



Welcome to Austin

TSNAP Forum

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Hosted by:
Texas State Network of
Assessment Professionals
At ESC Region XIII

5701 Springdale Rd., Austin, TX 78723

WELCOME TO AUSTIN, TEXAS!

Home of Lance Armstrong, Matthew McConaughey and Willie Nelson. Austin is the live music capital of the world and is known for its beautiful lakes and hills. There is no doubt that Austin is a special place. Here is a brief guide to some of Austin's highlights. Enjoy and remember to **KEEP AUSTIN WEIRD!!**

WEIRD AUSTIN THINGS TO KNOW

"The Lake" : the lower Colorado River winds through Austin and has been made into a series of lakes by man-made dams, Lady Bird Lake is located in downtown Austin, then Lake Austin, and Lake Travis are next heading west

"Keep Austin Weird": a favorite saying around Austin reminding Austinites to support local restaurants, businesses, and music to retain Austin's uniqueness

*Loop 360 = Capital of Texas Highway

*Mopac = Loop 1

*Bee Cave Road = 2244

Hotels

Doubletree Hotel	(512) 454-3737
6505 IH 35 North, Austin, TX	
Habitat Suites	(512) 467-6000
500 E. Highland Mall Blvd.	
Crowne Plaza Hotel	(512) 323-5466
6121 N. I 35, Austin, TX	
Doubletree Guest Suites	(512) 478-7000
303 W. 15th Street, Austin TX	

GOOD EATS

TEX-MEX (pretty much all Austinites eat)

Hula Hut: fun atmosphere right on Lake Austin, great tubular tacos and pipeline enchiladas, located on Lake Austin Boulevard

Maudie's: a well-known local chain around Austin, including one on Slaughter Lane in south Austin.

Chuy's: famously known as the place the Bush twins were caught as being under age but also a fun place to eat on Barton Springs

Z-Tejas: eclectic southwestern dishes with locations in the Arboretum area and on West 6th Street

Iguana Grill: breathtaking views overlooking serene Lake Travis, located on highway 620

El Arroyo: known around Austin for witty messages posted outside it's 5th Street location, also located on Bee Caves at Hwy 71

OTHER

Thundercloud: local chain of scrumptious subs known for it's weird workers and yummy thunder sauce

Hut's: famous Austin burgers on West 6th Street

Rudy's: the worst barbeque in Texas, order by weight and choice of meat and eat on wax paper

Shady Grove: serves just about everything, great burgers; huge patio on Barton Springs.

Bess: Sandra Bullock's latest venture offers delightful American cuisine.

LOCAL FAVORITES

Sno Beach: an extremely popular Austin favorite during the summer months; a huge list of original shaved ice flavors; the sno cone stand is located on the corner of Barton Springs Dr. and Lamar Blvd.

coffee and dessert on outside decks right on Lake Austin

Barton Springs: a popular swimming

location in Austin; Barton Springs is spring fed and over 900 feet long with natural rock bottom; beware: average temperature is about 68F

Whole Foods Market: world's leading natural and organic foods supermarket founded right here in Austin; new state of the art location at 5th and Lamar which must be seen to be believed; great patios for lunch or dinner.

Zilker Park: Austin's park on Barton Springs Dr.; home of the Trail of Lights in December and the Austin City Limits music festival.

Amy's Ice Creams: an Austin original; absolutely delicious ice cream known for the creative workers and their unusual way of literally smashing the "crushin's" into the ice cream

Mozart's:



organic foods supermarket founded right here in Austin; new state of the art location at 5th and Lamar which must be



MORE LOCAL FAVORITES

The Oasis: an Austin tradition located 450 feet above Lake Travis with breathtaking views of the hill country and lake; known for visitor applause at sunset

Hike and Bike Trail: a jogging and biking trail along Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin

Magnolia Café: open 24 hours and always a fun place to eat (especially breakfast); located on Lake Austin Boulevard

The Broken Spoke: the last of true Texas dance-halls; world famous and a great place to practice your Texas two-step; on Lamar Blvd.

SHOPPING

Round Rock Premium Outlets: Find impressive savings at 125 stores located just North of Austin at Exit 253 off of I-35

San Marcos Outlet Malls: located at Exit 200 off of I-35 is the largest shopping mecca in Texas.

Lamar Boulevard: Lamar is a very important Austin street containing all kinds of eclectic shops including a great boutique called Emerald's (at 5th Street)

South Congress (a.k.a. SoCo): just south of the Capitol you can find some cool shops and a great area of Austin

The "Drag": term known around Austin as the area of Guadalupe St. next to the UT campus; includes fun shoe stores, Urban Outfitters and Tyler's Sports

SIGHTS TO SEE

Capitol: made of Texas pink granite and native limestone; largest state capitol in the U.S.; 7 feet taller than the nation's capitol

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum: opened in 2001; hard to miss with the 36-foot-tall bronze lone star in front to greet you; includes Austin's only IMAX theatre and a café



360 Bridge: located on highway 360, a.k.a. capital of Texas highway; spans Lake Austin without any parts touching the water



6th Street: the heart of Austin's live music entertainment scene; home of

bars, music venues, restaurants and a variety of famous Austin festivals including **Batfest** in August.

Mount Bonnell: a favorite Lake Austin overlook with exactly 100 steps leading to the top of the natural limestone formation. **Cabela's** in Buda: More awesome than Bass Pro Shops—it's like no other store on earth.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY!!

For more ideas including movie locations and show times and an in-depth restaurant guide go to www.austin360.com