniors with local nonprofit and public agencies that need volunteers.

### Services for the Elderly, Inc.

2200 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Austin, TX 78702

512-477-3796, ext. 209

Services for the Elderly, Inc. provides in-home attendant services allowing clients in Travis County and parts of Hays and Williamson counties to continue living in their own homes.

### St. David's Community Health Foundation

811 Barton Springs Road,  
Suite 600

Austin, TX 78704

512-879-6600

[www.stdavidsfoundation.org](http://www.stdavidsfoundation.org)

St. David's Community Health Foundation is a nonprofit, community-owned charitable foundation dedicated to improving the health of Central Texans. Through leadership, education and collaboration with other community organizations, the Foundation supports programs that increase access to health care.

### Travis County Health and Human Services & Veteran Services

100 N. IH 35

Austin, TX 78701

512-854-4100

[co.travis.texas.us/health\\_human\\_services/](http://co.travis.texas.us/health_human_services/)  
Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service is committed to optimizing self-sufficiency for families and individuals in safe and healthy communities through the delivery of services either directly as a provider or by purchasing services from private and not-for-profit agencies in the community. Help for older adults and their families is provided through several Travis County programs, such as the Family Support Services Division, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Veterans Service Office.

### United Way Capital Area

2000 E. MLK Jr. Blvd.

Austin, TX 78702-1340

512-472-6267

[www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org](http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org)

United Way Capital Area partners with local service providers and addresses the community's most pressing health and human care issues including education, health, safety and basic needs. ■



HELPFUL NUMBERS			
<b>ALCOHOLISM</b>		<b>INFORMATION/REFERRALS</b>	
Al-Anon Family Group	512-441-8591	Care Planning Council	512-443-7653
Alcoholics Anonymous	512-327-9927	Adult Daycare	800-989-8137
Austin Recovery	512-697-8500	Adult Protective Services	800-252-5400
<b>ASSOCIATIONS AND SUPPORT GROUPS</b>		<b>LEGAL</b>	
Alzheimer's Association	512-241-0420	Texas Dept of Aging & Disability Services	512-438-3011
American Cancer Society	512-973-9483	Attorney General's Office	512-475-4413
American Diabetes Assoc	512-472-9672	AARP	512-391-9299
American Heart Assoc	888-433-7220	<b>MEDICAID</b>	
American Lung Assoc	512-467-6753	Texas Council on Family Violence	512-794-1133
American Liver Foundation	602-953-1800	Al-Anon Family Group	512-441-8591
Austin Council of the Blind	512-452-8244	<b>MONEY &amp; TAXES</b>	
National Kidney Foundation—Texas	877-543-6397	Alcoholics Anonymous	512-327-9927
Arthritis Foundation	254-772-9303	Austin Recovery	512-697-8500
Asthma Foundation	817-297-3132	Alzheimer's Association	512-241-0420
Epilepsy Foundation of America	888-606-5353	American Cancer Society	512-973-9483
Lupus Foundation	866-205-2369	<b>NURSING HOME ADVOCACY</b>	
Mental Health America	512-454-3706	American Diabetes Assoc	512-472-9672
National Council-Drug Dependence	214-634-2722	<b>SENIOR ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
National Osteoporosis Foundation	800-231-4222	Care Planning Council	512-443-7653
Parkinson's Foundation	800-327-4545	Adult Daycare	800-989-8137
Senior Support Services	512-480-3000	Adult Protective Services	800-252-5400
United Ostomy Assoc	800-826-0826	Texas Dept of Aging & Disability Services	512-438-3011
<b>BEREAVEMENT</b>		Attorney General's Office	512-475-4413
The Cope Foundation	516-364-2673	AARP	512-391-9299
<b>FUNERAL ASSISTANCE</b>		Texas Council on Family Violence	512-794-1133
Care Planning Council of Texas	800-989-8137	Austin Groups for the Elderly	512-451-4611
<b>ELDER LAW AND COMPLAINTS</b>		Services for the Elderly	512-477-5400
Abuse and Neglect	800-252-5400	Senior News (Newspaper)	512-891-9266
Better Business Bureau	512-445-2911	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	
Department of Human Services	512-424-6500	American Heart Assoc	888-433-7220
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>		American Lung Assoc	512-467-6753
AARP Foundation	512-391-9299	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Employment/Training Admin.	877-872-5627	American Liver Foundation	602-953-1800
<b>FAMILY ELDERCARE</b>		Austin Council of the Blind	512-452-8244
The Cope Foundation	516-364-2673	National Kidney Foundation—Texas	877-543-6397
Care Planning Council of Texas	800-989-8137	<b>VOLUNTEERING</b>	
Family Eldercare	512-450-0844	Arthritis Foundation	254-772-9303
Family Elder Care Inc. Respite Service	512-467-6168	Asthma Foundation	817-297-3132
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>		Epilepsy Foundation of America	888-606-5353
Care Planning Council	512-443-7653	<b>WIDOWS/SURVIVORS</b>	
Adult Daycare	800-989-8137	Lupus Foundation	866-205-2369
<b>HOME CARE</b>		Mental Health America	512-454-3706
Care Planning Council	512-443-7653		
Adult Daycare	800-989-8137		



# Getting Settled

beverlyroman

**a** *ustin Relocation Guide* is designed to provide those new to the Austin area with a wealth of information. And, as excited as you may be with your relocation decision, it is still a challenge to settle into any new community. With this article, I will share with you my relocation tips, based on more than thirty books and extensive personal experience, to smooth your adjustment into the Austin area.

### LEARN ABOUT AUSTIN, TEXAS

You may find yourself lodged in a hotel or temporary housing until your belongings arrive, and that's a nice opportunity to become familiar with Austin. *Austin Relocation Guide* is the perfect place to start learning about what this wonderful city has to offer. You can also find additional information at the Visitor's Center, hotels/motels/airports, and real estate offices (see the Helpful Websites sidebar on the next page).

A walking or bus tour, while fun for the whole family, actually serves to help you become acclimated and learn about the city. You can also visit local points of interest such as museums, parks and exhibits; enjoy a concert; and try out restaurants featuring local cuisine. Check out any services, activities or organizations that are of particular interest to your family.

### SPOUSE CAREER CONSIDERATIONS

One of the biggest challenges of moving is relocating a "second" career. If you, as a spouse, are transferring your job to a home office, then a computer, telephone, e-mail account and fax machine may be all that you will need to get started. However, if your job was not "portable," you might consider a new career, part-time or temporary employment, or perhaps even start your own business.

Evaluate your skills, accomplishments and greatest strengths when you are planning your next endeavor. A few resources to tap are your spouse's employer, local organizations, real estate offices with "Partner Career Assistance Programs," independent career counselors, your university/college alma mater and of course the Sunday edition of the local papers. If you are searching for a job, start networking by telling those you meet that you are looking.

If you have chosen to take a break from your career, consider volunteering your time and talent. Volunteering to a charitable organization is a wonderful effort as well as a way to meet new people and learn more about the community. Volunteer activities add depth to résumés, but the experience needs to be documented so that the service equates to business expertise. Before you again become fully employed, use any free time to enjoy your new community. Refer to the Advice for Volunteers website for guidance in selecting a volunteer position and Monster.com for spouse assistance in the *Helpful Websites* sidebar.

### SUCCESSFULLY RELOCATING YOUR SMALLEST MOVERS

The majority of relocating families have dependent children. If you are moving with children, you probably researched schools before moving; however, personal school visits will transform the unknown into reality.

Visits to new schools to survey the classrooms and meet teachers will go a long way to allay your, and your children's worries about the new environment.

Listen carefully to each child's concerns—every move can bring new issues to the surface. Encourage your children to maintain contact with former friends, even while trying to make new friends. Exchanging photos, having e-mail access and possibly a cell phone with a camera feature can help bridge the gap between old and new friends during the early weeks in a new location.

### DEALING WITH CHALLENGES

Keep in mind that every stage and every age can bring new challenges. Children who sailed through the last move could be in an entirely different place emotionally and physically for this move, so parents cannot assume that a child will ease into the current move. ▶

## ▶ TIPS for SETTLING IN

- Write down three or four goals to achieve in your new city.
- Continue all your special family celebrations and traditions.
- Share some of your family's special recipes and cultural aspects with new acquaintances and neighbors.
- Keep a log of new experiences and accomplishments.
- Join an athletic or special interest group.
- Give everyone in the family manageable moving chores (taking care of practical matters will take the edge off homesickness).
- Get involved in community and religious organizations, especially those that sponsor activities, volunteer efforts and programs for newcomers.
- Learn about the local government, issues and politics.
- Take one day at a time.



## GETTING SETTLED IN AUSTIN

Routinely share accomplishments and challenges with each other and talk about ways to overcome difficulties. Children need to know that even though the parents are responsible for uprooting them, you both have challenges to face, and you need to work together as a family to solve them.

The following signs may indicate that children are struggling with the adjustment: sudden reading difficulties, changes in attention span or study habits, weight loss or gain, altered enthusiasm or energy levels, strained relationships with you or their siblings, or disturbed sleep patterns. Stay closely involved with your children during the early months in a new location so you know how they are feeling, what they are thinking and who their new friends are.

Consider volunteering or get involved with the school so that you can see for yourself how your children are managing. Both adults and children need the stability and comfort of established routines, so keep the same rules, bedtimes, mealtimes, allowances and expectations that you had before moving. Refer to the *Tips for Settling In* sidebar for more great info to help both you and the kids.

### CHILDREN AND SAFETY

When children are in an unfamiliar environment, they can easily forget basic safety rules. The following are always a good reminder:

- Keep close to a parent, and take an adult's hand in crowded areas.
- Carry personal identification and phone numbers to contact parents at all times.
- Know where to meet in case families become separated.
- Review street crossing safety guidelines.
- Make sure children understand how to get help safely if they get lost.

### MEDICAL AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

It is a fact that moving places additional stress on individuals and consequently, they are more vulnerable to accidents or illness, not to mention unexpected flare-ups of chronic health conditions. If an emergency occurs, every second counts; therefore, as a precaution, locate hospitals, pharmacies and physicians that will meet your family's needs *before an emergency arises*.

Learn the procedures, telephone numbers and access codes for emergency care and always carry medical identification with you. Also, in an emergency, you may forget your new telephone number and/or address so before an emergency arises, program them into your cell phone and place written notes near each telephone in your home, as well as basic directions to your residence. Directions will not only be useful for family members in the early days at your new home, but they will also assist babysitters and visiting relatives.

### EMBRACE THE MOVE

Whether or not you have children, or you are married, single or retired, relocating to a new community can ultimately become a wonderful and enriching experience. The suggestions in this article have worked for many relocating families, and they can also help your family become comfortable in your new home.

As an aside, when people learn that I've moved 19 times, the response is often "What place did you like best?" My answer is always the same: "Where my family was." I wish you all the best! ■

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

American Medical Association	<a href="http://www.ama-assn.org">www.ama-assn.org</a>
Monster.com	<a href="http://www.monster.com">www.monster.com</a>
American School Directory	<a href="http://www.asd.com">www.asd.com</a>
National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	<a href="http://www.naccrra.org">www.naccrra.org</a>
Elder Care Locator	<a href="http://www.eldercare.gov">www.eldercare.gov</a>
American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Hospital Locator	<a href="http://www.healthypet.com">www.healthypet.com</a>
Advice for Volunteers	<a href="http://www.serviceleader.org">www.serviceleader.org</a>
Parents Without Partners, Inc.	<a href="http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org">www.parentswithoutpartners.org</a>

**About the Author |** Beverly D. Roman founded BR Anchor Publishing in 1990 and has written more than 30 international and domestic relocation books. Two of her books won the Employee Relocation Council's Achievement Award for Special Purpose Programs. Her international newsletter has supported corporations and the military in over 140 countries for more than 18 years. Beverly served from 2002-2004 as founding chairperson for Families in Global Transition, Inc. (FIGT) an organization that focuses on the most critical issues associated with international cultural transitions. Contact her at [broman@branchor.com](mailto:broman@branchor.com), 904.641.1140 or visit [www.branchor.com](http://www.branchor.com).

# we're glad you're here.

## AUSTIN NEEDS YOUR HELP.

### OUR COMMUNITY IS GROWING.

One thing that hasn't grown to match Austin's size? The support of local nonprofits. A national survey of charitable giving says Austin isn't as generous as our neighbors, but one organization is out to prove them wrong, and you can help.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What organization in this city is your perfect match?

How much time can you really give?

What does your donation really go to support?

One useful resource to becoming active in your new community is joining organizations like Austin Involved. Austin Involved is a pipeline of new volunteers and donors created out of Austin's young professionals who are looking for their "cause." Each month, Austin Involved members contribute \$25, and then vote on which of the charities they'd like to win the group's time and



money. Then the members follow the money and see where it goes during a three-hour service project at the chosen nonprofit. There's no commitment – you just come to the projects you can attend.

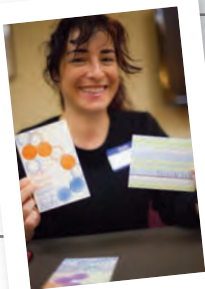
If you thought you didn't have enough time, money or know-how to contribute to Austin – now you do. Because Austin Involved leverages your potential as a large group, your monthly investment of \$25 each plus a few hours of volunteer

time will multiply to make a huge impact on the philanthropies in Austin who need your help.

If you would like to join Austin Involved or find out more about how you can help local charities, visit [www.austininvolved.org](http://www.austininvolved.org) or call 512-417-2090. ■

## OUR RECENT MEMEBER ACTIVITY

- Put together furniture and completely decorated two apartments for local single mothers and their children at Saint Louise House. These families came to Saint Louise House escaping poverty and domestic violence, and Austin Involved purchased new mattresses for both families, put together furniture, set up both kitchens, and decorated their new, safe homes complete with stuffed animals on the children's' beds.
- Wrote 200 thank-you notes to veterans returning to Central Texas, thanking them for their service and welcoming them home. Members included \$25 gift cards for gasoline, thanks to the monthly donations, so that those of them still looking for jobs can make it to their therapy appointments at the Veterans Center.
- Built a new fence around the backyard of Animal Trustees of Austin, where the homeless pets can have a protect place to run and play. For three years, a crumbling fence forced the animals to stay indoors! Thanks to the money and manual labor Austin Involved provided, there's a safe outdoor space for the animals again.
- Rented out a local pool to throw a pool party for children with Autism and their families. The local Autism Society has a difficult time providing safe, enjoyable activities for their kids to interact with other children with autism. With a bunch of protective adults around and a pool all to themselves, everyone had a splashing good time!



“In less than a year and a half, **Austin Involved** members have given more than 1,200 volunteer hours and thousands of dollars to support our local charities. Join us, and **get involved in Austin.**”



**M**oving, be it across town or to another state, is a detail-oriented process that is further complicated by the fact that laws and regulations are far more often than not different in a resident's new home than one's old home. This fact is particularly true when it comes to getting a new driver's license, vehicle registration and vehicle titling. Another of the most important challenges when moving to a new city is learning how to get around learning how to navigate around new streets and the location of important landmarks such as the airport.

Never fear—here's some basic information on getting settled in Austin:

### TRANSPORTATION

Austin doesn't yet have a subway, but it's pretty easy to get around nonetheless:

#### AIRPORT

**Austin-Bergstrom Intl. Airport**  
3600 Presidential Blvd., 78719  
(located near Texas 71 and 183 South)  
512-530-ABIA  
[www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austinairport)

#### COMMUNITY TRANSIT

**Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro)**  
512-474-1200  
[www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org)

Serves the cities of Austin, Leander, Lago Vista, Pflugerville, Jonestown and Manor.

#### Capital MetroRail

512-389-7400  
[www.capmetro.org/metrorail/](http://www.capmetro.org/metrorail/)  
Serves Downtown Austin and its northern suburbs.

#### Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)

800-456-RIDE (7433)  
[www.ridecarts.com](http://www.ridecarts.com)  
Serves Round Rock, Pflugerville, Manor, San Marcos, Smithville and others.



**Greyhound Station 916**

916. E. Koenig Lane  
 (West of IH-35 and near Highland Mall)  
 Austin, TX 78751  
 800-231-2222  
 www.greyhound.com

**TAXI SERVICES**

For more information, log on to  
 www.austintx.areaguides.net/taxirentals

**American Yellow Checker Cab Company**

10315 McKalla Place, Austin  
 512-452-9999

**Austin Cab Company**

1135 Gunter Street, Austin  
 512-929-3344

**Austin Shuttle Service**

8650 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin  
 512-795-4926

**Ace Taxi**

2023 N. Mays Street, Round Rock  
 512-244-1133 OR 930-9800

**Austin Cab Co. and****Para Transit Service**

1135 Gunter Street, Suite 105, Austin  
 512-478-2222

**Cabs Agent**

4131 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin  
 512-338-0017

**Lone Star Cab Company**

208 W. Powell Lane, Austin  
 512-836-4900

**Roy's Taxi**

90 East Avenue, Austin  
 512-482-0000

**Taxi VIP**

10616 Mellow Meadows, Austin  
 888-869-4703

**Texas Style Limousines**

8760 Research Boulevard #A  
 512-797-4831

**Time Warner Cab**

7130 Howerington Circle, Austin  
 512-928-1531

**Yellow Cab**

10630 Joseph Clayton, Bldg A, Austin  
 512-452-9999  
 www.yellowcabaustin.com

**TRAIN SERVICE****Amtrak**

250 N. Lamar Blvd.  
 (5th & Lamar), Austin  
 512-476-5684, 800-872-7245  
 www.amtrak.com

**DRIVER'S LICENSE AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

New Texans need a new driver's license within 30 days of arrival. Car registration and proof of insurance is also required before a license can be issued. Full-time college students can continue to use the license issued in your home state.

**COSTS**

Fees for licenses are \$24 and are good for six years. Motorcycle licenses are \$15, and commercial licenses are \$60. Renewals are \$24 for basic and \$8 for motorcycle. Duplicate licenses or change-of-address are \$10 each.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE OFFICES****Austin:**

6121 N. Lamar Blvd. 512 424-2076  
 13730 Research Blvd. 512-506-2848  
 4719 S. Congress Ave. 512-444-5241  
 1500 N. Congress Ave. 512-936-2100

**Bastrop:**

305 Eskew Street, 512-581-7152

**Georgetown:**

515 Pine Street, 512-863-5816

**San Marcos:**

1400 N. IH-35, 512-353-2770

**Taylor:**

412 Vance Street #2, 512-352-4160

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES****(by county)****Bastrop**

803 Pine Street, 512-332-7261

**Smithville Annex:**

310 Ramona Street,  
 512-237-3630

**Elgin office:**

704 U.S. 290 Suite 100,  
 512-285-2282

**Caldwell****County tax office**

100 E. Market Street, 512-398-1830,  
 or 505 E. Fannin Street, Luling  
 830-875-9207

**Hays****Courthouse Annex**

102 N. LBJ Dr., San Marcos,  
 512-393-5545

**Justice of the Peace office**

512-858-5105

**Mercer Street &****Old Fitzhugh Road****Dripping Springs****Travis**

5501 Airport Blvd,  
 512-473-9473

**Williamson****Alberston's or HEB stores****Williamson County Courthouse**

8th and Main, Georgetown,  
 512-943-1601

**Williamson County Annex**

211 Commerce Blvd., Round Rock  
 512-248-3222

**Williamson County Annex**

350 Discovery Blvd., Cedar Park  
 512-260-4210

**Williamson County Annex**

412 Vance Street, Taylor, 512-238-2140 ■

# get your texas license plates

## MY PLATES OFFERS ENDLESS OPTIONS



If you're moving to Texas from another state, the law gives you 30 days to get license plates. As a result, you will need to switch to a Texas license plate. So, if you need to get a Texas license plate, why not choose a design and a message you want.

You may be surprised at all the fun, colorful choices you have in license plate designs in Texas. Go to [www.myplates.com](http://www.myplates.com) to check out more than 100 designs in official Texas plates.

Texas has gotten creative about license plates as a way of being creative about raising revenue. The idea is to give Texas residents more interesting and engaging choices in personal expression on their plates so that more people will find a specialty plate design that fits their personality.

The first step is to choose the design you like at [www.myplates.com](http://www.myplates.com), then, if you

want to personalize, type in the plate message you'd like. The site will tell you immediately whether that message is available or not. Last step, choose whether you'd like to purchase for 1, 5, or 10 years. The longer the term, the better the deal. You can pick up the plates about three weeks later at a county tax office.

Sure, lots of our designs have Texas themes and support Texas colleges and sports teams, but we also have plates that support out of state colleges from Nebraska to Florida:

Other plates support causes that defy borders like plates supporting the National Breast Cancer Foundation and World Wildlife Fund:

So as a part of your new start in a new state, think of what your plates will say to your 25.1 million fellow Texas residents. It's a big state with thousands of miles of roads, where people often spend a

whole lot of time in their cars. You'll quickly spot My Plates on the road because their full-color backgrounds and fun designs really stand out.

Do you already have Texas plates, are they My Plates? If not, take a minute at [www.myplates.com](http://www.myplates.com) to check out the fun you could be having.

### COMMON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, ANSWERED:

**Do I have to wait until I renew my registration to order a plate?**

No. You can purchase a plate at any time. You will need to be a Texas resident with a Texas address. Your car will need to be registered in Texas before you can affix a My Plates plate to your vehicle.

**What types of vehicles can my specialty plate be issued to?**

Our specialty plates are issued to a variety of vehicles including passenger, trucks, motorcycles, trailer, travel trailer, motor homes and private buses.

Can I transfer my specialty plates to another vehicle? Yes.

- Only to the same type of vehicle (ex. car to car, truck to truck)
- Between vehicles you own: your County Tax Assessor-Collector's office staff will issue a new registration sticker and assist with the transfer.
- To a car bought from a dealer.

Can I transfer my message from an existing personalized Texas plate (PLP) when I purchase a new My Plates plate?

Yes! We call it "porting", but it has to be done in conjunction with a new My Plates purchase, and you must speak to one of our friendly service center agents at 888-7MYPLATES (888-769-7528) to do so.

Once I own a My Plates with a message, can I move my message to a different My Plates design?

Yes! We call it "restyling". You may do so by speaking to one of our friendly service center agents at 888-7MYPLATES (888-769-7528). Restyling is done for the same term-length that you originally purchased, at a one-time charge of \$55.

Who makes Texas license plates?

TxDMV contracts with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to manufacture license plates. The plates are made by offenders at the Wynne Correctional Unit in Huntsville.

Can the plate have special characters and spaces in personalization?

My Plates now offers these special characters to help really personalize your plate!

- Dashes
- Periods
- Silhouette of the State of Texas
- Heart

These join the already existing "space" and International Symbol of Access (ISA)

Visit [www.myplates.com](http://www.myplates.com) or call 888-7MYPLATES. ■





# AUSTIN NEWCOMER INFORMATION



**H**ere are a few simple tips that might help the moving process once you get to Austin. To start becoming acclimated to your new community, check out the *Austin Relocation Guide* and other community resources for fun things to do and places to go, as well as for practical information like school districts and voter registration locations.

Call ahead to have utilities connected at your new home the day before or the day of your scheduled move-in (resources for phone, Internet, cable, gas, electric and other utilities are listed below.) Check to make sure the utilities have been connected, and follow up on any delays. Make sure your phone is connected. Ideally, you should have the phone company hook it up the day before you move in.

Most moving companies advise, that to prevent possible damage, televisions,

stereos, computers, other electronic equipment and major appliances should not be used for 24 hours after delivery, allowing them time to adjust to room temperature.

Make sure you have payment on hand for your moving charges. Unless other billing arrangements were made in advance (like with a new company if you're relocating in a corporate move), most moving companies require payment upon delivery in cash, traveler's checks, money order or cashier's check. Personal checks are usually not accepted.

## **ELECTRIC, AND GAS SERVICES**

The following companies offer either electric, light, gas services or all three:

**Atmos Energy**  
888-286-6700, Customer Service  
866-322-8667, Gas Emergency  
[www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com)

**Austin Energy**  
512-494-9400  
888-340-6465  
[www.austinenergy.com](http://www.austinenergy.com)

**Bluebonnet Electric**  
512-272-8721  
800-842-7708  
[www.bluebonnetelectric.coop](http://www.bluebonnetelectric.coop)

**CenterPoint Energy**  
512-472-6950  
[www.centerpointenergy.com](http://www.centerpointenergy.com)

**Chevron Corp. (formerly Atlas Energy)**  
[www.chevron.com](http://www.chevron.com)

**Cielo Wind Power**  
512-440-0305  
[www.cielowind.com](http://www.cielowind.com)

**Entergy**  
512-487-3900  
800-368-3749  
[www.energy.com](http://www.energy.com)

**Green Mountain Energy**  
866-301-3120  
www.greenmountainenergy.com

**Meridian Solar**  
512-448-0055  
www.meridiansolar.com

**Pedernales Electric Cooperative**  
512-219-2602  
888-554-4732  
www.pec.coop

**TXU Electric**  
888-399-5501  
www.txu.com

**Texas Gas Service**  
800-700-2443  
www.texasgasservice.com

**Texas Solar Power Company**  
512-459-9494  
866-459-9494  
www.txspc.com

### RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

The following companies offer a local calling plan or a comparable alternative in the Austin area:

**MCI Worldcom**  
Residential sales: 800-950-5555  
www.mci.com

**AT&T**  
New service: 888-294-8433  
www.att.com

**Time Warner Cable**  
512-485-5555  
www.timewarneraustin.com

**Grande Communications**  
512-220-4600  
www.grandecom.com

### INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

In a tech town like Austin, there's no shortage of Internet resources. The following are

located in Austin and provide dialup or high-speed Internet access to the Austin area. Refer to individual web sites for current rates, or call the number listed.

**AOL Broadband, Earth Link High-Speed Online, Road Runner High Speed Online, STIC.net, Time Warner Cable**  
512-485-6000  
800-418-8848 Outside Austin  
www.timewarneraustin.com

**Cox Communications High Speed Internet**  
866-298-1514  
www.connectutilities.com

**AT&T Yahoo! DSL**  
877-722-3755  
www.att.yahoo.com

**PrismNet, Inc.**  
512-821-2991  
877-803-5634  
www.prismnet.com

**Texas Networking, Inc.**  
512-684-9000  
www.texas.net

**Onramp Access**  
512-322-9200  
www.onr.com

### CABLE PROVIDERS

**Time Warner Cable**  
512-485-5555  
www.timewarneraustin.com

**Grande Communications**  
512-220-4600  
www.grandecom.com

**DirecTV**  
800-543-1549  
www.directv.com

**Dish Network**  
512-870-8221  
www.dishnetwork.com ■

## TV STATIONS

**KLRU (PBS)—22**  
512-471-4811  
www.klrु.org

**KTBC (Fox)—7**  
512-476-7777  
www.myfoxaustin.com

**KVUE (ABC)—33**  
512-459-6521  
www.kvue.com

**KXAN (NBC)—21**  
512-476-3636  
www.kxan.com

**KEYE-TV (CBS)—43**  
512-835-0042  
www.weareaustin.com

**KNVA (The CW)—49**  
512-703-5394  
www.thecwaustin.com

**KBVO (My Austin TV)—27**  
512-703-5393  
www.myaustintv.com

**YNN Austin (Time Warner Cable)—8**  
512-531-8800  
www.austin.ynn.com

**KAKW-DT (Univision)—13**  
512-453-8899  
www.univisionaustin.com

**KGBS (Telemundo)—65**  
512-832-7500  
www.weareaustin.com/telemundo

**KGBS-CA (MTV Tr3s)—32**  
www.mtvtr3s.com

**ACTV (Austin Community Television)—10, 11, 16**  
512-478-8600  
www.austinaccess.com



# MOVING TO AUSTIN

Looks like you've made the big decision to relocate and move to Austin. But hold up there, pardner. Before you decide to pull up stakes, slap leather and ride, there are just a few hints and tips you should be aware of to make your move to Central Texas a smooth one.

"Organization is the key to having a great moving experience," says Charlie Morse, General Manager of Ward North American Van Lines. "Any move is stressful, but being prepared makes all the difference in whether you look back later on your move as a wonderful introduction to your new home, or as a very traumatic time." Morse says that the best moves are the ones that are planned well in advance before moving day. Using an experienced, professional moving service can help you

maximize the most of your time, and alleviate your moving anxieties by helping you anticipate potentially tricky situations.

In addition to their expert packing services, professional moving companies often offer additional care protection up front before the big move. "Check with your homeowner's policy to make sure your items are covered in case something unforeseen happens," advises Morse. "If they aren't, you can often buy additional coverage from your insurance company, or moving insurance from us. That way, your goods are insured against anything that could happen during transit – including road accidents, tornadoes, lightning and even van fires."

Remember that a packer's job is to do exactly that: pack. "The packing team doesn't pick

and choose what goes, they just pack everything," explains Morse. "They don't have any bias on what you want to take or not. Often when people do their own packing, they spend valuable time thinking, 'Do I need this or not?' It takes our people less time because they don't worry about that. So, unless you tell them otherwise, everything goes.

As a result of the "everything goes" philosophy of packing, be sure to keep your personal items that you want to take with you on your trip in a "safety zone." Tell the packers and the movers that these items are going with you, and not to pack them.

As for making sure your possessions arrive on time, Morse says worried soon-to-be Texans should relax. "Many of our trucks are equipped with GPS tracking systems,



so all they have to do is plug in your new address and they'll find you. And, the driver will give you his phone number so you can keep in touch with him in transit along the journey. We do our best to get your possessions from Point A to Point B safely."

### ON YOUR MARK:

#### A FEW WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

**Get Rid of It:** Once you've decided to go for it, make a major purge of all your unnecessary goods and possessions. Have a yard sale, donate your unwanted items for a tax write-off, advertise them in the newspaper or on Craig's List. Getting rid of extra things you don't need makes for a cleaner move, and drops the shipping weight and bulk.

**Meet and Greet:** If you're using a moving company, an agent will meet with you at your home and conduct a survey of the items you want to move to your new home. Some of the points your moving agent will review with you include the items you want to move and the items you will leave behind, items that will go into storage, care and handling of items of exceptional value, and items that will need to be disassembled because of size or access out of your residence.

### GET SET:

#### A FEW DAYS BEFORE YOU MOVE

**Big Ticket Items:** Disconnect, defrost and clean refrigerators and freezers, empty the evaporation pan and drain the water reservoir of the automatic icemaker. Leave the door of your fridge, freezer or washing machine open at least 24 hours before loading to allow all moisture to evaporate. Make sure that your stove has been cleaned, and all pots and pans have been removed.

**Electric Boogaloo:** Electronic equipment requires a little extra tender loving care. If possible, pack your electronics in their original cartons and packing material. If not available, make sure your mover provides professional packing materials. Disconnect your wiring and code it with colored tape to make reinstallation easier at your new location. Back up important files on your ▶

## TIPS FOR RELOCATING A HAPPY PET

Relocating is tough enough without having Fido or Fluffy out of sorts, but there are some things you can do as a pet owner to make sure their transition is as seamless as yours.

First and foremost is getting your pet to your new home safely – and happily. Whether you're traveling by plane, train or automobile, make sure you pack the basics for your pet – just like you'd pack an overnight bag for yourself and your family – that includes food, water, medicine, and any special toys or blankets,

If you're going by car, plan for frequent stops for food, water and bathroom breaks – for your pet and for yourself. Resist the temptation to feed Fido or Fluffy while you're in the car – otherwise you might have an unpleasant accident to deal with somewhere between Weatherford and Waco.

According to PetTravelCenter.com, an online community resource with tips, tricks and resources for "happy pet relocation," good-to-have items while traveling include a portable kennel, pet travel bowls and any special feeders. They also recommend that your pet's vaccinations are current before you travel – it's one less thing you have to worry about when you get to your destination.

Next, it's absolutely imperative that your pet has proper identification. If your pet doesn't have a tag or a collar and happens to get out, it could be difficult to get he or she back home. But what happens if your dog or cat won't wear a collar? Petland of Georgetown, recommends having a microchip surgically implanted as the best way to identify a lost pet.

Even after your pet gets used to your new neighborhood, a microchip is still the best way to avoid losing your pet. The microchip is your best chance to get your pet home safely, since animal shelters and other pet centers always scan stray pets to see if there's a microchip.

Finding a new veterinarian for your pet should also be at the top of the list; city relocation guides are a good resource, as are local pet stores, Humane Societies and animal shelters, such as the Town Lake Animal Shelter [www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/).

It's also a great excuse to get to know your new neighbors. Neighbors with pets are a great resource and can also give you valuable pet tips specific to your neighborhood.

For more resources on helping your pet transition to your new neighborhood, call Petland at 512-868-2777 or visit [www.petland.com](http://www.petland.com).

If you're looking for assistance in transporting your pet to your new home, try [www.petrelocation.com](http://www.petrelocation.com), which provides "worldwide door-to-door transportation services" of all kinds for you and your pet(s).

## GETTING SETTLED IN AUSTIN

computer's hard drive, and if it has a CD-ROM drive, make sure it's disc-free.

**Precious Car Go!** If your moving company is transporting your vehicle, make sure your car has no obvious fluid leaks, and secure your battery in the mounting bracket. Have your car cleaned so that movers can perform a valid quality inspection on moving day (a dirty car might limit your ability to file a claim on major damage). Make sure that your gas tank has at least 1/8 tank of fuel, and disconnect, disable or turn off all alarm systems. Remove all non-permanent luggage racks, bike racks or ski racks on the exterior of your car, and take out any personal items from your car's interior. And last, but certainly not least, have an extra set of car keys and alarm remote ready to hand over to the moving team, as well as a working phone number where you may be contacted.

**Make Advance Reservations:** Depending on where you live, you might need to

obtain a parking permit for the moving truck or van. Also, if you live in a high-rise building, you should check to see if you need to reserve use of the elevator.

**Smile and File:** Gather and organize your important documents in advance and have them ready to go, you never know if you might need access to them in your new home. Never place these items in the trunk of your car. A short list of documents to take with you includes birth certificates, life insurance policies, medical and dental records, real estate documents and school records. Other helpful items include an address book, appliance manuals, appraisals for high-value items, and your copy of the household goods descriptive inventory.

### GET GOING! THE DAY OF THE MOVE

**Get in the Zone:** The safety zone, that is. Anything that you wish to take with

you and NOT have packed should be placed within an area that you identify to the movers as the "Do Not Pack – Do Not Move Zone." This would include anything from your important papers and documents, luggage, medications, travel clothing and toiletries, and favorite toys for the kids.

**Create a First Night Care Kit:** Separate the items you will need the most when you first arrive in your new home and have the movers pack and load them separately so they will be the first to unload in your new home. If you are putting items into storage and you need special items for a temporary living situation, clearly mark and separate these items before the mover arrives. Some items to consider for your First Night Care Kit include alarm clocks, a can opener, first-aid items, clean sheets and pillow cases, toiletries, a flashlight, extension cords, basic tools and hardware from disassembled furniture. ■

## → VOTING IN TEXAS

To be eligible to register to vote in Texas, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be a resident of the county (Under Texas law, a person is considered a county resident as soon as he or she establishes a permanent residence within said county and has moved in.);
- be 18 years old (you may register at 17 years, 10 months)
- not be a convicted felon (unless a person's sentence is completed, including any probation or parole)
- not be declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law

You may register to vote at any time:

- Complete a postage-free post card application and mail it, or take it in person to the voter registrar in your county. Your registrar can be found online at [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml). Applications are available at any post office, as well as your local public library and at any other government office.
- You can also register to vote online at [www.votexas.org](http://www.votexas.org), as well as gain a wealth of other information on the Texas voting process.

- Your application must be submitted 30 days before an election for you to be eligible to vote in that election.
- Your spouse, parent or child (acting as an agent) may complete and sign a voter registration application for you, provided that this person is a registered voter, or has applied for voter registration.

If any of the information on the application is incomplete, you will be notified and required to send a second application. The second application must be received by the Voter Registrar within 10 days of notification.

You will receive a Voter Registration Certificate within 30 days. Check your certificate to make sure all information is correct. (If there is a mistake, immediately make corrections and return it to the registrar.) Present your certificate at the polling place on Election Day. You will receive a color-coded certificate every two years. Check your local newspaper on the Saturday before the election for the address of the polling place for your precinct and, on election day, arrive there between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to cast your ballot.

For more information or assistance, call 800-252-8683 or go to [www.votexasw.org](http://www.votexasw.org) on the Internet.

# 10 MOST FORGOTTEN ITEMS IN A MOVE



While more than 43 million Americans are planning to move this year, even the most organized person will probably not be able to remember every detail of the move – or every item. Mayflower suggests adding the above 10 points to the top of your moving preparation list.

## 1. Medical Records

Obtaining copies of your medical records including your dentist, veterinarian and vaccine-immunization information can often be overlooked. In some cases, a notarized letter is required to receive the official documentation; you may need to contact the American Medical Records Association to determine your new state's procedure.

## 2. School Records

Your child's permanent school record cannot follow him or her through life if it's left behind. In addition, school records are usually required when registering your child at a new school. Often, copies will not be

sufficient, and records with a raised seal will be necessary.

## 3. Garage Door Opener

Many people often forget to take the electric garage door opener out of their car before leaving. Remember to leave the opener for the new tenants or owners.

## 4. Safe Deposit Box Items

Many people forget to retrieve important documents from their safe deposit box. It is also wise to establish a checking account in your new town about a month prior to your move so that you have immediate access to your account.

## 5. Local Business Errands

Remember to complete transactions with local businesses (for example, picking up your dry cleaning).

## 6. Your New Address

In the flurry of preparing for the move, you may often forget your forwarding address – important information when forwarding periodicals and credit card bills, as well as keeping in touch with old friends. Always keep your new address handy in your wallet or purse.

## 7. Spare House Keys

The collection of spare house keys can often be forgotten. Whether it means getting them from neighbors who kept them, or retrieving them from under the rock next to the front door, don't forget to gather all sets before you depart.

## 8. Don't Forget the Pets!

In most cases, moving companies cannot transport animals or plants. Remember to make arrangements for their transfer. You don't want to leave "Man's Best Friend" behind.

## 9. Old Phone Numbers

Pack phone books from your old town. You may think you'll remember the numbers you frequently call now but, more likely, you'll spend a small fortune on directory assistance charges to contact old friends or tie up loose ends.

## 10. Cleaning

Although your focus will be on your new home or apartment, you can't forget about preparing the old residence for your exit. Remember to leave out cleaning supplies for the final "once over" before closing the door for good, or make arrangements in advance for a service to clean it for you. ■





**M**oving to a new city and finding a new spiritual community can be challenging. Yet it is both exciting and comforting to find people and places that are familiar during this exciting adventure of change. Austin offers a large selection of churches, synagogues, temples and other houses of worship to help make the transition to your new community smoother.

For those who are starting to look for a spiritual home as well as a physical one, finding a place to worship in whatever way is comfortable to you will make starting your new life that much more rewarding and help create a deeper bond with your new friends and neighbors.

Contrary to the popular perception that Austin residents possess a more secular mindset, according to BestPlaces.net, “44.47 percent of the people in Austin, Texas are religious, meaning they affiliate with a religion.”

The city is also a center of religious thinking. The Liberal Arts College at the University of Texas at Austin features its own Department of Religious Studies, which is set to expand its program to covering multiple religious traditions to include MA and PhD degrees. Other institutions that offer outstanding religious studies include the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Concordia Lutheran,

Huston-Tillotson, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, College and St. Edward’s University and the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest. The LDS Church also operates its own center for faith-based learning, called the Austin Institute, which serves multiple institutions, including several of those mentioned above.

There is a large Protestant Christian presence in Austin, with Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches represented throughout the region. The Eastern Orthodox Church, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Non-Denominational Christianity, as well as Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Unitarian and Unity faiths, are Christian sects that also find a home in Austin.

The Catholic Church also has a large following in Austin. A suffragan to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the Diocese of Austin resides over 125 parishes in 25 counties across Central Texas with a population of some 450,000 parishioners, and runs six private high schools. Its center point, Saint Mary’s Cathedral in Austin, is listed on the national Register of Historic Places.

Furthermore, large Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist communities exist in Austin, as well as substantial Sikh and Hindu communities in the Capital Area and its surrounding suburbs. In fact, the Austin Hindu community—which

now numbers some 8,000 devotees—in 1995 opened Barsana Dham, one of the largest and most ornate Hindu temples in the United States. Some 20 Buddhist congregations exist in Austin as well, and the vibrant Jewish population runs the extent of that faith, to include reform, conservative and orthodox.

Find a sampling of mainstream and alternative congregation listings here, including Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Episcopalian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, non-denominational and more. Interested in a denomination that’s not listed? Log on to [www.churchsearch.com/austin/home.htm](http://www.churchsearch.com/austin/home.htm) for more information, or check your phone book.

### BAPTIST CHURCHES

Congress Avenue Baptist Church  
1511 S. Congress Avenue  
512-447-7781

First Baptist Church  
4805 Heflin Lane  
512-926-4759

First Baptist Church Of Austin  
901 Trinity Street  
512-476-2626  
[www.fbcaustin.org](http://www.fbcaustin.org)

First Baptist Church Of Round Rock  
306 Main Street, Round Rock  
512-255-3454

First Mexican Baptist Church  
112 Medina Street  
512-478-2802

Great Hills Baptist Church  
10500 Jollyville Road  
512-346-8106

Highland Park Baptist Church  
5206 Balcones Drive  
512-453-6603

Korean Baptist Church  
3110 Parker Lane  
512-447-1224

### BUDDHIST

(See [www.austinbuddhist.org](http://www.austinbuddhist.org) for more information.)

Chittamani Buddhist Center  
2919 Manchaca Road  
512-916-4444

### CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Holy Cross Catholic Church  
1610 E. 11th Street  
512-472-3741

St. Ignatius Martyr Church  
126 W Oltorf Street  
512-442-3602

St. Mary's Cathedral  
203 E. 10th Street  
512-476-6182

St. Louis King of France Catholic Church  
7601 Burnet Road  
512-454-0384

St. Theresa Catholic Church  
4311 Small Drive  
512-451-5121

St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
10205 Ranch Road 620 North  
512-258-1161

### CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Cornerstone Christian Church  
1101 Reinli  
512-467-2140

New Life Christian Center  
2220 S. Colorado  
512-398-4642

North Austin Christian Church  
1734 Rutland Drive  
512-836-3282

### EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

St David's Episcopal Church  
304 E. 7th Street  
512-472-1196

St James Episcopal Church  
1941 Webberville Rd.  
512-926-6339

St John's Episcopal Church  
11201 Parkfield Drive  
512-836-3974

St Mark's Episcopal Church  
2128 Barton Hills Drive  
512-444-1449

St Matthew's Episcopal Church  
8134 Mesa Drive  
512-345-8314

St Michael's Episcopal Church  
6317 Bee Caves Road  
512-327-1474

### INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

Embassy Nation  
4020 S. Industrial Dr., Suite 130  
512-388-8900

Shoreline Christian Center  
15201 Burnet Road  
512-310-2244

### JEWISH

Jewish Community Association of Austin  
7300 Hart Lane  
512-735-8076

### LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
6830 S Pleasant Valley Road  
512-443-4947

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
700 W. Whitestone  
(FM 1431 at Royal Lane)  
512-258-6227, Cedar Park

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
4622 S. Lamar Blvd.  
512-892-0516

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church  
9508 Great Hills Trail  
512-346-5683

### METHODIST CHURCHES

Bethany United Methodist Church  
10010 Anderson Mill Rd  
512-258-6017

Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
200 Brushy St.  
512-472-4088

Korean United Methodist Church  
9205 North Dr.  
512-835-4522

Northwest Hills United Methodist  
7050 Village Center Dr.  
512-345-1743

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Austin Christian Fellowship  
6401 River Place Blvd.  
512-241-1223

New Way Church  
8868 Research Blvd. #706  
512-694-9474  
[www.newwayaustin.org](http://www.newwayaustin.org)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Central Presbyterian Church  
200 E 8th Street  
512-472-2445

Hope Presbyterian Church  
11512 Olson Dr.  
512-258-9117

Round Rock Presbyterian Church  
4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock  
512-244-2152

San Gabriel Presbyterian Church  
5404 Williams Drive, Georgetown  
512-869-0021

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Congregational Church of Austin  
408 W. 23rd Street  
512-472-2370 ■

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**Lake Travis**  
  
**\$3,325,000**  
 Lake Travis Waterfront  
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