



HOW TO BE AN  
**AUSTINITE**

AN OLD-TIMER'S GUIDE TO "BEIN' FROM HERE"

 Independence Title



[IndependenceTitle.com](http://IndependenceTitle.com)

# See!

## MEXICAN FRETAIL BATS

One of the most amazing sights in Austin takes place every evening from March to early November, when 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from their roosts under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge. The bridge spans Lady Bird Lake at the cross streets of Cesar Chavez to the north and Barton Springs Road to the south. The Austin American-Statesman's Bat Observation Center is on the southeast side.

## AUSTIN ART SCENE

Austin is a very colorful, vibrant, and full of art city. Austinites take very serious pride in this, and have put their creativity to good use on the multitude of unique, offbeat signs and murals throughout the city. From Jeremiah the Innocent (Austin's beloved "Hi, how are you" frog), to the sweet love note of "I love you so much" on the side of Jo's Coffee. Here's a list of local places to visit the art scene in Austin:

**Art On 5th** | [arton5th.com](http://arton5th.com)

**Art. Science. Gallery.** | [artsciencegallery.com](http://artsciencegallery.com)

**Artworks** | [artworksaustin.com](http://artworksaustin.com)

**Austin Art Garage** | [austinantgarage.com](http://austinantgarage.com)

**Big Medium** | [bigmedium.org](http://bigmedium.org)

**Capital Fine Art** | [capitalfineart.com](http://capitalfineart.com)

**Davis Gallery** | [davisgalleryaustin.com](http://davisgalleryaustin.com)

**Flatbed Press and Gallery** | [flatbedpress.com](http://flatbedpress.com)

**Gallery Shoal Creek** | [galleryshoalcreek.com](http://galleryshoalcreek.com)

**grayDUCK Gallery** | [grayduckgallery.com](http://grayduckgallery.com)

**HOPE Gallery** | [hopecampaign.org](http://hopecampaign.org)

**The People's Gallery** | [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov)

**Photo Methode Gallery** | [photomethode.com](http://photomethode.com)

**Russel Collection Fine Art** | [russel-collection.com](http://russel-collection.com)

**Stephen L. Clark Gallery** | [stephenclarkgallery.com](http://stephenclarkgallery.com)

**Tiny Park** | [tinyparkgallery.com](http://tinyparkgallery.com)

## TOURS

Here are a few of the unique tour where you can get to know some interesting parts of this city:

### Austin Duck Adventures | [austinducks.com](http://austinducks.com)

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

### Haunted ATX | [hauntedatx.com](http://hauntedatx.com)

Haunted ATX offers the only mobile haunted tour in Austin. Guests will climb into a classic Cadillac hearse that has been converted into a spooky limousine and visit several historic Austin landmarks that are reportedly haunted or have experienced paranormal activity!

### Austin Brew Bus | [austinbrewbus.wordpress.com](http://austinbrewbus.wordpress.com)

The Austin Brew Bus is a unique beer experience where you'll get to visit multiple breweries and brew-pubs while learning about the local beer scene and the craft beer industry. On these tours you will get a behind the scenes look at the beer making process and will have an opportunity to sample many great beers. You'll even get an opportunity to try some great local food as well!

### Austin City Running Tours | [cityrunningtours.com/austin](http://cityrunningtours.com/austin)

These group running tours are 3 mile/5k led at a casual pace with designated stops along the way. This is not a race and runners of all levels are encouraged to participate. Offered nearly every Saturday, these running tours range from Historic Downtown, UT Campus, and various beer/adult beverage tours!

### Austin Trolley Company | [austintrolley.com](http://austintrolley.com)

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

## ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE

[drafthouse.com](http://drafthouse.com)

The Alamo Drafthouse has become an Austin institution. Anyone claiming to be an Austinite has laughed their socks off at a Master Pancake show, participated in one of their dance parties or sing/quote-alongs, giggled through a girly night, nibbled fingernails at a Terror Tuesday, bro-ed out at an Action Pack, or competed in Air Sex World Championships (don't ask). Go see why the Austinites love these shows so much!

## COMEDY

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

### Esther's Follies | [esthersfollies.com](http://esthersfollies.com)

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

### New Movement Theater | [newmovementtheater.com](http://newmovementtheater.com)

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

### Cap City Comedy Club | [capcitycomedy.com](http://capcitycomedy.com)

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

## CATHEDRAL OF JUNK

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

## ROLLER DERBY

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

## CHICKEN SH\*T BINGO

You can't just play this quirky (and slightly smelly) game of bingo—you have to win. Here's how it works: Stop by Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon on Burnet Road on a Sunday night, line up and buy a ticket for \$2. Along with the 54 numbered squares, players can buy tickets on the line, the intersection of lines and the orange border around the board. After you've got your ticket, you just have to wait and see where the chicken, well, goes. The winning ticket-holder walks away with the cash pot—and the experience of a lifetime.

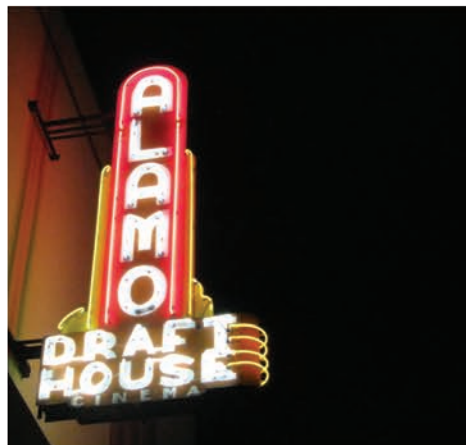
## CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

[circuitoftheamericas.com](http://circuitoftheamericas.com)

CoTA was first proposed in mid-2010 to be the first track in the United States purpose-built for Formula One. Austinites have embraced this enormous new venue and (of course) added a live music angle! The Austin 360 Amphitheater has become one of the largest venues in the city and sits at the base of the Observation Tower. Tours are given daily, including the view from the top! CoTA will also be the site for the 2014 Summer XGames. Explore your need for speed (or tricks!) and show your true Austin colors at the Circuit of the Americas!

## GET FIT!

Let's face it, in Austin, it's bikini season almost all year. Thanks to that, Austinites take pride in being some of the fittest people in Texas! From CrossFit to donation-based yoga classes to our beloved hike and bike trails, Austinites love finding unique ways to stay in shape. Here are just a few Austin favorites to get you fit like a local:



Butler Hike & Bike Trail | [thetrailfoundation.org](http://thetrailfoundation.org)

Greenbelt | [austinparks.org](http://austinparks.org)

Crossfit Central | [centralathlete.com](http://centralathlete.com)

Crossfit Austin | [crossfitaustin.com](http://crossfitaustin.com)

Black Swan Yoga | [blackswanyoga.com](http://blackswanyoga.com)

Sup ATX Stand Up Paddle Boarding | [supatx.com](http://supatx.com)

Austin Swing Syndicate | [austinswingsyndicate.org](http://austinswingsyndicate.org)

Ballet Austin | [balletaustin.org/getfit](http://balletaustin.org/getfit)

# Eat!

## FRANKLIN BBQ

Where else in the UNIVERSE will people wake up at the crack of dawn to go stand in line for hours on end waiting to get the world's best BBQ for LUNCH?! Yes, the barbeque is that good – just ask everyone who has ever tried it. Owner Aaron Franklin smokes his now-legendary brisket for 18 hours to get the tender, juicy meat that people rave about. So get out there and try it, you won't regret any hours spent standing (or sitting) in line.

## FOOD TRUCKS

Austin runs on food trucks, and there sure are a lot of them. There are approximately 1,000 food trailers, according to the city's state of the food report.

Chi'lantro BBQ | [chilantrobbq.com](http://chilantrobbq.com)

East Side King | [eskaustin.com](http://eskaustin.com)

Hey Cupcake! | [heycupcake.com](http://heycupcake.com)

Micklethwait Craft Meats | [craftmeatsaustin.com](http://craftmeatsaustin.com)

The Peached Tortilla | [thepeachedtortilla.com](http://thepeachedtortilla.com)

Torchy's Tacos | [torchystacos.com](http://torchystacos.com)

## BREAKFAST TACOS

The only specific item to get its own category, breakfast tacos are an Austinite's primary food group.

Bouldin Creek Café | [bouldincreekcafe.com](http://bouldincreekcafe.com)

Fresa's Chicken al Carbon | [fresaschicken.com](http://fresaschicken.com)

Juan in a Million | [juaninamillion.com](http://juaninamillion.com)



Papalote Taco House | [yumpapalote.com](http://yumpapalote.com)

Tacodeli | [tacodeli.com](http://tacodeli.com)

## TEX-MEX

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

Chuy's Tex-Mex | [chuy.com](http://chuy.com)

Fonda San Miguel | [fondasanmiguel.com](http://fondasanmiguel.com)

Matt's Famous El Rancho | [mattselrancho.com](http://mattselrancho.com)

Maudie's | [maudies.com](http://maudies.com)

Trudy's Texas Star | [trudys.com](http://trudys.com)

# Go!

## RULES OF THE ROAD

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

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

## OTHER WAYS TO TRAVEL

Austin has historically had a complicated relationship with public transit. Mule-drawn streetcars were introduced in 1875 and replaced by electric streetcars in 1892, but historically all public transportation solutions from mules to buses have been financially precarious, plagued by Austin's maverick spirit that



inhibits locals from herding together. Nonetheless, alternatives to driving our own cars are growing:

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

**Car Sharing** | Zipcar and car2go services allow Austinites to move from downtown and UT campus areas with ease, avoiding the hassles of parking, refueling and cleaning.

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

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

# Talk!

Anyone who's heard of or been to Austin has probably heard of 6th street. It's the party mecca for our dear city, and over the years it's expanded so much that it's been sectioned into distinct districts with very different flavors. Here's the 6th street breakdown for newcomers:

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

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

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

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

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



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

**The Drag** | Speaking of Guadalupe, another of the slang terms Austin locals find indispensable is "The Drag." Very few people refer to the strip directly west of campus as Guadalupe, or even as "Guadaloop." This section of Guadalupe is, and likely always will be, referred to as "The Drag."

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

**Keep Austin Weird** | This is the slogan adopted by the Austin Independent Business Alliance to promote small, local businesses in Austin. It was inspired by comments made by Red Wassenich in 2000 while giving a pledge to an Austin radio station. The "Keep Austin Weird" slogan now reaches far beyond a marketing campaign and has become a way of life for Austinites, accepting the culture of artistic and individual expression that defines the city as a vibrant and eclectic creative center.

**Violet Crown** | You're likely to see the term "Violet Crown" scattered throughout the city of Austin in names of organizations and businesses alike. Though not slang, the term derives from a once commonly used nickname for Austin, the "City of the Violet Crown." This colorful piece of Austin lingo pays homage to the violet hue tinting our skyline at sunset and sunrise.

# Know!

**Population:** 885,400

**County:** Travis

**Mayor:** Steve Adler

**Area Codes:** 512 & 737



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## TRAIL OF LIGHTS

[austintrailoflights.com](http://austintrailoflights.com)

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

## MOONLIGHT TOWERS

The 165-foot-tall towers erected in 1895 use electricity from Austin's first power plant on the Colorado River. The towers first used carbon arc lamps that were lit nightly by a worker who got to the top in an elevator that runs up the center of the framework. These were replaced in the 1920's by incandescent lamps, and then by mercury vapor lamps in 1936. There are 17 towers in use today, one of which serves as the center post for the Zilker Park "Christmas Tree of Lights" each year. Austin's Moonlight Towers are the only ones left in the United States and are on the National Registry of Historic Places. One of the towers was prominently featured in the film *Dazed and Confused* as the site of a high-school keg party, in which the character played by beloved Austinite Matthew McConaughey exclaims "party at the moon tower!"

## STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN STATUE

Arguably Austin's most well-known music icon, Stevie Ray Vaughan's 1990 Death at the age of 35 was marked with this commemorative structure at Auditorium Shores.

## ZILKER PARK

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

## THE OASIS

[oasis-austin.com](http://oasis-austin.com)

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

# Do!

## 6TH STREET

Anyone who's heard of or been to Austin has probably heard of 6th street. It's the party mecca for our dear city, and over the years it's expanded so much that it's been sectioned into distinct districts with very different flavors. Here's the 6th street breakdown for newcomers:

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

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

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

## GO NATIVE, GET NATURAL

Austinites have a pretty serious commitment to nature, especially in and around our beautiful city. Here are a few must-see spots for every Austinite:

**Austin Nature and Science Center** | [ci.austin.tx.us/ansc](http://ci.austin.tx.us/ansc)

**Zilker Botanical Garden** | [zilker garden.org](http://zilker garden.org)

**Lake Travis** | [laketravis.com](http://laketravis.com)

**Mayfield Park** | [mayfieldpark.org](http://mayfieldpark.org)

**Mount Bonnell** | [austinparks.org](http://austinparks.org)

**Emma Long Metropolitan Park** | [austinparks.org](http://austinparks.org)

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** | [wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org)

**McKinney Falls State Park** | [tpwd.state.tx.us](http://tpwd.state.tx.us)

**Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve** | [wildbasin.org](http://wildbasin.org)

## LIVE MUSIC

[showlistaustin.com](http://showlistaustin.com)

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

**ACL Live at The Moody Theater** | [acl-live.com](http://acl-live.com)

**Antone's Nightclub** | [antonesnightclub.com](http://antonesnightclub.com)

**The Backyard** | [backyardaustin.com](http://backyardaustin.com)

**The Belmont** | [thebelmontaustin.com](http://thebelmontaustin.com)

**Stubb's Bar-B-Q Restaurant** | [stubb saustin.com](http://stubb saustin.com)

## COOL OFF!

Surviving the heat encourages Austinites to take advantage of the various recreational water resources nearby. Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, kayaking, swimming, and much more have become hip hobbies in the Austin area. Here are a few of the most popular places frequented by native and naturalized Austinites:

**Deep Eddy Pool** | The broad shallow end, cool water, and massive cottonwood trees make this place a family favorite. Lap swimmers have their own pool, so the kids can frolic to their heart's content without getting in the way of the serious swimmers.

**Stacy Pool** | This is the place to swim during cold weather, heated by a natural warm spring. It's not big, and there's not a lot of shade, but it's a special favorite, particularly with lap swimmers.

**Barton Springs** | Don't call it the best swimming spot in Austin. Barton Springs may be the best swimming spot on earth. Cool and clear, this 1,100 foot-long spring-fed pool is one of the largest non-chlorinated swimming pools in the country.

**Hamilton Pool Preserve** | There are many reasons to visit this spot: a sandy beach, a 75-foot waterfall and a huge rock formation that can be explored from the water or from a path that circles the pool. Hundreds of cliff swallows live above the pool in tiny nests and are constantly coming and going. The park also has good hiking trails and numerous species of birds.

**Sculpture Falls on Barton Creek** | When the creek is flowing, this is an urban oasis. You'll quickly forget you're in the middle of town, as the waterfall drowns out the noise of the city. Located about 1.3 miles upstream of the Mopac bridge, the only way to get to Sculpture is by walking or cycling, which keeps the amateurs at bay.

## RESCUE A PET

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

**Austin Animal Center** | [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov)

**Austin Pets Alive!** | [austinpetsalive.org](http://austinpetsalive.org)

**Austin Humane Society** | [austinhumanesociety.org](http://austinhumanesociety.org)

**Animal Trustees of Austin** | [animaltrustees.com](http://animaltrustees.com)





# Celebrate Your Independence.



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