

# Fun Things to Do In and Around Austin

The Hilton Austin is just one block from Austin's famous **Sixth Street nightlife** and a short stroll to the entertainment, shopping and dining of the **Warehouse Entertainment** and **2nd Street Districts**.

## Attractions

The Hilton's downtown location is also convenient to many attractions such as the **Capitol Building**, **Bob Bullock Texas Historical Museum** and the **LBJ Presidential Library**.

- **Austin Visitors Center:** [www.austintexas.org/visitors](http://www.austintexas.org/visitors)  
The Visitor's Center is located on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, downtown.
- **Austin Chronicle:** [www.austinchronicle.com](http://www.austinchronicle.com)
- **The Texas Monthly Guide:** Pickup a copy at the nearest bookstore  
This guide lists everything interesting to do between Austin and San Antonio.
- **Sixth Street:** [www.6street.com](http://www.6street.com)  
Busy street lined with clubs, restaurants, pubs and galleries
- **Warehouse district and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Map:** [www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/ware\\_map.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/ware_map.htm)

## Music & Dining



The grand old brick building houses the Continental Club. Now a popular live music venue for the past 50+ years, it has been a landmark in Austin since 1957.



- **Continental Club:** [www.continentalclub.com](http://www.continentalclub.com)  
A swinging rock 'n' roll bar recalling the music of the 1950's
- **Saxon Pub:** [www.thesaxonpub.com](http://www.thesaxonpub.com)  
A live music lover's paradise! Called a "Can't Miss Austin Experience!"
- **Alamo Drafthouse:** [www.drafthouse.com](http://www.drafthouse.com)  
This night spot features multiple, separate club types: dance, western, karaoke, live music, and one similar to "Hogs and Heifers," with girls dancing on the bar.
- **Speakeasy:** [www.speakeasyaustin.com](http://www.speakeasyaustin.com)  
A three-level bar with a "Roaring 20's Vibe" and great views of downtown.
- **Threadgill's:** [www.threadgills.com](http://www.threadgills.com)  
Enjoy great southern cooking and live music every night. Janis Joplin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore used to play here.

## Shopping

- **South Congress Shopping District:**  
[www.austin.citysearch.com/profile/11542513/austin\\_tx/south\\_congress\\_avenue1.html](http://www.austin.citysearch.com/profile/11542513/austin_tx/south_congress_avenue1.html)  
As featured on the Travel Channel
- **Wild About Music:** [www.wildaboutmusic.com](http://www.wildaboutmusic.com)  
Art gallery; Specialty shop

## Dance & Theatre



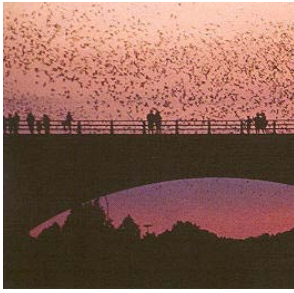
- **Ballet Austin:** [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org)
- **Austin Lyric Opera:** [www.austinlyricopera.org/2007-08/index.htm](http://www.austinlyricopera.org/2007-08/index.htm)

## Arts & History



- **Texas State Capitol:** [www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb.htm](http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb.htm)  
The largest state capitol in the country
- **Texas State History Museum** provides a great overview of the history and people of Texas.  
HINT: When you visit the Capitol, be sure to stop by the tourist info desk and ask for "one of those Texas Tourist books", and some bumper stickers. The books have many glossy pictures of tourist locations throughout Texas.
- **Elisabet Ney Museum:** [www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney)  
Sculptor Elisabet Ney spent the last years of her life working in this building, which still contains some of her most beautiful sculpted pieces.
- **Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum:** [www.lbjlib.utexas.edu](http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu)  
This famous museum explores the life and service of the former president through exhibits and memorabilia
- **Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum:** [www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org)  
Sculptor Charles Umlauf's home and studio, featuring over 250 sculptures
- **Austin Children's Museum:** [www.austinkids.org](http://www.austinkids.org)  
This museum entertains - and painlessly educates - children of all ages
- **Jack S Blanton Museum of Art:** [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org)  
This eagerly anticipated museum opened its doors last April, issuing in a new cultural era for Austin.
- **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum:** [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com)  
Museum that chronicles the history of Texas with three themed exhibits: Land, Identity and Opportunity.
- **Old Bakery & Emporium:** [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/bakery1.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/bakery1.htm)  
Bakery built in 1876, complete with an old-fashioned oven and wooden baker's spade.

## Outdoors



- **Austin Congress Bridge Bats:** [www.austincityguide.com/content/congress-bridge-bats-austin.asp](http://www.austincityguide.com/content/congress-bridge-bats-austin.asp)  
Each night from mid-March to November, the bats emerge from under the bridge at dusk to blanket the sky as they head out to forage for food
- **Mount Bonnell:** [www.austincityguide.com/content/mt-bonnell-austin.asp](http://www.austincityguide.com/content/mt-bonnell-austin.asp)  
Beautiful park looming almost 800 feet over Austin
- **Zilker Botanical Gardens:** [www.zilker.org](http://www.zilker.org)  
Botanical Gardens include 31 acres of land with plants that thrive in arid southwestern conditions
- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:** [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)  
Established by the former first lady and the late Helen Hayes to preserve native North American plants, this garden of wildflowers is set on 42 acres for public touring.
- **Zilker Metropolitan Park:** [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/)  
Home to Barton Springs, the Zilker Eagle, a large playscape, and four hundred acres of sports fields and woodlands
- **Barton Springs Pool:** [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/bartonsprings.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/bartonsprings.htm)  
Over the years, people have come to this 1,000 foot long natural limestone pool, fed by several underground springs, for everything from fishing and swimming to baptisms and beauty pageants. The park includes a history museum and library.
- **Biking:** [www.austinbikeroutes.com](http://www.austinbikeroutes.com)  
Maps of routes; Austin home of Lance Armstrong
- **Hiking** [www.austinexplorer.com/hiking](http://www.austinexplorer.com/hiking)
- **The Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail:** [www.ci.austin.x.us/parks/trails.htm](http://www.ci.austin.x.us/parks/trails.htm)  
Austin's famous trail around a downtown lake
- **Rock Climbing:** [www.austinrockgym.com](http://www.austinrockgym.com)
- **Lakehouse Spa:** [www.lakeaustin.com](http://www.lakeaustin.com)  
This luxurious spa offers twenty indoor treatment spaces (each with a private shower) as well as outdoor treatment tents and cabanas.