

AUSTIN

RELOCATION INFORMATION



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LAKE TRAVIS AREA LIVING

Located just 20 miles northwest of downtown Austin is Lake Travis, a reservoir located on the Colorado River in central Texas. The lake was formed in 1942 to contain floodwaters in a flash-flood prone region outside Austin and has become a staple of life in and around the city in recent decades. Some of Austin's finest suburbs are located near the lake, including The Hills and Lakeway.

The Hills is a Travis County village that is home to roughly 2,500 residents. One of the more affluent areas around Austin, the village has a median home price of \$547,700 with more than 90 percent of residents owning their home. Located just 16 miles from downtown, there's easy access to big-city amenities as well as the serene landscape of Lake Travis nearby. The community ranks as the 10th-best area for public schools statewide, and in the top 25 for best suburbs to raise a family. Students in the area generally attend Lake Travis High School, which ranks in the 96th percentile for best schools for athletes, STEM and college prep across Texas.

Just north of The Hills and nestled on the banks of Lake Travis is the popular suburb of Lakeway. In this community that is home to more than 15,000 residents, median home values hover near \$472,000 and median household incomes sit just north of \$130,000. Lakeway earns an A+ grade from Niche.com in the categories of best locations for families, jobs and public schooling, as well as an A+ overall grade. Many students attend highly rated Lake Travis High School, which produces student proficiency in reading and math at 88 percent and 91 percent, respectively. The suburb is also home to Lakeway Resort & Spa, an oasis for couples and families which features pristine views, a boutique spa experience, a kids zone and pool playground, and extensive meeting space.



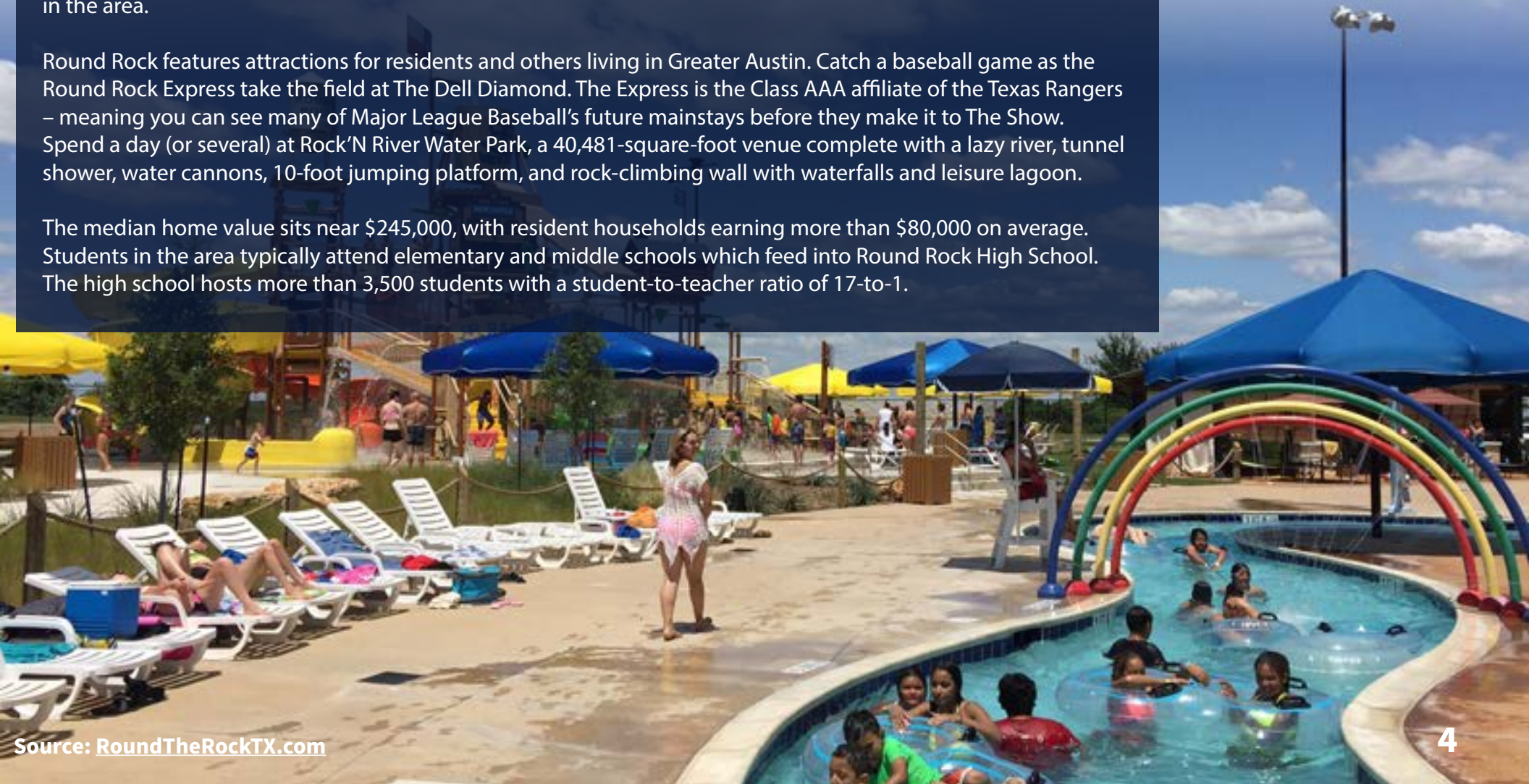
ROUND ROCK LIVING

Located 20 minutes north of downtown is the popular suburb of Round Rock. According to Niche.com, Round Rock ranks in the top 25 nationwide in several categories including best cities to buy a house (No. 8), best cities to raise a family (No. 18), best public schools (No. 21) and best cities to live (No. 22). For those relocating to Austin, Round Rock should perhaps be at or near the top of your list of places to consider.

With a population of more than 124,000, Round Rock is a thriving location all its own, coupled with the big-city amenities of nearby Austin. Dell, which employs more than 150,000 in its central Texas headquarters, proudly calls Round Rock home, as do many other major organizations such as Sears and Emerson, which have locations in the area.

Round Rock features attractions for residents and others living in Greater Austin. Catch a baseball game as the Round Rock Express take the field at The Dell Diamond. The Express is the Class AAA affiliate of the Texas Rangers – meaning you can see many of Major League Baseball’s future mainstays before they make it to The Show. Spend a day (or several) at Rock’N River Water Park, a 40,481-square-foot venue complete with a lazy river, tunnel shower, water cannons, 10-foot jumping platform, and rock-climbing wall with waterfalls and leisure lagoon.

The median home value sits near \$245,000, with resident households earning more than \$80,000 on average. Students in the area typically attend elementary and middle schools which feed into Round Rock High School. The high school hosts more than 3,500 students with a student-to-teacher ratio of 17-to-1.



PFLUGERVILLE LIVING

Nearly 18 miles northeast of downtown Austin is the suburb of Pflugerville. With a population of over 60,000, it is one of the larger communities outside Austin and is one that offers a scenic suburban feel away from the hustle and bustle. Median home values sit near \$238,000 with 74 percent of residents owning their home. Niche.com gives the suburb a “A” or better in the areas of public schools, family life, job opportunities and diversity.

Pflugerville sits among the 80th percentile or better across Texas for diversity, best suburbs to live in and best areas for young professionals. The suburb is also well ranked for best areas to raise a family and for public-school performance. Rowe Lane Elementary School and Ridgeview Middle School are two of the system’s most highly rated at their respective levels, with students funneling into Cedar Ridge High School and Hendrickson High School, both of which earn overall A grades from Niche.

The Pflugerville Parks & Recreation system offers more than 40 miles of hike-and-bike trails and more than 1,400 acres of parks, open space and green belts. With a full range of amenities from pavilions, gazebos and playgrounds to pools and picnic areas, Pflugerville invites you to head outdoors and enjoy a local park! Additional amenities include the Community Garden, Heritage House Museum and the Green Red Barn, the city’s state-recognized renewable energy project.

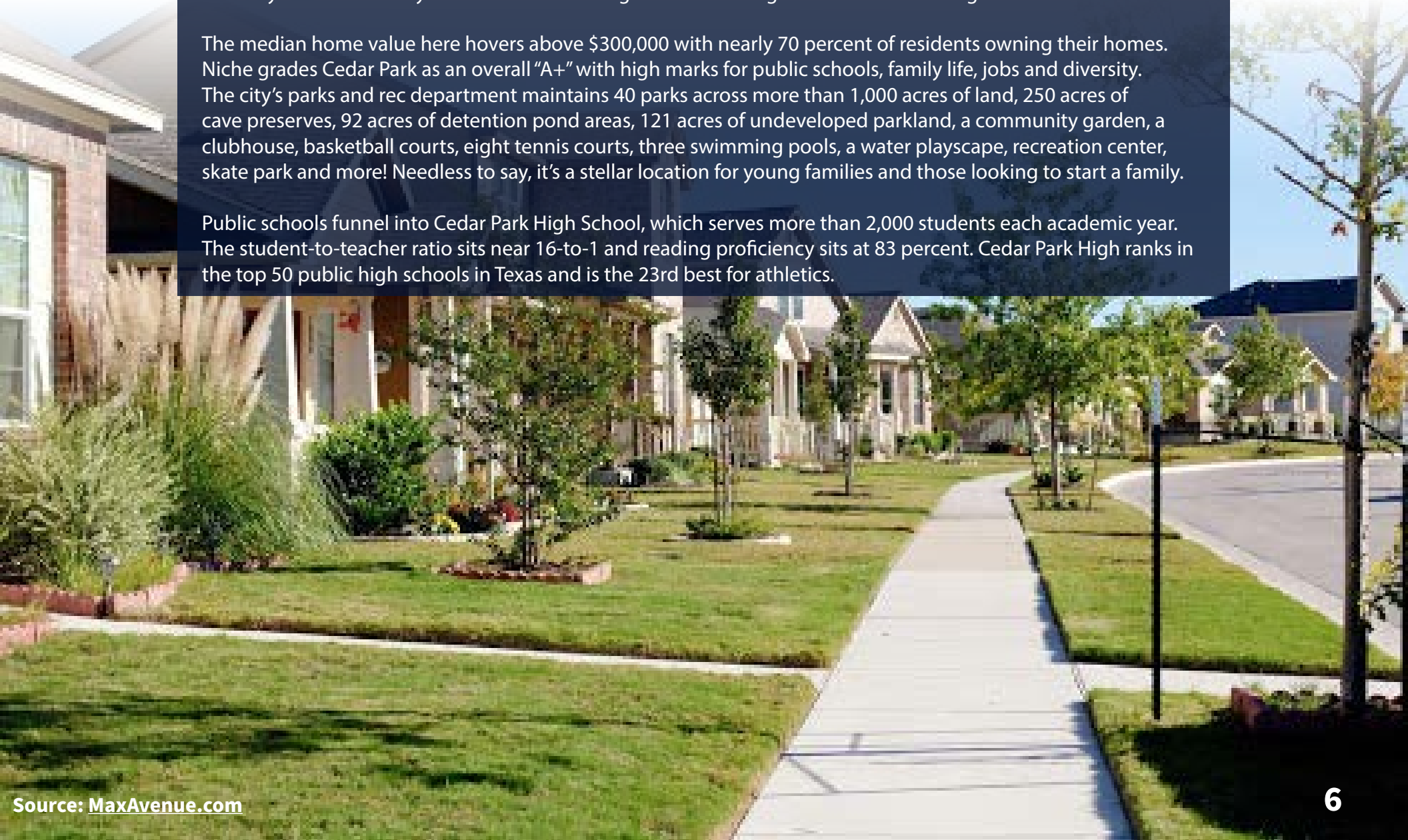


CEDAR PARK LIVING

Ranked in the top 10 percent of places to live in Texas by Niche.com, Cedar Park is a thriving suburb of Austin with more than 74,000 residents. Cedar Park lies 20 miles from downtown Austin, just east of Lake Travis. The suburb is centrally located to many amenities and thriving towns including Round Rock and Pflugerville a few miles east.

The median home value here hovers above \$300,000 with nearly 70 percent of residents owning their homes. Niche grades Cedar Park as an overall "A+" with high marks for public schools, family life, jobs and diversity. The city's parks and rec department maintains 40 parks across more than 1,000 acres of land, 250 acres of cave preserves, 92 acres of detention pond areas, 121 acres of undeveloped parkland, a community garden, a clubhouse, basketball courts, eight tennis courts, three swimming pools, a water playscape, recreation center, skate park and more! Needless to say, it's a stellar location for young families and those looking to start a family.

Public schools funnel into Cedar Park High School, which serves more than 2,000 students each academic year. The student-to-teacher ratio sits near 16-to-1 and reading proficiency sits at 83 percent. Cedar Park High ranks in the top 50 public high schools in Texas and is the 23rd best for athletics.



While Austin is most notably known for its Texas-style barbecue, there's a host of other top eateries frequented by locals and tourists alike. If you're looking for the best barbecue joint in the Austin area, there are a few options to try including LeRoy & Lewis Barbecue and Franklin Barbecue.

LeRoy & Lewis Barbecue is a food truck that sits on Pickle Road near South Congress Avenue just north of Ben White Boulevard. They're putting a spin on traditional Texas barbecue by serving alternative cuts of meat and creative sides. LeRoy & Lewis also use seasonal ingredients from local farms and ranches. Some of their entrees items include smoked beef cheeks, barbacoa, housemade Citra Hop sausage and smoked eggplant parmesan. Some of their unique sides are pork hash and rice, Frito pie, kale caesar slaw and kimchi.

Franklin Barbecue is yet another popular Austin staple. Co-owner and chef Aaron Franklin earned the James Beard Foundation Award for Best Chef: Southwest in 2015 and is the co-author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Franklin Barbecue: A Meat-Smoking Manifesto*. Stacy Franklin is the other half of the Franklin Barbecue magic and together they've built a barbecue empire in the Austin area. Their menu includes the usual barbecue subjects — brisket, pulled pork, turkey, sausage — as well as key sides such as potato salad, slaw and beans. For dessert, give one of their pies a try! Options include bourbon banana, key lime, pecan and, yes, Ruby's Dang Pie.

Now for the non-barbecue Austin options: Eater Austin put together a list of the area's top food stops. Highest on the list: Seoulju Korean Kitchen and Bar, The Peached Tortilla, Ramen Tatsu-ya, Foreign & Domestic, Julie's Noodles, Kome, L'Oca d'Oro, Hoover's Cooking, and Patrizi's. Visit Austin.Eater.com for the full list and details.

AUSTIN SHOPPING

Calling all avid shoppers! Austin has what you're looking for. No matter your style, there's an option for all.

While Austin has been known for its vintage clothing in the past, it also has a mix of luxury shops and local boutiques. Perhaps the most popular shopping destination in the area is South Congress Avenue, or SoCo. Some notable shops along these streets include the Continental Club, Monkey See Monkey Do, Big Top Candy Shop, Parts & Labour, Allens Boots, and Lucy in Disguise with Diamonds.

Next up is Second Street District. This is a three-block area that offers shops ranging from clothing to home décor to jewelry stores along with health food cafes, coffee shops, wine bars and gourmet restaurants. This area was built up by city officials and local businesspeople to encourage area residents to live, play and work downtown.

There's also Mueller Retail Center, located in northeast Austin. This shopping center is home to a Best Buy, Home Depot, Bed Bath & Beyond, Lane Bryant, Marshalls and Old Navy. Mueller also hosts a farmers market at Lake Park on Wednesdays and Sundays.

For more on shopping in Greater Austin, visit [TripSavvy.com](https://www.tripsavvy.com).

AUSTIN ARTS & CULTURE

Austin has a thriving arts scene with a variety of museums, galleries and performances. The city is home to world-class museums such as the [Blanton Museum of Art](#), which has the largest public works collection in central Texas, and [The Contemporary Austin at the Jones Center](#), which features a stunning collection of modern art. If you're looking to learn more about the culture in Austin, check out the [Mexic-Arte Museum](#) and [Carver Museum](#). These spaces are used to collect, preserve and exhibit some of Austin's top treasures.

In addition to these museums and galleries, Austin has an array of performance arts to enjoy. [The Long Center](#) is coined as "Austin's Central Stage" because it's home to some of the most established performing arts groups which have shaped the culture and arts scene here: Think the [Austin Symphony Orchestra](#), the city's oldest performing arts group; [Ballet Austin](#), its acclaimed professional ballet company; and [Austin Opera](#), the city's first professional opera company.

Austin locals also recommend [The Vortex](#), an internationally recognized artist-owned theater known for its alternative performances. [Teatro Vivo](#) is a great theater that hosts bilingual shows and thought-provoking productions highlighting complex social issues. Finally, if you're in for an exceptional concert experience, check out [Conspirare](#), a Grammy-winning choral ensemble!



AUSTIN EVENTS & FESTIVALS

With a plethora of events and festivals throughout the year, Austin attracts and brings together a wide-ranging group of people: musicians, athletes, foodies, artists and more!

As the “Live Music Capital of the World”, Austin has much to hear. The [Old Settler’s Music Festival](#) features more than 30 bands which play Americana, folk, bluegrass, acoustic jazz and blues. This festival has been widely recognized for its contribution to central Texas culture. There’s also the famed [Austin City Limits Music Festival](#), which features a diverse lineup of acts including up-and-coming artists and well-established performers. The festival welcomes 70,000 fans per day to enjoy performances by more than 100 bands.

As you may already know, Austin hosts the internationally popular [South by Southwest Music, Film and Interactive Conference and Festival](#). SXSW events celebrate the convergence of these industries and feature sessions, showcases, screenings, exhibitions and a variety of networking opportunities. The conference and festival are held over the course of 10 days and enable creatives to discover and network.

Looking for a change of pace? Participate in the [Austin Marathon](#), where runners trace open roads passing iconic landmarks along the way. When competitors wrap their race downtown, everyone celebrates at the Finish Line Festival!

Finally, for the foodie relocating to Austin, the [Austin Food + Wine Festival](#) is the perfect event for you. Every April, this festival boasts talks, classes, cooking demonstrations and tastings hosted by high-profile chefs from Austin and around the country.



AUSTIN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Austin has more than 200 parks for you to enjoy — yes, 200 — but Zilker Park is by far the largest, with a sprawling 351 acres! Zilker's in the middle of the city and includes popular attractions such as Lady Bird Lake, Austinites' favorite spot to kayak, canoe and paddleboard; the Hike-and-Bike Trail, 10 miles of outdoor goodness surrounding the lake; and Barton Springs Pools, a 3-acre spring-fed pool that stays constant at a temperature of 68 degrees (20 degrees Celsius).

Another great outdoor option is the Barton Creek Greenbelt, which has more than 190 miles of paths with scenic riverside stretches as well as natural swimming holes and waterfalls.

Looking for a challenging hike with a great view? Look no farther than Mount Bonnell, which offers views of the surrounding hill country and overlooks Lake Austin and downtown Austin. You'll have to climb up a long limestone staircase, but the view at sunset is worth it.

Visit the Cathedral of Junk, a three-story structure made of repurposed materials (bicycle and auto parts, record players and more!) by famed "yardist" Vince Hannemann in the Bouldin Creek neighborhood. Be sure to snap a photo in the Throne Room!



Austin FC formally introduced residents to Major League Soccer in 2021, making it Austin's first major league team. The city is also home to the University of Texas Longhorns and a handful of minor league teams.

The Texas Longhorns are wholeheartedly supported by the people of Austin, so prepare your best burnt orange outfit! The 2005-2006 Longhorns school year saw Mack Brown's football team, quarterbacked by Vince Young, earn the NCAA Division I-A crown and the baseball team win the College World Series. You, too, can join in on the fan fun by attending a Longhorn football game at Darrell K Royal — Texas Memorial Stadium, the state's second-largest sports venue.

Austin is also home to MiLB's Round Rock Express, the Class AAA affiliate of MLB's Texas Rangers. This baseball squad plays its home games on the Dell Diamond and was named after Hall of Fame hurler Nolan Ryan. Other area teams include Austin Bold FC (United Soccer League), Austin Gilgronis (Major League Rugby) and the Austin Spurs (NBA G League).



AUSTIN MAJOR EMPLOYERS

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS

H-E-B
Dell
St. David's Healthcare Partnership
IBM
Seton Family of Hospitals
Amazon
Apple
Applied Materials
General Motors
AT&T
Accenture
Whole Foods Market

HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Getting around Austin is easy with the [Capital Metro Bus System](#). With a network of 2,300 bus stops and 83 routes, central Texas is served by local, MetroRapid limited-stop, MetroFlyer, MetroExpress, and University of Texas shuttle routes. The CapMetro app enables riders to buy passes and plan their trips ahead of time. Day passes cost \$2.50 for local bus service and \$7 for commuter services.

The [MetroRail](#) is a great option for getting around Austin; the train connects Austin on a 32-mile line that stretches from the city of Leander to downtown Austin next to the Convention Center. The MetroRail operates six days a week at varying hours, with day passes running \$7.

Looking to travel outside Austin? You can rely on the [Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#), just 12 minutes away by car and home to a host of domestic and international flights.



Dallas is a three-hour drive (or roughly one-hour plane ride) from Austin. There is so much to experience in Dallas! And despite its size, it's still possible to pack in the highlights to get a good sense of the city.

To start off your day, you'll want to head Uptown for a cup of coffee. Ascension Coffee is an Australian-style shop with a European-inspired menu and is one of The Big D's favorite local roasters.

Whether you sit and enjoy brunch or get a cup of joe to go, make your way to the Arts District and take a stroll in Klyde Warren Park or Sammons Park to enjoy the green spaces in the middle of the bustling downtown scene. And there's an array of museums to explore: the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Crow Collection of Asian Art, and the Dallas Museum of Art if you're looking to spend some extra time here.

For the history buff, spend an afternoon exploring the Historic West End neighborhood or visit Dealey Plaza to see the Grassy Knoll and tour the Sixth Floor Museum, which recounts the people and events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

Before leaving Dallas, you need to taste some authentic Texas barbecue! There are a lot of options including Cattleack Barbeque, Hutchins BBQ and local favorite Off the Bone. Order their Southern pecan baby back ribs and have deep-fried corn on the side for a true Texan dinner. Looking for some nightlife entertainment? Head down to Deep Ellum, the nightlife hotspot and musical epicenter of Dallas. For an extra-special end to your day, hit the Green Room to enjoy a tasty beverage and a rooftop view of the Dallas skyline.

A two-and-a-half hour drive southeast of Austin is the largest city in the state: Houston, home to more than 2.3 million Texans. If you're looking to make a weekend out of a trip to H-Town, you'll have no shortage of attractions to visit.

Space Center Houston, the official visitor center of NASA's Johnson Space Center, is a must-see attraction. Visitors may walk through a replica of the Independence space shuttle, as well as a replica of the first space station in U.S. history, Skylab, where you can touch an authentic moon rock. There are ample opportunities to learn about future space expeditions from the experts themselves, and if you visit on a Friday, you can get facetime with the facility's astronaut team. For those looking to experience something unique, sign up for a Level 9 Tour and enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at Johnson Space Center.

Depending on the time of year you plan to visit, you can find any number of professional sporting events or concerts taking place near downtown. The 2017 MLB world champion Houston Astros take the field at Minute Maid Park. The NFL's Houston Texans hit the gridiron eight times each season at NRG Stadium, and the high-flying Houston Rockets of the NBA take their home court in the Toyota Center 41 times each season. The city is also home to Houston FC, a USL League Two soccer club founded in 2017.

Concerts are aplenty, as venues from NRG Stadium and the Toyota Center to Revention Music Center and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in nearby The Woodlands are booked year-round. For a full list of music venues, check out 365ThingsInHouston.com. Additional events are scattered across the calendar: the Chevron Houston Marathon, where 21,000+ runners compete; the Martin Luther King Jr. Grande Parade, which averages near 300,000 attendees; and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, with more than two million visitors annually.

Roughly an hour beyond Houston is the popular coastal town of Galveston. Beach lovers can find their fix of summer sunshine there for most of the year. Popular stops include Surfside Jetty County Park and Seawolf Park, which The Crazy Tourist ranks Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, among best beaches in Galveston.

If you enjoy a good street party, Mardi Gras is one of the most popular events along the Texas Gulf Coast! Galveston attracts more than 300,000 people with more than 24 parades, 25 concert performances by national headliners, five elegant masked balls, art exhibits, special sporting events and family activities.

San Antonio is less than an hour and a half from center-city Austin. Immerse yourself in all San Antonio has to offer by joining in on some of the fun happenings around town.

One of the more popular must-dos is the San Antonio River Walk. Shopping, nightlife, restaurants and more merge along this urban waterway. Listen to live music at Howl at the Moon, explore locally owned boutiques and even dine on a riverboat. It's a downtown must, and you (not to mention your out-of-town guests) are sure to enjoy!

Just a 20-minute drive from downtown San Antonio in the La Cantera district, Six Flags Fiesta Texas spans more than 200 acres across five distinctly themed areas: Los Festivales, Crackaxle Canyon, Spassburg, Rockville and White Water Bay. The park features an array of thrill rides, family-friendly attractions, water rides, live entertainment, dining and shopping for adults and kids alike. Whether you're visiting for the day or a season-pass holder, this park is sure to please year-round.

With five league titles, six conference crowns and 18 division titles, the NBA's Spurs remain a perennial contender. Located on San Antonio's East Side, AT&T Center is the home of the Spurs and welcomes more than 18,000 fans on average to Spurs home contests. In 2018, Wallet Hub ranked San Antonio as the fourth-best American city for basketball lovers to live in based on 21 key metrics including accessibility, team performance and ticket prices.

And hey: You gotta eat ... so why not eat well? San Antonio has a grand selection of local options.

Ito Ramen is known as one of the most authentic ramen houses in Greater San Antonio. They're even pushing out some more adventurous menu items – just wait till you've tried the fried chicken gyoza.

Range is a newer steakhouse on the scene, and it has taken diners by storm with its delicious range of items including a full seafood bar, housemade pasta, steaks and even a lobster enchilada. The Bottling Department boasts a food hall with six eateries: Bud's Southern Rotisserie, Fletcher's Hamburgers, Mi Roti, Tenko Ramen, The Bar at Bottling Dept. and Chilaquil. Take your pick from any of these options — and if you find yourself there on a Saturday or Sunday, stick around for the Weekend Market.

One of the more popular San Antonio eateries is Savor Bistro. This foodie favorite attracts regulars and tourists alike with signature dishes such as bread pudding and chocolate souffle. Give it a try ... the area has lots to choose from so you can't go wrong!



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