

PARKS AND RECREATION



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Family Friendly

With so many great activities for kids, it's easy to see why the Live Music Capital of the World® might be the capital of family fun, too. From museums and outdoor activities, below are just a few highlights.

Austin Nature and Science Center

2389 Stratford Dr.
512-974-3888

Located inside Austin's famed Zilker Park, the ANSC is a beautiful and exciting outdoor park for children and families. Kids can see live wildlife, dig for fossils at the Dino Pit and discover hidden gems of the landscape at the Naturalist Workshop. The ANSC offers multiple programs for adults as well, such as rock climbing, caving and night canoeing. The park is free and open until 5 p.m. daily.

Zilker Park/Barton Springs Pool

2100 Barton Springs Rd.
512-974-6700

Austin's 361-acre park is home to picnic facilities, a disc golf course, a large playground for children, the Zilker Zephyr train (great for kids/families) and Barton Springs Pool, an urban oasis where swimmers plunge into 68-degree, spring-fed waters. Parking: \$3, Pricing \$1-5. Free picnic facilities and playground.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 La Crosse Ave.
512-232-0100

Founded in 1982, the center commemorates Lady Bird Johnson's contributions to the Hill Country environment and landscape, as well as introduces locals and visitors alike to native plants and flowers.

Throughout the year, the center also welcomes families and gardening enthusiasts for events and educational sessions. Admission is \$12 for adults and free for children 4 years and under.

LBJ Presidential Library

2313 Red River St.
512-721-0200

Exhibits chronicle the political life and times of LBJ. The First Lady's Gallery highlights the legacy of Lady Bird Johnson. The collection's focus is on six decades of American history and how the Johnsons fit into those times.

Texas State Capitol

1100 Congress Ave.
512-463-4630

This sunset red edifice is the largest of America's 50 statehouses and stands 14 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol. Parking garage is located at 1201 San Jacinto Blvd. Free guided tours depart every 15 minutes from the south lobby.



ICONIC MUSIC VENUES

With more than 250 Austin establishments showcasing live music, it's hard to know where to turn. Check out a few iconic venues found below.

Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater (ACL Live)

310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd.
512-225-7999

Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater is a state-of-the-art, 2,700+ person capacity live music venue that also serves as the new home of the KLRU-TV produced PBS program "Austin City Limits," the longest running music series in American television history. The Moody Theater is one of two dedicated live music venues in the country built to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rated standards of sustainability.

Antone's Nightclub

305 E. 5th St.
512-814-0361

Since first opening on Sixth Street in 1975, this club has hosted the likes of B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Now the legendary club has moved to the corner of Fifth and Lavaca streets, but it remains the home of the blues in Austin.

The Continental Club

1315 S. Congress Ave.
512-441-2444

This is one of the city's favorite historic venues since 1957. After a short stint as a burlesque club, the Continental Club became a favorite performance spot of such legends as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Joe Ely, Kinky Friedman and WC Clark. Upstairs, the Continental Gallery features mellow music and jazz.

Emo's East

2015 E. Riverside Dr.
512-693-3667

Alternative, underground, punk and indie bands have been calling this intimate venue home since 1990. With one stage inside and one in the outdoor beer garden, there's a chance to see two shows simultaneously. The walls are covered with murals, and the stool Johnny Cash perched on during his performance here is mounted on the ceiling.

The Mohawk

912 Red River St.
512-666-0877

Great indoor/outdoor venue with a large patio overlooking the main stage. This is the new hub of the Red River District; the lineup includes indie rock, electronica, metal, punk and hip hop music.

The Saxon Pub

1320 S. Lamar Blvd.
512-448-2552

This is one of the coolest venues in town. It has a "dive" atmosphere, but offers great blues, rock and country acts.

Stubb's BBQ

801 Red River St.
512-480-8341

Stubb's combines two of Austin's best features: live music and barbecue. Sit down for a tasty dinner, and then stick around for a local band on the indoor stage or a touring band outdoors. The Sunday Gospel Brunch is also popular.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

There's a reason Austin is often ranked one of the fittest cities in the country. From cycling to stand-up paddle boarding, water-biking to leisurely canoe-paddling, Austin offers an abundance of outdoor activities and sports.

Take a look at a few select locations below, and learn more about what our Sports Commission has to offer here.

Barton Creek Greenbelt

Various locations and access points across South Austin.

Barton Creek Greenbelt is an urban oasis. Its trails provide opportunity for biking, running, rock climbing, swimming and hiking.

Austin Golf Trail

11612 Bee Caves Rd.
888-588-2871

Texas' capital city is one of the country's premier golf destinations, and the Austin Golf Trail provides full-service concierge support in booking golf rounds at dozens of local courses, as well as booking hotel accommodations and other Austin-centric activities. The one-stop golf-shop program allows golfers to book exclusive golf packages or design their own.

Barton Springs Bike Rental

1707 Barton Springs Rd.
512-480-0200

Barton Springs Bike Rental offers bike tours around Austin, including the Austin in a Nut Shell tour, The Peace Love & Zilker tour and the Rainey Street Pub Crawl Experience!

Congress Avenue Bridge Bats

100 S. Congress Ave.
Seasonal (April through October)

Austin is home to North America's largest urban bat colony; between 750,000 and 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats. These nocturnal wonders emerge from under the Congress Avenue Bridge in search of insects. People watch from the top of the bridge, boats on Lady Bird Lake and local restaurants and hotels as the mammals roll out at dusk and shadow the Austin sky. This free event has become one of the most spectacular and unusual tourist attractions.

Congress Avenue Kayaks

74 Trinity St.
512-809-8916

This location caters to first-timer kayakers. Let the pros show you how! Congress Avenue Kayaks offers easy to paddle, kayaks and stand up paddle boards for rent by the hour or by the half-day on Lady Bird Lake, next to the Congress Avenue Bridge.

Lady Bird Lake/Canoe and Paddle Board Rentals

Rowing Dock, 2418 Stratford Dr.
512-459-0999

Kayak, canoe or paddle board on the clear, calm waters of Lady Bird Lake, and catch a great view of the skyline.

Lady Bird Lake Hike & Bike Trail/Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial

Downtown, from MoPac Expressway to Pleasant Valley Road

At the south end of the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, find access to the Hike & Bike Trail, which winds around Lady Bird Lake for 10 miles in the heart of downtown. It's great for a morning walk and is usually packed with locals, visitors and celebrities alike. The Stevie Ray Vaughan memorial is on the south bank of the lake, just west of the South First Street Bridge.

PARKS/CENTRAL

Hancock Golf Course and Recreation Center

811 E. 41st St.

Lamar Beach in Town Lake Metropolitan Park

1200 W. César Chávez St.

Pease District Park

1100 Kingsbury St.

Shoal Creek Greenbelt

2600 N. Lamar Blvd.

Waller Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park

30 East Ave.

PARKS/WEST

Big Walnut Creek Nature Preserve

9221 E. U.S. Hwy. 290

Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park

614 N. Commons Ford Rd.

Emma Long Metropolitan Park

1600 City Park Rd.

Hielscher Tract Greenbelt

6801 La Crosse Ave.

Lions Municipal Golf Course

2901 Enfield Rd.

Mayfield Nature Preserve

3505 W. 35th St.

Vireo Nature Preserve

1107 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.

PARKS/SOUTH

Auditorium Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park

900 W. Riverside Dr.

Barton Creek Greenbelt

3755 S. Capital of Texas Hwy.

Blowing Sink Research Management Area

3705 Deer Ln.

Blunn Creek Nature Preserve

1200 St. Edward's Dr.

Butler Park at Town Lake Metropolitan Park

1000 Barton Springs Rd.

Butler Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park

200 S. Lamar Blvd.

Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park on Slaughter Creek

6301 W. Slaughter Ln.

Deer Park at Maple Run Preserve

4929 Davis Ln.

Dick Nichols District Park

8011 Beckett Rd.

Dittmar District Park

1009 W. Dittmar Rd.

Dove Springs District Park

5801 Ainez Dr.

Gaines Greenbelt

4800 S. Mopac Expy.

Garrison District Park

6001 Manchaca Rd.

Goat Cave Karst Nature Preserve

3900 Deer Ln.

Latta Branch Greenbelt

7910 Beckett Rd.

Mabel Davis District Park

3427 Parker Ln.

Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park

907 Slaughter Ln.

Onion Creek Greenbelt

7002 Onion Creek Dr.

Onion Creek Metropolitan Park

8652 Nuckols Crossing Rd.

Onion Creek Soccer Complex

5600 E. William Cannon St.

Onion Creek Wildlife

Sanctuary Nature Preserve

4435 E. SH71

Roy Kizer Golf Course

5400 Jimmy Clay Dr.

Slaughter Creek Greenbelt

10003 S. 1st St.

**Stephenson Nature Preserve and
Outdoor Education Center**

7501 Longview Rd.

Williamson Creek

Central Greenbelt

5120 S. 1st St.

Williamson Creek East Greenbelt

4618 E. William Cannon Dr.

Williamson Creek West Greenbelt

6310 Brush Country Rd.

Zilker Metropolitan Park

2100 Baton Springs Rd.

Zilker Nature Preserve

301 Nature Center Dr.

PARKS/EAST

Bartholomew District Park

5201 Berkman Dr.

Boggy Creek Greenbelt

1114 Nile St.

Colony District Park

7400 Loyola Ln.

Colorado River Wildlife Sanctuary

5827 Levander Loop

Colorado/Walnut Greenbelt

8001 Delwau Ln.

