

A Quick Guide to Austin

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Places to Eat: Mexican / Tex-Mex

- **Maudie's Cafe** - This is a small hole in the wall, but, it is also a place where you can rub elbows with George W. Bush as he declared it one of his favorite places in Austin <http://www.maudies.com/>
- **Guero's Taco Bar** - Guero's is across the River from downtown Austin, that atmosphere is all Austin very up beat and with all the people, but, everyone seems laid back / Recommend this place for dinner) <http://www.guerostacobar.com/>
- **Juan in a Million** - Mexican cuisine has its roots in native and Spanish traditions. Rich and rustic, flavors borne from this background create dishes worth celebrating. For 25 years, Juan In A Million has blended unique, authentic and creative food with great service and atmosphere. Enjoy our colorful food, warm service, and quality spirits. <http://www.juaninamillion.com/>
- **Chuy's** – I am not sure what the special “extra” they add into their caso is but, I think it is either butter or sour cream. Give it a try and you decide. Also, don't miss out on a local favorite the “Southwestern Enchilada”. Who says a fried egg on top of a blue corn chicken enchilada isn't traditional Mexican food? <http://chuys.com/>
- **Hula Hut** – From the creators of “Chuy's” comes another great Tex-Mex offering. With it's large deck build half way onto lake Austin this is a great place for happy hour. Try the fish tacos if you decide to stay for dinner. <http://www.hulahut.com/>
- **El Arroyo** – You have to love a place to claims to be the “Center of the cultural universe”. The brisket enchiladas are awesome to boot. <http://www.ditch.com/>

Places to Eat: BBQ

- **Iron Works BBQ** - "Pork Ribs are deliciously cooked perfectly seasoned, and particularly greaseless: New York Times". "The beef brisket is top of the line, slow cooked for 16 hours and tender enough to cut with a plastic fork.: US News and World Report". Enough said... <http://www.ironworksbbq.com/>
- **Stubbs BBQ** - Great BBQ, this also doubles as a live music venue in Austin, it is right off of Sixth Street. <http://www.stubbsaustin.com/index.php>
- **Bert's BBQ** - Since 1970, Bert's Bar-B-Q has brought delicious smiles to many a Texan. Last time we at Bert's I shared a table with Tom Kite and Justin Leonard. <http://www.bertsbbq.com/>
- **Sam's Bar-B-Cue** - Rated best barbecue in Austin proper by locals in the "Austin Chronicle." Brisket, chicken, sausage and ribs, plus spicy beans and potato salad. 2000 E 12th St, Austin, TX 78702 · 512-478-0378 (No website available)
- **The County Line** - Thirty years ago some local guys - all native Texans and University of Texas students or grads, decided to turn an old speakeasy into a smoking 'cue spot, high on a hill where a meat-lover could gnaw on a T-Rex-size beef rib and gaze at the Texas landscape for miles. <http://www.countyline.com/>
- **The Salt Lick** – If you rent a car and have a day to take a 30 minute drive into the hill country this a must. The Salt Lick is some of the best BBQ in the state (if not THE best). If you can't make it out there, you can get some in the Austin Airport. (How awesome is that!) The Salt Lick was one of the few restaurants picked to represent what Austin dining is to the rest of the world. <http://www.saltlickbbq.com/>

Places to Eat: Casual Dining

- **Hoover's** - The recipes used at Hoover's are inspired by both Hoover's Mother Dorothy's Good Cooking and by the styles and flavors that are native throughout Texas itself. Hoover's cooking influences are truly multi-cultural Texan - From my Mother's Home Cooking to Mama Breaux's East Texas Cajun Cooking. <http://www.hooverscooking.com/>)
- **Kerbey Lane Café** - Had a few to many on sixth or just hungry in the middle of the night, Kerby is open 24/7. <http://www.kerbeylanecafe.com/>)
- **Shady Grove** - Styled after the architecture made popular by the State Parks built in th 40's, the restaurant offers homey relaxed dining inside and out. Shady Grove's patio and juke box, as well as its food has been the recipient of many "Best of Austin" Polls. <http://www.theshadygrove.com/>)
- **Hut's Hamburgers** - legendary Austin Hamburger joint, voted best burgers in town 1987-1996, also has award winning french fries, onion rings, blue plate dinners and 2 for 1 specials. Try the excellent veggie, buffalo, and chicken burgers. <http://hutshamburgers.citysearch.com/>
- **Katz Deli** - When Marc Katz opened Katz Deli in 1979, and introduced New York deli cuisine to Austin, the local restaurant scene would never be the same. <http://katzneverkloses.com/>
- **Threadgills** - With the incredible food, overflowing plates of it and at generous prices, along with his touch at hiring only the friendliest wait staff, the opening of Threadgill's in 1981 was a smash. Bon Appetit thought the food was so good that they ran a story about it, as did Gourmet Magazine. <http://www.threadgills.com/>
- **Magnolia Café** - The legendary home of the giant 24 hour menu, great homemade sauces, breakfast anytime, pasta, fish, burgers, steaks, you name it! <http://www.cafemagnolia.com/>
- **Shoal Creek Saloon** - A little bit of NOLA in AusTex! With a menu items ranging from burgers to Cajun food, the Shoal Creek Saloon is a great place to kick back and enjoy a beer. Their patio has a great view of the creek itself, and the Last Lift Lounge is the saloon's space for smoking and live music. Just look for the giant Saints football helmet on North Lamar. 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805 map <http://www.shoalcreeksaloon.com>

Places to Drink: Good Drinks

- **Scholz Garden** - Scholz Garten became a favorite meeting place for the German population in and around Austin for the many social activities, German food and beer. August Scholz operated the restaurant until his death in 1891. His family sold Scholz Garten to The Lemp Brewery Company (Falstaff Beer) in 1893. This was the first year of The University of Texas' official football season. They were said to celebrate at Scholz's since it was only two blocks away. <http://www.scholzgarten.net/>
- **The Tavern** - The Tavern is located in a two-story, green-and-white, half-timbered faux chalet that dates back to the Prohibition era. Outside is a classic neon sign announcing that the place is "air-conditioned," while inside, there's a graffiti-marked bar. If you're not happy with your favorite team, or just want to get away from the noise for awhile, the upstairs level has pool tables, video games (including a vintage version of Donkey Kong Jr.) and a pinball machine. There's also a jukebox, featuring the likes of James Brown, Marvin Gaye, Bauhaus and Pearl Jam. <http://www.austintavern.com/>
- **The Speakeasy** - Speakeasy's alley opened for business in 1997 in the historic Kreisel Building in Austin's famed Warehouse District. In the last 8 years of operation, Speakeasy has become one of downtown's signature places to sit back, relax and listen to live music with friends. The alley-way entrance is a nod to our heroes of the prohibition era and the popular Rooftop Terrace is known for the totally-worth-it climb up 59 stairs to the best view downtown Austin has to offer. <http://www.speakeasyaustin.com/>
- **The Cloak Room** - Quietly tucked into a white-brick building just steps from the State Capitol, the Cloak Room feels like a cool, cozy hiding place for drinkers. Dark wooden walls, low-watt light fixtures and shadowy corners transform this smoky space into a dim cavern. The small interior houses a nice-sized bar with a few tables and bar stools for seating. The comfortably intimate atmosphere lets state employees and area businessmen loosen up with beer or hard liquor. <http://maps.citysearch.com/location/10202598?>
- **The Library** - The Library has been described as the ultimate hangout. The best drink specials and the hoppin atmosphere combine to create the epitomy of a party bar. <http://www.librarybars.com/austin/>

Places to Drink: Good Music

- **311 Club** - "Rustic," that's it... Lived in. Loved gently. It's a Sixth street institution known for great live music (This is Austin, isn't it?) and the most friendly of crowds. The raised platform stage has showcased many a guitar riff against a dramatic curtain of red velvet. Live music is 311's schtick, whether it's part-owner Joe Valentine's house band or tunes from other local up-and-comers, it's time to get down. 311 style (Review from Austin Chronicle). No web site available - 311 E 6TH St, Austin, TX 78701-3627
- **Emo's** - What can you say about 6th & Red River's crown jewel that hasn't been said before? Emo's books great music (Arcade Fire, Ted Leo, the Thermals, the Wrens) and they let the younger folk (18+) share the love (the door staff seems to truly enjoy drawing those obnoxiously permanent x's on both hands). The inside stage and bar have a true garage aesthetic, and the outside stage is airy and spacious. (Review from Austin Chronicle). 603 Red River, 477-EMOS <http://www.emosaustin.com>
- **B.D. Riley's** – B.D.'s is not part of some national chain--it's locally-owned, a friendly, neighborhood pub serving a wide variety of award-winning foods, perfect pints of your favorite brews, great live music and the kind of crowd that always ensures a good time. <http://www.bdrileys.com/>
- **Cedar Street** - With specialty cocktails sure to have your proper pinky kicked to the sky, this cozy courtyard-twixt-the-buildings enjoys props as one of the first places to put the shake back in the district. Masterful mixologists, a menu of martinis, and an almost decadent ambiance complete the scene. Almost. That music you hear walking down Fourth? That's coming from one of downtown's best open-air venues, tucked between two large walls for some killer acoustics. On any given night, stars twinkle and bands groove on the outdoor stage, as hearty toasts hoisted high clink in syncopated rhythm. (Review from Austin Chronicle). 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669 <http://www.cedarstreaustin.com>
- **La Zona Rosa** - Anyone who plays music (or even a wicked air ukulele) knows this secluded, yet open venue is one of the best in Austin, lending itself to unforced intimacy and happening shows. The bands play off of the audience and vice-versa, with bartenders lubricating the connection. And it's a two-fer, with a backstage bar that's "Austin's Best Kept Secret," (Shhh) with one of the best jukeboxes in town and ping-pong! 612 W. Fourth, (Review from Austin Chronicle). 472-2293 <http://www.directevents.net>



Places to See: Outside

- **Barton Creek** - Within Zilker Park's 358 acres, lies one of the crown jewels of Austin, Barton Springs Pool. Three acres in size, the pool is fed from under ground springs and is on average 68 degrees year round. Over the years, Barton Springs Pool has drawn people from all walks of life, from legislators who have concocted state laws there to free-spirited topless sunbathers who turned heads in the seventies. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/bartonsprings.htm>
- **Zilker Park** - The park is home to the Zilker Botanical Gardens, which includes the Taniguchi Oriental Garden and the Austin Area Garden Center. The Austin Nature and Science Center which offers a wide variety of programs for children and adults, as well as, the opportunity to explore the environment with hands-on exhibits, interactive nature and science trails and live Texas wildlife. In addition, the Center hosts the "Splash" Environmental Exhibit which is an educational display about the Edwards Aquifer. The Zilker Hillside Theatre hosts concerts ranging from Jazz to Country. Additionally, the theatre is the site of the Zilker Summer Musical and Shakespeare in the Park. Bring a blanket to site on the hillside and enjoy these events. The Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum is on the south end of the park. Home of the collection of work by sculptor Charles Umlauf. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/>
- **Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail** - Hike and Bike Trails - Longtime residents, new citizens or visitors alike may enjoy our beautiful city through its trails. If you like to walk, run or bike, you are in the best possible place to participate in these activities. The City of Austin has developed one of the finest trail systems in the nation. Currently, over 50 miles of well-surfaced scenic paths follow natural greenbelts into all areas of the city, making an excellent trail accessible to all. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/trails.htm>
- **Austin Bats** - In 1980, while reconstructing the Congress Avenue Bridge in downtown Austin, bridge engineers had no idea that new crevices created beneath the bridge would make an ideal place for a bat roost. Since then, the population under the Congress Avenue Bridge has grown to be the largest urban colony in North America. Up to 1.5 million make nightly flights creating a most unusual tourist attraction for Austin. <http://www.io.com/house/bats.html>
- **Mount Bonnell** - This spot offers the best view of Austin, from its peak at 780 feet above sea level (the rest of the area is at about 580 feet). A great spot for picnicking, too, with rolling hills, the Colorado River, all of Austin virtually spread out before you. http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/parkmaps/images/mount_bonnell.jpg
- **Tour UT Campus** - From a "Moon Light Prowl" to a guided tour the University of Texas has some amazing history that should not be missed. <http://www.utexas.edu/tours/>

Places to See: Inside

- **Texas State History Museum** - The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in downtown Austin, Texas, tells the "Story of Texas" with three floors of interactive exhibits, the special effects show, The Star of Destiny, in the Texas Spirit Theater, and Austin's only IMAX Theatre, featuring the signature large-format film, Texas: The Big Picture. <http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>
- **Tour the Capital** - The Texas Capitol is an extraordinary example of late 19th century public architecture and is widely recognized as one of the nation's most distinguished state capitols. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986 for its "significant contribution to American history." <http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/>
- **The Blanton Art Museum** - The largest university art museum in the country, and the premiere visual arts institution for Austin, the museum serves as a cultural link for all those who share our love of art and ideas. <http://www.blantonmuseum.org/>
- **LBJ Library** - The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum is one of eleven presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The library houses forty million pages of historical documents which include the papers from the entire public career of Lyndon Baines Johnson and also from those of close associates. These papers and the vast administrative files from the presidency are used primarily by scholars. <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/>

About Halo SG:

- Halo Solutions Group is an independent consulting firm focused on the business of application development.
- The company provides integration and development of open source application to meet business needs in the technology segment.
- Our group is focused on giving back to the Open Source community. When team members are not working on Halo SG projects they are contributing to open source projects.



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