



## Relocation Guide

[www.iorworld.com](http://www.iorworld.com)

*IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.*

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Photo courtesy of [Wikipedia](#)

Austin, located in the heart of Texas, is the state capital. Settled in 1835, the city is home to 913,000 people and continues to grow and develop every year. It is known for government and education, and is a major center for technology and business. The residents of Austin, also known as “Austinites,” include a diverse mix of government employees (political staff, law enforcement, university faculty and staff), foreign and domestic college students, musicians, high-tech workers, blue-collar workers and business people.

Austin has many different slogans and names. In the late 1800s Austin was known as the City of the “Violet Crown.” During the winter, a violet glow can be seen across the top of the hills around the city just after sunset. In the 1990s, Austin adopted the nickname “Silicon Hills” due to the influx of many technology corporations to the area. However, the current official slogan of the city is “The Live Music Capital of the World.” The city is also known as a “clean-air city” due to the many no-smoking policies which apply to all public areas and buildings, as well as its famous bumper sticker slogan “Keep Austin Weird.”

Austin’s history begins with a settlement by German, Swedish, and Mexican immigrants called Waterloo. By 1839, Waterloo adopted the name “Austin” and became the Capital of the Republic of Texas after Stephen F. Austin (also known as “The Father of Texas”). The Republic of Texas existed as an independent sovereign country between March 2, 1836 until February 19, 1846. The loyalty to Texas and the pride of being a Texan, is still seen today.

In the 1970s Austin became an alternative to the Nashville music industry. Country musicians and songwriters flocked to Austin in hopes of seeking refuge from the industry’s corporate domination. The city became known for its reputation as a place where struggling musicians could launch their careers in informal venues to receptive live audiences. Austin is also home to the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Starting in the 1990s, Austin began attracting businesses from the technology sector. Game development, popular music, and filmmaking also started to contribute to the culture of Austin. Austinites are very proud of their past and have a rebellious spirit. Historically, the city's population has doubled every 20 years and the trend seems to continue as the city attracts more and more young people to the area.

### **City of Austin Overview**

- [Official Website of the City of Austin](#)
- [Austin Government](#)
- Population: 913,00
- Land Area: 264.9 sq mi (686 km<sup>2</sup>)
- [Austin Recreation Department](#)
- [Austin Public Library](#)
- [Weather Today in Austin](#)

### **History**

- [History of Austin, TX](#)
- [Timeline of Austin, TX](#)
- [Historic Walking Tours](#)
- [Austin's Museums and Culture](#)

### **What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Tourist Information**

- [Cultural and Heritage Tourism Resources](#)
- [Austin Visitors Center](#)
- [Tours](#)

### **Where to Find Arts & Entertainment**

- [Austin360](#)
- [Patch.com](#)
- [Austin Chamber of Commerce](#)

### **Where to Eat**

Discover Austin's finest cuisine. Hit the roof, drink a beer and eat Austin's most delicious food.

- [Austin Eater](#) – food blog
- [Make online restaurant reservations](#) with OpenTable
- [Yelp](#) Restaurant Reviews
- [Zagat](#) reviews

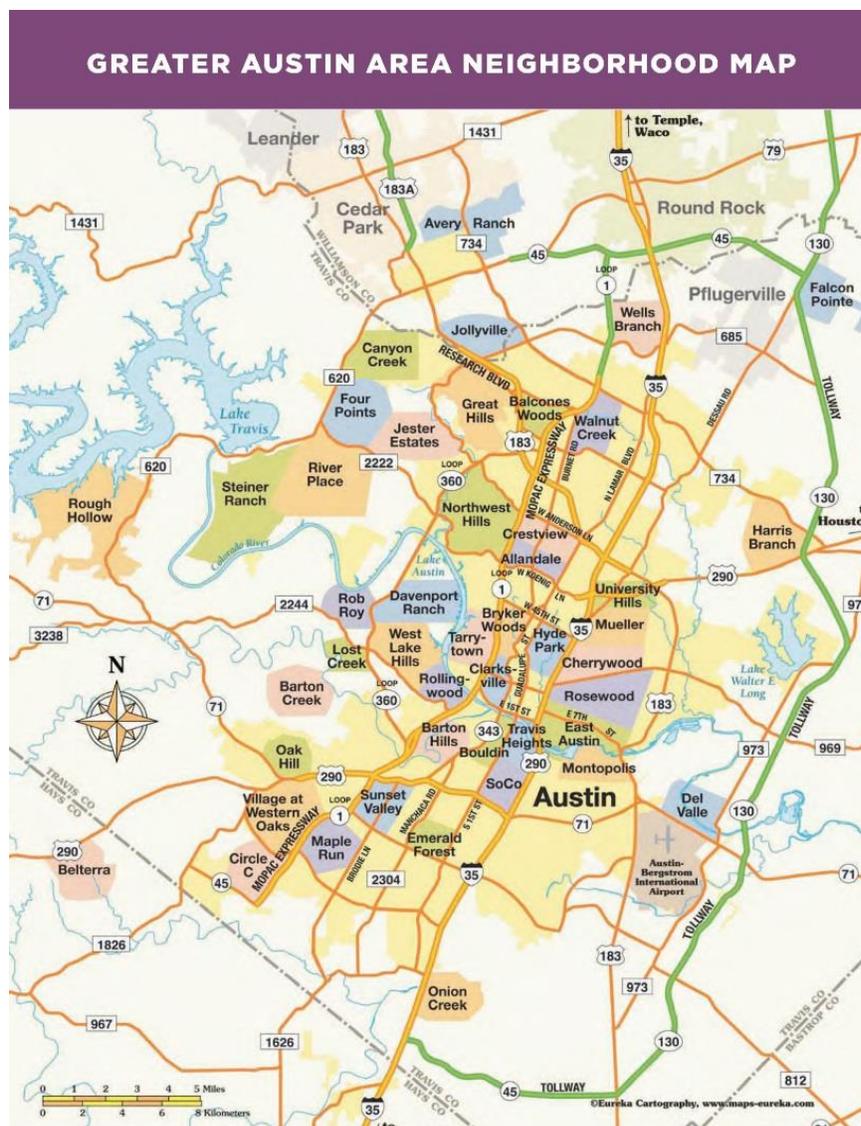
## Sales Tax

- Sales tax for Austin information [here](#).

## Daylight Saving Time

Austin is in the Central Time Zone and participates in Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. local time on the second Sunday in March. On the first Sunday in November areas on Daylight Saving Time return to Standard Time at 2:00 a.m. The names of each time zone change along with Daylight Saving Time. Eastern Standard Time (EST) becomes Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), and so forth. Some areas of the United States not using Daylight Saving Time include, Arizona, parts of Indiana, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

## Neighborhood Map



## Select Austin Neighborhoods

[Downtown](#) is the obvious center of activity for the city. Here you'll find the vast majority of our bars, upscale restaurants, and high-rise (relative to Austin) living. There's been a huge increase in condos being built downtown – which is going to vastly expand the number of places to live downtown. You could potentially ditch your car if you choose to live here, and walk to work, play, or exercise along our beautiful Lady Bird Lake trail. The downsides of living in this area are the rental costs and the lack of parking.

[South Austin](#) is the epicenter of weirdness, or in the zip code 78704 to be exact (ok, to be more exact, it's everything north of Oltorf Rd. to Lady Bird Lake). In fact, just being in the 78704 zip code adds value and cache to a home sale. The main street is South Congress, or SoCo, with lots of funky shops, restaurants and bars.

[East Austin](#) was recently ranked as one of the top hipster places to live in the US. If you have a family, you should note that schools may not be the best in this area (with exceptions). Homes are older – even dating back to the Victorian age closer to Lady Bird Lake.

## Round Rock, Pflugerville and Cedar Park

Let's say you are moving to Austin but are not really into the whole hippie-artsy-liberal scene. Welcome to [Williamson County](#), home to Austin's three major suburbs. All of these areas have a wide range of housing prices – so you're sure to find something that will fit your budget.

- [Round Rock](#) is the largest, and has the most of the suburban comforts – big box retailers, chain restaurants, and a minor league baseball team. The schools are highly rated, especially around the Brushy Creek subdivision. The commute can be lengthy to downtown.
- [Pflugerville](#) is tucked in next to Round Rock on the southeast, a town of mainly subdivisions, and has some highly rated schools. One plus for Pflugerville is that it is closer to town than Round Rock, and more affordable.
- [Cedar Park](#), a vibrant community situated on the northern border of Austin just 17 miles from downtown, is a great place to raise a family and features 47 city parks and 22 miles of trails.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY  
DIAL 911  
FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE**

Language line: If the person calling 911 is unable to speak English, they can tell the operator what language they speak. The 911 Operator will have an interpreter on the line within one minute to assist with the translation.

They will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up.** The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

[POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222  
[ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

[Dial 311](#) to reach any Austin agency, or to request a City Service (such as replacing a broken street lamp or removing an abandoned vehicle).

**Other Important Numbers:**

- [List of Austin’s Departments and Agencies](#)
- [Primary Care Physician](#)

**Urgent Care Centers**

An Urgent Care Center is different than a Hospital Emergency Room. An Emergency room would be in an absolute emergency. You may visit an Urgent Care Center if, for example, you have a terrible ear ache and need medicine immediately but your Primary Care Physician's office is closed. Many Urgent Care Centers have extended hours and are open early morning until late evening during the week and also some weekend hours. Be sure to refer back to your health insurance company to clarify which urgent care centers and primary care physicians you are allowed to visit using your health insurance. Your insurance card should have a toll-free 1-800 number on the back for you to call and ask questions and clarify which urgent care center would be closest. Please always carry your insurance card with you!

## **Safety and Security**

While Austin is relatively safe, it is still a major city. Like every major metropolitan area, there is some crime.

Take basic precautions: lock your car, lock your doors and windows in your home, be aware of strangers and things that just don't seem right. It is always better to be cautious.

Check [here for a list of crime rates per neighborhood in Austin](#).

## **Hospital & Clinics:**

- [Austin State Hospital](#)
- [Dell Children's Medical Center](#)
- [Seton Northwest Hospital](#)
- [St. David's South Austin Medical Center](#)
- [University Medical Center Brackenridge](#)

## **Pharmacies**

There are various major pharmacy chains in Austin, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. These pharmacies are also general stores and carry a large selection of cleaning, house care, pet care, and other supplies. Click on "Store Locator" and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Many pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation.

- [CVS](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Pharmacies in Austin](#)

### Rental Agents

In most situations, your IOR consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, in most locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

### Renter's Rights

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. [Here are Texas's](#).

You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states](#).

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

### Privacy

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Pretty much the only time the landlord can come into your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage.

Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

### What to expect from the landlord:

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs, and secure doors and windows
- Privacy as described above
- All electrical, plumbing, heating, and air conditioning systems function.
- Working hot and cold water
- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects
- Access to trash receptacles

- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or disabilities.
- Water, electricity, and gas bills are up to you to pay. **Your IOR consultant will assist you with this process.**
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.

### Utilities and Appliances

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

**\*\*Note that you will need a social security number in order to register and pay for utilities\*\***

### Recycling

Austin provides [recycling](#) to its residents.



### The Lease Process

#### Review your housing budget with your DSC

Your DSC can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

#### Know what you want

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do you want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area? Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

#### Identify potential apartments

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local broker who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.

#### Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<b>24-hr mtn</b>	24-hour emergency maintenance
<b>AC or A/C</b>	Air conditioning
<b>Appls</b>	Appliances

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<b>LA</b>	Living area
<b>LR</b>	Living room
<b>MBR</b>	Master bedroom

<b>Apt</b>	Apartment
<b>BA</b>	Bathroom
<b>BR</b>	Bedroom
<b>Bsmt</b>	Basement
<b>CAC</b>	Central air conditioning
<b>DA</b>	Dining area
<b>Det</b>	Detached
<b>Dk</b>	Deck
<b>DR</b>	Dining room
<b>Dw (D/w)</b>	Dishwasher
<b>Eff</b>	Efficiency
<b>EiK</b>	Eat-in kitchen
<b>Fin bsmt</b>	Finished basement
<b>FDR</b>	Formal dining room
<b>FHA</b>	Fair Housing Act
<b>FMR</b>	Fair market rent
<b>FP</b>	Floorplan
<b>Gar</b>	Garage
<b>H/A</b>	Handicapped accessible
<b>H/W</b>	Hardwood floors
<b>Hi ceil</b>	High ceilings
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

<b>MBTH</b>	Master bathroom
<b>Neg</b>	Negotiable
<b>Ofc</b>	Office
<b>OSP</b>	Off-street parking
<b>Pkg</b>	Parking
<b>PM</b>	Property manager (management)
<b>Pvt</b>	Private
<b>Pwdr rm</b>	Powder room (1/2 bath)
<b>RE</b>	Real estate
<b>Renov</b>	Renovated
<b>Rf</b>	Roof
<b>Rm</b>	Room
<b>SF</b>	Single-family
<b>SFA</b>	Single-family attached
<b>SFD</b>	Single-family detached
<b>Sp, PI (S/p)</b>	Swimming pool
<b>Sq. ft</b>	Square feet
<b>Th (T/H)</b>	Townhouse
<b>Vw (vu)</b>	View
<b>W/A</b>	Wheelchair accessible
<b>W/W</b>	Wall-to-wall carpeting

### Visit

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week if possible. Your IOR DS consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

### **What to do once you're there**

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the make-up of the other tenants? Are they mainly younger students? Married couples with families? Older folks?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Do you take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

### **The Application**

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your Social Security number and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved the lease approval process will begin with IOR and likely your employer.

### **Signing the lease**

DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until your IOR consultant has reviewed it in full and given their approval.

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you are working with an IOR consultant, make sure to talk with them and receive approval before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection, and pets

- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order just in case.

### **What to expect from the lease**

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer requires that all leases include a Break Clause in the case that you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Minimum stay. Typically three fourths of your lease contract time. If you choose to move out before this date, you will lose your security deposit. If you move out afterwards, you are still required to give a specified number of days notice.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to leave them with a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

*Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.*

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

### **Moving In**

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid...you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment. Look for dings in the walls, cracked windows, or other irregularities and report them on this form. This will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

### **Get Renter's Insurance**

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

## SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

### **Public schools in Austin**

[Austin Independent School District](#) educates approximately 85,000 students in 124 schools. It is the fifth largest school district in Texas. AISD has a richly diverse student community. It includes children from all economic levels and all kinds of backgrounds. AISD supports families that represent more than 94 languages, and they teach seven languages other than English, including Chinese, Japanese, and American Sign Language.

### **List of Public Schools**

- [Elementary Schools](#)
- [Middle Schools](#)
- [High Schools](#)

### **Private Schools in Austin**

There are over 80 private schools in Austin, ranging from early childhood education to high school. In general, many private schools in the U.S. require high application standards and entrance exams, and some may align with a specific religion when devising a curriculum. For a listing of private schools in Austin, click [here](#).

In late September, an annual [Private and Public School Fair](#), a free event where parents can learn more about specific schools, their admission requirements, and their philosophies of education. Your destination services consultant can answer further questions you might have regarding the schools.

### International Schools

- [Austin International School](#)
- [Magellan International School](#)
- [Abercorn International School](#)

### Additional Resources

- [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)
- [www.eschoolprofile.com](http://www.eschoolprofile.com)
- [www.schooltree.org](http://www.schooltree.org)

### Colleges and Universities

Please consult [Institutions of Higher Education](#) for information on colleges and universities near Austin.



*University of Texas at Austin*

### Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your passport, driver's license, or work ID.
- Social security number.
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from ~\$25-\$150 dollars.

### Security

Always pay attention to the other people around you at an ATM. Do not use the machine if you are suspicious of someone's behavior. It is safer to find another ATM or to come back later. Do not put your PIN number in with anyone close enough to see it.

Credit card theft is another increasing problem. In order to protect your card from being abused, never give your credit card or credit card number to a service provider you have not called. Another precaution is to destroy or shred copies of receipts and bills. Criminals will not hesitate to dig through the trash to find a copy of your credit card number.

### Major US Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the larger banks. Not every bank is represented in all US locations; in some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

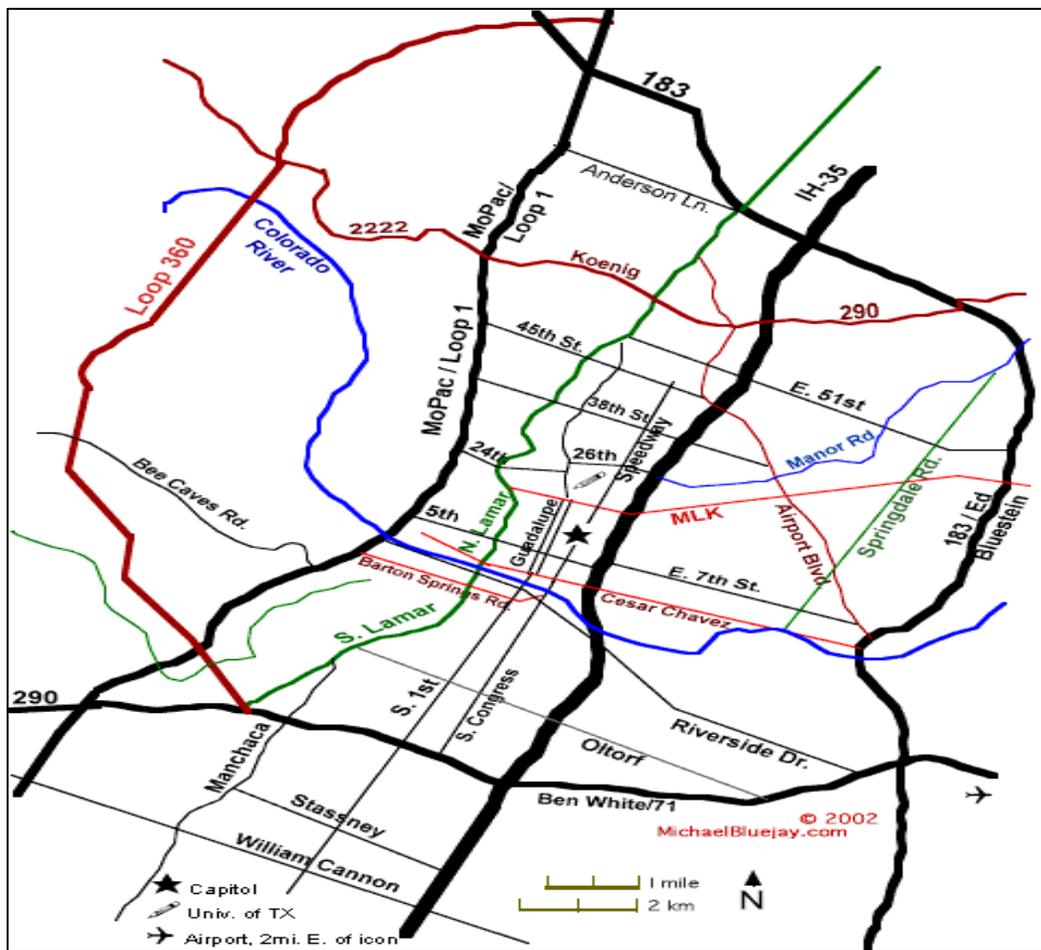
- [Bank of America](#)
- [Bank of the West](#)
- [Chase](#)
- [Citibank](#)
- [First State Bank Central Texas](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- [TD Bank](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)
- [Yellow pages listing of Austin Banks](#)

### Driving

Austin is a driver friendly city. The main north/south thoroughfares are Mopac/Loop 1, Lamar, S. 1<sup>st</sup>/Guadalupe, S. Congress/Speedway, and I-35. The main east/west thoroughfares are Koenig/290, 45<sup>th</sup> St, 38<sup>th</sup> St, MLK, Cesar Chavez, Oltorf, and Ben White.

There are toll roads in Austin. Please see the list [toll rates](#) for specific prices. The fastest way to pay for the tolls is by using a [TxTag](#). This is a prepaid account and TxTag users generally save 25% on tolls statewide.

### Map of Austin, TX Main Roads



Photograph Courtesy of [Mary Sells Austin](#)

### Ride Share

The [MetroRideShare](#) program is operated by vRide, a national vanpool service provider, under contract with Capital Metro. Commuting with a vanpool group lets you take your time back on the ride to work, while gaining other program benefits.

## Bus system

Mass transit in the region is provided by the [Metro Bus](#) service. The [CapMetro App](#) is a convenient tool used to see bus schedules and routes. You are also able to buy fares using the app. Otherwise, fares can be bought in person at the CapMetro Transit store and retail outlets. For more information please see the [fares and passes](#) for a complete list of costs.

## Train

The [Capitol MetroRail](#) offers comfortable, friendly and reliable service Monday through Friday between Leander and downtown Austin, and from Lakeline to downtown on Saturday. You can buy your fares ahead of time using the CapMetro App, at the station, or retail outlets around town. Please go to the [MetroRail's official site](#) for a complete list of fare options and prices.

## Transit to Nearby States and Cities

- [Amtrak](#) is a train transportation service
- [Greyhound](#) is a bus service that provides transit to nearby Cities and States.

## Airports

- [Austin-Bergstrom International Airport](#)

## Transportation "App" Options

Several web based phone applications to secure a driver are available throughout the area. The driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS. Payment is automatic through the app and fares may be cheaper than a taxi.

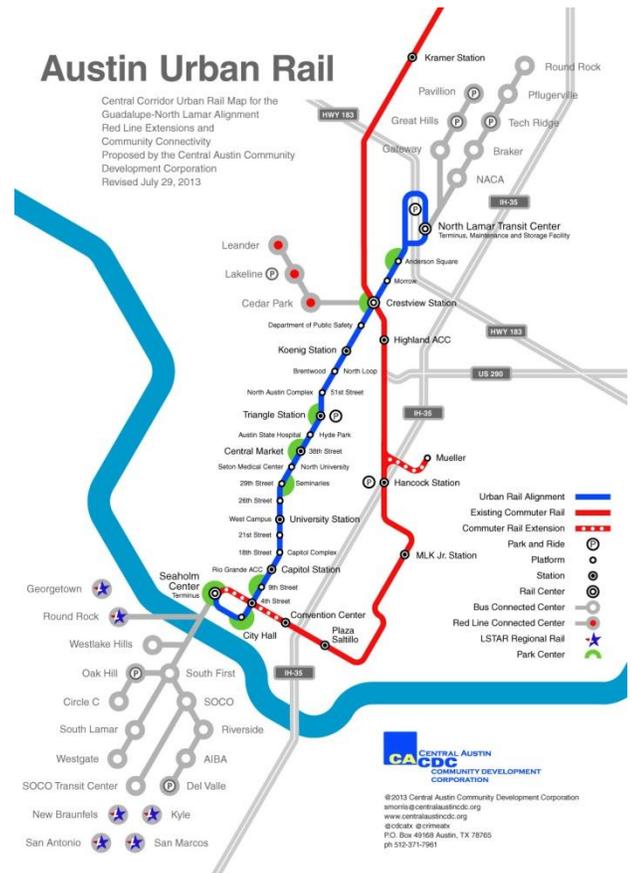
- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

## Map Websites

- [Google Maps](#)
- [Expedia](#)
- [MapQuest](#)
- [Bing Maps](#)

## AAA Travel Protection

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc. Call 1-800-352-5382 for additional information and cost.



## DRIVER'S LICENSE

### **Obtaining a Driver's License**

In the state of Texas you have 90 days from the time you moved to the state to obtain your Texas driver's license. After **90 days** your out-of-state license will no longer be valid for use in TX.

For general information and instructions on [how to obtain](#) an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the Texas [DMV](#) website.

You can find the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) location closest to you [using this DMV locator](#).

**Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.**

## LIVING AND SHOPPING

### TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The main service providers in Austin for TV cable, landline telephone, and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [AT&T](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [DirecTV](#)
- [Dish](#)
- [Time Warner Cable](#)

### Housewares and Furniture

- [Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- [Ikea](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Williams-Sonoma](#)
- [Rooms to Go](#)
- [Art Van](#)
- [West Elm](#)

### Food Shopping

- [Whole Foods](#)
- [Central Market](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Royal Blue Grocery](#)
- [H-E-B](#)
- List of [Farmers Markets](#)



*Austin Farmers Market*

## RECREATION

### Arts and Culture

- [Art and Culture Holiday Featured Events](#)
- [Art City Austin: Art Fair](#)
- [Austin's Weird Homes Tour](#)
- [Blanton Museum of Art](#)
- [Bullock Museum: History of Texas](#)
- [Co-Lab Projects](#)
- [George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center](#)
- [Harry Ransom Center](#)
- [LBJ Presidential Library](#)
- [Mexic Arte Museum](#)
- [Studio 10 Art Gallery](#)
- [Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum](#)
- [Women and their Work](#)
- [The Contemporary Austin](#)



Photo Courtesy of [S Media](#)

### Entertainment and Performing Arts

- [Austin Symphony Orchestra](#)
- [Austin 6th Street](#)
- [Ballet Austin](#)
- [Blue Lapis Light: Aerial Dance](#)
- [Cold Towne Theater](#)
- [Esther's Follies: Comedy Show](#)
- [Hideout Theatre](#)
- [Hyde Park Theatre](#)
- [The Long Center for the Performing Arts](#)
- [One World Theater](#)
- [Paramount Theater](#)
- [Salvage Vanguard Theater](#)
- [Scottish Rite Theater](#)
- [The Velveeta Room: Comedy Club](#)
- [Zach Theater](#)
- [Zilker Theater](#)



Austin 6<sup>th</sup> Street

## Kid Friendly

- [Austin Zoo and Animal Sanctuary](#)
- [Congress St Bridge Bats: Bat Conservation International](#)
- [Shore Club Volente Beach](#)
- [The Thinkery](#): Children's Museum

## Outdoor Recreation

- [Austin Interactive Park Viewer](#)
- [Austin Nature & Science Center](#)
- [Barton Springs Pool](#)
- [Disc Golf Courses](#)
- [List of Community Recreation Centers](#)
- [List of Public Pools](#)
- [Park Directory](#)
- [Public Golf Courses](#)

## Climbing

- [Barton Creek Greenbelt](#)
- [Reimer's Ranch](#)
- [Bull Creek](#)



*The Bats at Congress Street Bridge*

## Sports

Austin is the largest city in the United States without a professional sports club. Instead, the city prides itself on the [University of Texas Athletics](#).

Austin will host [Formula 1](#), the United States Grand Prix every year until 2021.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- [Austin Humane Society](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Volunteer Match](#)

### Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

### Smart Phone Apps for Travel:

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

### Smart Phone Apps for Communication:

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

**Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews:**

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

**Smart Phone Apps for Weather:**

- [WTHR13](#) : Local weather and closings; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren

### **Dog Parks**

The Parks and Recreation Department operates [12 off leash areas in Austin](#) for you to enjoy with your dog.

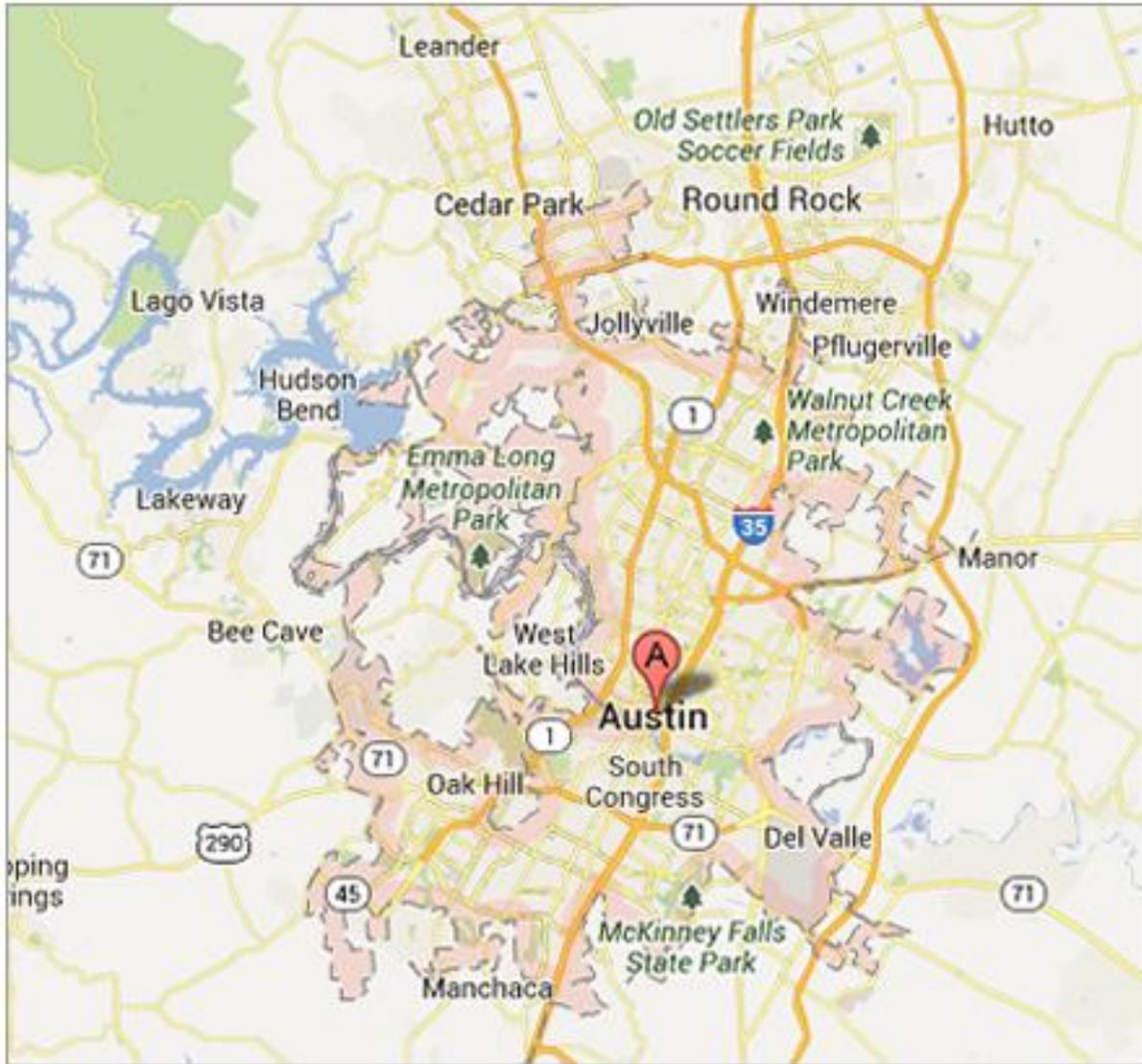
### **Rabies Vaccinations**

You must vaccinate your cats and dogs once they reach three months of age and then again when they turn one year old. Then you need to vaccinate them either every year or every three years depending on which vaccination your vet uses. Make sure to keep copies of your pets rabies vaccination certificates.

### **Veterinary Clinics**

- [Veterinarians in Austin](#)
- [Animal Emergency Hospital](#)
- [Austin Humane Society](#)
- [Austin Urban Vet Center](#)
- [Austin Vet Care at Central Park](#)
- [West Lynn Veterinary Clinic](#)

AREA MAP



Click here for an [Interactive Map of Austin](#)

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

### [Federal Holidays](#)

### [State Holidays](#)

- New Year's Day January 1\*
- Martin Luther King Day Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4\*
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Columbus Day Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day November 11\*
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day December 25\*

\*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.



*Austin skyline*