

Austin Texas



512.483.6710/www.alamotitle-austin.com

Alamo Title

Austin is made up of a diverse blend of cultures and lifestyles, and has a reputation for being an open, accepting city. The influences of minority communities can be felt in everything from our music and dining to architecture and art.

Central Texas boasts a cosmopolitan atmosphere without the big-city hassle, reasonable cost of living, gorgeous scenery and friendly people. Austin gets high marks for its lifestyle and the opportunities to pursue challenging careers. No wonder it's been cited as the Number One destination both for relocating families and relocating singles. Our diverse business community is a mecca of creative, talented people and prizes entrepreneurial, innovative people.

Regional Information

The Austin metropolitan area is the 38th largest region nationally and the City of Austin is 16th. Austin is a metropolitan region of 1.4 million people with a highly trained workforce, renowned quality of life, moderate cost environment and vast experience in technology, manufacturing and research and development.

Education

With its many area universities and colleges, its award-winning public and private schools and its penchant for churning out some of the smartest people on the planet, Austin might seem a little daunting when it comes to figuring out where you or your children are going to fit into this buzzing hive of learning.

Four of the metro's major public school systems, representing 54% of area enrollment, are included in Expansion Management magazine's latest annual education quality ratings of nearly 2,800 school districts nationwide. Two districts—Eanes and Round Rock—are rated "gold medal", the highest of the magazine's cost-performance categories. The Austin Independent School District, the largest in the region, as well as San Marcos, were awarded the "Green Light" rating, the middle performance category. Past ratings from the magazine have included Lake Travis as "Gold Medal" and Georgetown, Leander and Pflugerville as "Blue Ribbon" districts, and Bastrop as a "Green Light" district.

Fifteen regional schools made Newsweek's "Top of the Class" list in June 2007. The schools were ranked according to percentage of advanced placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge tests compared with the number of students enrolled. Selected schools represented 7 districts in the area including Austin, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Lake Travis, Leander, Pflugerville and Round Rock.

Recreation

Austin is a creative community filled with designers, painters, sculptors, dancers, filmmakers, musicians and artists of all kinds. Austin has more live music venues per capita than anywhere else in the nation. Today, our city hosts nearly 200 venues and is home to thousands of musicians. Which means you can catch a show any day of the week, at almost any time.

In addition to the venues, Austin hosts many nationally recognized annual events including the three day ACL fest in Zilker Park featuring eight stages and 130 bands and South by Southwest which showcases the best in independent film, music and interactive from around the world.

Austin has its own professional symphony, ballet and opera companies, dozens of theaters, dance companies, vocal ensembles, and orchestras producing events year-round. Art museums, galleries galore and beautiful gardens replete with sculptures.

Thanks to incomparable cuisine, diverse local artists, and eclectic shopping, Austin is known as one of the most unique destinations in the country. Newcomers will find one-of-a-kind shopping finds in downtown Austin with an eclectic array of shops and boutiques. Or visit Austin's second downtown. That's what many are calling The Domain and its 304-acre, thoughtfully planned community that's setting new standards in urban development. The Domain is bringing the best of Austin to one single, urban location and offers impeccable restaurants and luxury shops anchored by Neiman Marcus and Macy's.

A big part of Austin's culture is the great outdoors. With Hill Country vistas outside the city and Lady Bird Lake in the center of town, Austin has miles of hike and bike trails, more than 200 parks and around 300 days of sunshine each year. We're host to the Austin Marathon & Half Marathon, with more than 11,000 participating runners from around the country. And Austin was recently named the nation's No. 1 golf destination by CNN.com.

Many Austinites enjoy playing a variety of sports, but others like to watch. The area has numerous opportunities to join the crowds as a spectator of exciting local sporting events. The University of Texas and the Big 12 Conference offer collegiate sports with nationally ranked programs in football, basketball, baseball, swimming, track and field, volleyball and more.

The Round Rock Express, the Houston Astros' Triple A affiliate named for baseball hall-of-famer Nolan Ryan began play in Austin's neighboring city of Round Rock in the 2000 season after relocating here from Jackson, Miss. The Dell Diamond, built at a cost of \$20 million, is the home of the Round Rock Express Baseball Club. With a seating capacity of 7,816 fixed seats, crowds at The Dell Diamond can easily swell to 11,000 with room for almost 3,500 additional fans on the outfield grass berm area.

The Austin Ice Bats, a CHL professional hockey team named after the world-famous free-tailed bats that live under Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge, play at the Travis County Exposition and Heritage Center.

The Austin Wranglers, the Arena Football League's 19th franchise, kicked off their Inaugural Season in February of 2004. The team plays home games at the Frank Erwin Special Events Center on The University of Texas campus.

Quality of Life

In the State Capital of Texas, we pride ourselves on being far from ordinary. In fact, we celebrate being "weird." Austin is a hot spot for creativity and embraces its community of musicians, artists, entrepreneurs and progressive thinkers. Austin is consistently recognized as the region having the most inventive, creative, wired, rockin', educated, fit and loved. The most notable benefits of austin life are...

- Affordable and diverse neighborhoods, from urban lofts to hill country estates

- A climate made for outdoor enjoyment and recreation nearly year round
- Many professional and amateur sports venues and events
- More fine restaurants and clubs per capita than any other U.S. city
- A lush environment highlighted by parks, lakes and trails
- A creative culture that supports the arts, music and the theater
- Year-round festivals and celebrations for people of all ages

Austin's expanding health care system now rivals that of any major metropolitan area. Besides a number of major hospitals and one children's hospital, there are numerous out-patient clinics, emergency medical facilities and all manner of awareness programs.

What better balance can a city offer than being both the 'Best Place for Business and Careers' and the 'Live Music Capital of the World'? Austin pleases all in rankings ranging from 'Best City for Relocating Families' to 'Best Cities for Singles'. Some of the other accolades awarded to the Austin area in the past year are...

- The Mother Nature Network recognizes Austin as one of the 10 greenest cities in the country. (July 2009)
- Austin lands the number one spot as the top U.S. city for job growth, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2009)
- Austin makes the list as one of the best cities for recession recovery on Forbes.com. (June 2009)
- According to WomenCo., Austin is the #1 city for a career, based on its growth and unemployment rates, average salaries, costs of living and commute time. (May 2009)
- Pitney Bowes Business Insight names Austin America's top retail city. (May 2009)
- Austin ranks #7 on the list of America's Top Tech Centers, according to American Cities Business Journals. (May 2009)
- The American College of Sports Medicine's American Fitness Index ranks Austin ninth among "fit" cities. (May 2009)
- Relocation.com ranks Austin #1 on its list of the Top Cities for a Fresh Start. (May 2009)
- Austin is recognized as one of the eight ideal places for foodies to retire by Where to Retire magazine. (May/June 2009)
- Austin tops the list of America's best bargain cities on Forbes.com. (May 2009)
- AmericanStyle magazine readers ranked Austin #15 on the list of top art destinations in the country. (April 2009)
- The Austin Film Festival made MovieMaker magazine's list of the top 25 festivals worth the fee. (April 2009)
- NewGeography.com ranks Austin #1 for job growth potential. (April 2009)
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Austin was the second fastest-growing metropolitan area between 2007 and 2008. (March 2009)
- Austin's business-friendly attitude helped it move up in the ranks to eighth place this year in Forbes.com's Best Places for Business and Careers. (March 2009)
- Austin-Bergstrom Int. Airport was named the third best performing airport in North America in airport service quality by Airports Council International (ACI). (March 2009)
- Forbes.com names Austin among America's Best Cities for the Outdoors due to the mix of mild weather, plentiful park land and assortment of outdoor activities. (Feb. 2009)
- Austin is named one of the Top 10 Budget Travel Destinations for 2009 by Budget Travel Magazine. (January 2009)

Neighborhoods

Austin offers something for everyone, boasting a diverse range of neighborhoods within and around the city limits. Newcomers can locate housing options near every employment center in the Austin area. For a more complete list see the Chamber's Newcomer Guide.

Central Austin - Central Austin is seeing a revitalization in its housing market, with several loft renovations and the introduction of new housing to historical structures such as the Brown Building. You can find apartment and condominium developments near the Central Business District, the Capitol Complex and the entertainment district, or you can choose to live in the historic communities that surround the University of Texas, where Victorian and craftsman-style homes are available.

East Austin - Diversity among the neighborhoods east of I-35 includes groundbreaking master-planned communities, neighborhoods that sprang up in the first half of the century and homes that reflect Austin's Victorian roots.

West Austin - West of downtown to Lake Travis, neighborhoods range from student rentals, and tastefully updated homes to some of the area's most exclusive environs.

North Austin - Close-in North Austin neighborhoods offer optimal access to the city's north industrial market at an affordable price. Many of the city's new apartment complexes are located in the North Austin area.

Northwest Austin - This area is one of Austin's fastest-growing sectors, drawing services like Seton Northwest Hospital, as well as considerable retail attention.

Far Northwest Austin - Newly developed master-planned communities combine elegant new homes with substantial acreage and terrific access to the lakes, the wealth of retailers at Lakeline Mall and new employment centers.

Lake Travis - As Austin's first and one of its most elegant master-planned communities, Lake Travis offers residents superior access to lake recreation and numerous golf courses.

South Austin - Quirky and a little eccentric, South Austin features the eclectic SOCO shopping district (check out First Thursdays), older close-in neighborhoods like Travis Heights and Zilker as well as the 4,000-acre master-planned community of Circle C Ranch.

Far South Austin - "Bedroom" communities like Manchaca, Buda and Kyle offer country living—from large "spreads" to cozy cottages—within easy reach of the city.

Southeast Austin - Southeast Austin is experiencing a transformation accompanying the airport and Advanced Micro Devices' chip plant.

Southwest Austin - Southwest Austin offers the extraordinary natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country and the challenges of strict environmental ordinances.

San Marcos - The city of San Marcos, south of Austin, is a charming community with a river winding its way through small streets and a historic university reigning on the hill. With shady streets and friendly neighbors, San Marcos attracts many who want to escape the everyday bustle of the big city. Affordable homes are available in master-planned communities.

Business Overview

Austin is a world-renown region for the knowledge-based economy built on outstanding university-based research, an entrepreneurial culture, venture funding, a broad array of support services and a rich pool of intellectual talent and leadership. That's why it's no surprise that Samsung chose Austin to locate its newest next generation semiconductor facility, one of the largest foreign investments in the U.S., and why Whole Foods grew from a single Austin grocery store to a Fortune 500 giant.

Austin companies contribute the technological infrastructure that makes cars run smarter, games play faster, cell phones do more and will take all industries into the future. And thanks to our strong ties to the University of Texas, university and corporate collaborations have yielded world-class programs in bioengineering, computer science, engineering, business, nanotechnology, bioinformatics and pharmaceutical research.

In fact, Site Selection named the state of Texas "Top Business Climate" in 2006 saying Texas triumphs over other cities due to pro-business measures, ease of doing business, overall business costs, actual capital investment and the state's fiscal health. And Austin is the top place to do business in Texas. So in other words, it doesn't get any better than this!