

RESTAURANTS/BARS ON RAINEY ST (2-3 blocks from hotel)

Rainey Street is a historic but bustling area in Austin, known for its bungalow homes that have been converted into the coolest bars and restaurants. Grab some quick bites from the food trucks and sit down by a porch or picnic table to people- (and dog-!) watch in the day. By night, head to one of the bungalow bars or restaurants for great Texan food, delicious cocktails, and of course, amazing live music.

Iron Works

You have just entered a unique piece of Texas history Austinites are proud to call their own. Originally an ornamental Iron Workshop owned and operated by the Weigl family, this little tin building was converted into The Iron Works BBQ in 1978. Shortly after opening their doors, the State Historical Commission registered the property as a historical site, honoring the Weigls and their legacy.

ADDRESS: 100 Red River St (0.3 miles from Rainey Street Historic District)

PHONE: (512)478-4855

HOURS: 11am – 9pm Mon-Sat (Closed Sunday)

Banger's Sausage House and Beer Garden (BBQ and Live Music)

Banger's is all about being a wonderful place to eat, drink and hangout. Not too rowdy, not too laid back, just a good old fashioned good time. Homemade sausage, craft beer, pig roasts, beef jerky, pickled vegetables, spring days in Texas, Sunday brunch, and all forms of Americana & country music are a few of our favorite things.

ADDRESS: 79, 81 & 81.5 Rainey Street (0.1 miles from Rainey Street Historic District)

PHONE: (512)386-1656

HOURS: 11AM-11PM

Revue

Journey through distinct culinary worlds for a vibrant and colorful dining experience featuring shareable Italian and Asian favorites. Revue emphasizes utilizing locally sourced products and ingredients in all aspects of this communal restaurant that truly has something for everyone.

ADDRESS: 101 Red River St Fairmont, Austin, TX 78701

PHONE: (512)600-2000

HOURS: 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Placeholder Tiki Bar

Take a trip to our island oasis in downtown Austin, Texas. Located at the corner of Driskill and Rainey St., Placeholder is delighting guests with its unique pink bar, fiery tiki cocktails and tropical vibes. Come on in and open your mind. Placeholder gives 15% off for those in Hawaiian shirts, always!

ADDRESS: 96 Rainey Street

PHONE: (512) 953-8469

Craft Pride

Craft Pride is a unique Texas-only craft beer bar. We serve up the highest quality beer from regional breweries. Craft Pride is located in the heart of Austin's eclectic Rainey Street District. Our bungalow style craft bar has a front yard, inside bar and taps and an expansive backyard with great food and live music.

ADDRESS: 61 Rainey St

PHONE: (512) 428-5571

Augustine

Augustine, a Rainey Street Bar, is old school Rainey. A little classy, a whole lot of groovy. Come check out our fun cocktail menu and hang out on our awesome patio! A spacious front yard, plenty of room indoors and a great backyard vibe. Drink specials, events, and live music.

ADDRESS: 86 Rainey St

PHONE: (405) 535-4442

Bungalow

Is an easygoing venue with sports, music, regular specials & a big backyard with games & a taco truck. Nestled amongst the unique Rainey Street village, this hidden oasis is supplied with more than the essential bare necessities, complete with 21 beers on tap, a large outdoor patio, 2 stages (one indoor, one outdoor), three high-definition televisions inside and a 100-inch projection screen outside for all of your viewing needs, AND let's not forget, happy hour and daily specials! The Bungalow is great for every occasion from a private conversation with a close friend to a night out on the town, to large corporate events. Enjoy brews, spirits, and good vibes at Bungalow!

ADDRESS: 92 Rainey Street

PHONE: (512) 363-5475

Half Step

That stand-out blue Rainey Street bar that is Half Step. The classic artisan craft cocktail establishment is not afraid to experiment. Let your mixologist be your guide. Your cocktails are truly artisan when they sport 7 varieties of ice brewed up out back in both Clinebell & Scottsman ice machines. You sir, pour me a glass, and don't spare the diamonds.

ADDRESS: 75 Rainey Street

PHONE: (512) 391-1877

RESTAURANTS/BARS ON SOUTH CONGRESS (SoCo)

The South Congress that exists today, the heart of which runs south from Lady Bird Lake to Oltorf St., is a bustling playground for tourists and locals alike. The street is a whirlwind of scooting tourists posing in front of Instagram-famous murals, trendy hotels with tucked-away patios, upscale restaurants with lines snaking around the block, and boutique shops peddling overpriced vintage goods. Looking around, you can't help but wonder where the "weird" in "Keep Austin Weird" might be hiding.

Güero's Taco Bar

One of Austin's longtime staple Mexican food restaurants, Güero's is a must visit. They have tons of indoor seating as well as the Oak Garden patio bar and stage. This is a select spot to enjoy tasty Tex Mex meals and drinks in a cool, classic Austin environment. Get yourself to Güero's for mouthwatering margarita deals and free chips and salsa bar. Stopping in to sit at the bar for Happy Hour here is my guilty pleasure (I always order the Dirty Rita). If you aren't sold yet, don't just take my word for it. Quentin Tarantino took a liking to this taco joint and featured Güero's in his 2007 film Death Proof!! You'll also want to check out the Oak Garden Stage next door, where you'll find a relaxed, tree-shaded patio with a dedicated bar and free live music almost every night of the week.

ADDRESS: 1412 S Congress Ave

PHONE: (512) 447-7688

HOURS: 11:00 am – 10:00 pm

Magnolia Cafe

Austin's original 24-hour cafe, known for hearty anytime breakfast. Iconic Magnolia Cafe has been the go-to spot for heaping portions of Tex-Mex and diner fare for 30 years running.

ADDRESS: 1920 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704

PHONE: (512) 445-0000 HOURS: 7 AM - 10 PM

Vespaio

Italian fine-dining dinner spot known for making everything in-house. Long before farm-to-table, small plates, and our obsession with photographing food, Vespaio was the definition of fine dining in Austin with its made-from-scratch menu, hospitality-focused experience, and elegant atmosphere.

ADDRESS: 1610 S Congress Ave.

PHONE: (512) 441-6100

HOURS: 5:10-3:30pm

Perla's

Modern coastal cooking, and South Congress' best oak tree-shaded patio

If you're craving happy hour drinks, ceviche, and oysters, then Perla's is your place. A variety of fresh fish, oysters, and crustaceans are flown in daily from both coasts, and the expansive menu covers all the bases of preparation -- raw, fried, grilled, roasted, baked in mac & cheese, you name it.

ADDRESS: 1400 S Congress Ave
PHONE: (512) 291-7300 HOURS: 5:30-10pm

Home Slice & More Home Slice

Real New York-style pizza served by the enormous slice or enormous pie

Founded right here in 2005, Home Slice is one of Austin's best pizza shops, and it's a must-visit for anyone seeking legit NY slices or pies.

ADDRESS: 1415 S Congress Ave, Austin
PHONE: (512) 444-7437 HOURS: 11 AM-11 PM

Torchy's Tacos

Retro-styled flagship of the once-local taco chain

Torchy's began as a single trailer on South First and grew into a taco empire now in 18 cities. Torchy's offerings are the epitome of Austin's style, a mash-up of cultures: thick tortillas are filled with classic ingredients like eggs and bacon, as well as not-so-classic stuff like fried chicken, brisket, and chipotle ranch.

ADDRESS: 1822 S. CONGRESS AVE.
PHONE: (512) 916-9025
HOURS: 10AM - 10PM

WHERE TO CATCH LIVE MUSIC ON SOUTH CONGRESS

Guero's Oak Garden outdoor stage

ADDRESS: 1416 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704 (for music listings check their website)

C-Boy's Heart & Soul

Steve Wertheimer (who also owns the Continental Club below) opened C-Boy's Heart & Soul as a tribute to his mentor and close friend C-Boy Parks, who passed away in 1991. In the late 1970's, Parks managed the short-lived-but-treasured blues club the Rome Inn and was a beloved personality in Austin's music scene. C-Boy's Heart & Soul hosts classic soul and R&B acts in a red-hued atmosphere rich in the authenticity you'd expect from a place with this much history; check out the calendar here. Fun fact: A scene from Richard Linklater's cult classic Slacker was shot in front of C-Boys's (although at the time it was the Blue Bayou, and later became Trophy's Bar).

ADDRESS: 2008 S Congress Ave

The Continental Club

Legendary music venue showcasing local and national rock, country, jazz and blues

Open since 1955, the Continental Club's stage has seen the likes of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Joe Ely, Social Distortion, and The Replacements. The club was restored to its original '50s glory in 1987, and continues to host some of the best rock, Americana, rockabilly, blues acts -- including the very talented Peterson Brothers Band and iconic Dale Watson & his Lone Stars -- every Monday night.

ADDRESS: 1315 S Congress Ave

The Continental Club Gallery

Small, second-story venue with a living room concert vibe

Get up close and personal at this modern, intimate sister venue to the Continental Club. Climb the steep flight upstairs for an experience not typically found in Austin: one of direct reverence for the performing artists.

ADDRESS: 1313 S Congress Ave

WHERE TO SHOP ON SOUTH CONGRESS

Allens Boots

Iconic boot shop open since 1977, with over 10,000 boots on display

Upon entering Allens, you're immediately hit by the rich smell of leather. Among the rows upon rows of boot, you'll find popular brands like Lucchese, Justin, and Frye, in every color and style (and price) imaginable, plus western apparel and hats, all being browsed by an assortment of characters ranging from grizzled cowboys to wide-eyed tourists. Even if you're not in the market for a new Western wardrobe, you owe it to yourself to stop in and find out your actual boot size.

ADDRESS: 1522 S Congress Ave.

Feathers Vintage

One of the oldest shops still remaining on SoCo, Feathers provides the best in vintage clothing and locally sourced goods. Pop into this pretty-in-pink, blast to the past and find a piece you love.

ADDRESS: 1700 B South Congress Ave.

HOURS: 11AM-7PM

SoCo Vintage Pop Up

In true old South Congress walk-up vendor fashion, this semi-permanent pop-up gallery is an outdoor expo for local vintage clothing, jewelry, and art. Walk around the booths here to find something as unique as Austin.

STAG Provisions for Men

This locally founded shop has been clothing Austin men for nearly 15 years. They have an elegant yet laid back style that meshes perfectly with the city's culture. Stop by STAG to search their selection of clothing, accessories, and even authentic one-of-one antique home items.

ADDRESS: 1423 S Congress Ave.

HOURS: 11AM-7PM

Maufrais

Hat Accessories · Ostrich Leather Tie Hat Band - Black · Feather Hat Band - Blue Reeves · Orange Spiny Oyster Sterling Silver Hat Band · Swinbank Silk Band

ADDRESS: 1512 S Congress Ave.

HOURS: 11AM-7PM (8PM-SAT)

MUSEUMS

The O Henry House and Museum

The home of great American author, William Sydney Porter, aka O' Henry, is located near the heart of downtown and is a brief stop to acknowledge O' Henry's story and his life here in Austin back in the 1880s.

ADDRESS: 409 E 5th St., Austin, TX 78701

HOURS: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LBJ Presidential Library & Museum

The core of the museum collection consists of personal objects owned, used, bought, or worn by the president and first lady, all donated by President Johnson under the Presidential Libraries Act (1955). These objects include the clothing worn by the President and First Lady at the 1964 inauguration, pens, paper, and chairs used in the Oval Office, the desk used for the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and thousands of objects related to their daily lives, official duties, and political events.

ADDRESS: 2313 Red River St, Austin

PHONE:(512) 721-0200

HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Harry Ransom Center

The Harry Ransom Center is an archive, library and museum at the University of Texas at Austin, specializing in the collection of literary and cultural artifacts from the Americas and Europe for the purpose of advancing the study of the arts and humanities.

ADDRESS: 300 W 21st St, Austin, TX 78712

PHONE:(512) 471-8944

HOURS: 10AM-5PM

The Governor's Mansion

This premier historic home has served as the official residence of Texas governors and their families since 1856. It is the fourth oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the country and the oldest governor's mansion west of the Mississippi River.

ADDRESS:1010 Colorado St, Austin, TX 78701

PHONE: (512)305-8524

HOURS: 2-4PM

The French Legation State Historic Site

One of the oldest houses in Austin, the French Legation opened in 1841 as a home and diplomatic outpost for the French chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas, Alphonse Dubois, after France

recognized the Republic of Texas as a sovereign nation. The site tells the story of Texas' settlement and the growth of one of the capital city's most vibrant neighborhoods.

ADDRESS: 802 San Marcos St, Austin, TX 78702

PHONE: (737) 226-1399

HOURS: 7AM-5PM

SIGHTSEEING TRANSPORTATION

Double Decker Austin Single Loop Sightseeing Tour

Save time looking up bus schedules and opt for this hassle-free Austin sightseeing bus tour instead. Travel on a loop around the city that passes by top landmarks in Austin's downtown area. Along the way, listen to commentary from a guide, get great photos from the top deck, or sit in the climate-controlled lower deck. Highlights include 6th Street, The Museum of the Weird, The Driskill hotel, Texas State Capitol, and the Texas Governor's Mansion.

(Duration:75–90 minutes) from \$36.81 per adult

Itinerary (tour)

You'll start at Austin Visitor Center
602 E 4th St, Austin, TX 78701, USA

The bus stop is on Red River Street between 4th Street and 5th Street.

Pass by
6th Street

Austin Convention Center
Austin Fire Museum

Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hannig Museum

O. Henry Home & Museum

Museum of The Weird

The Driskill

Texas State Capitol

Texas Governor's Mansion

Capitol Complex Visitors Center

LBJ Presidential Library

Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium

University of Texas Tower

Bullock Texas State History Museum

The Blanton Museum of Art

Harry Ransom Center

Congress Avenue Bridge Bat Watching

SoCo District

Long Center

You'll return to the starting point.

NURSERIES

The Great Outdoors Nursery on South Congress

Conveniently located in South Austin, we are by definition an urban garden center. However, with 2 acres of majestic Oak trees, a serene waterfall, a gigantic wind chime, and a tropical greenhouse The Great Outdoors is a bucolic destination.

ADDRESS: 2730 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704

PHONE:(512) 448-2992

HOURS:9AM – 6PM

East Austin Succulents/Cacti (Austin's Weirdest Nursery)

Welcome to East Austin Succulents, the premier destination for all things succulents! As the best succulent nursery in Austin, TX, we offer a huge variety of succulents, cacti, and collector cacti. Whether you're planning a wedding or want to spruce up your home with custom succulent arrangements, we've got you covered. Our commitment to your plant journey is unmatched, with plant advice services whenever needed. Explore our retail oasis, where you'll discover new plants, unique pots, and art with each visit. Can't make it in person? No worries — our web shop ships stunning succulents all over the US. Plus, we do Instagram auctions, sell on eBay, host fun events and classes, and provide wholesale pricing. Your plant paradise awaits!

ADDRESS:801 Tillery St.

PHONE:(737) 295-3214

HOURS:10 AM–5 PM

The Natural Gardener Nursery

We have an extensive plant nursery that includes seasonal veggies and herbs, annual color, perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, xeric offerings, and more! Don't forget to visit our Tropical House to see exotic houseplants and rare succulents and cacti. We are also renowned for our commitment to Texas native plants and recognize their positive ecological impact as food sources and habitat restoration for native wildlife/fauna. Come browse our broad selection of natives and well-adapted varieties that will weather the Texas landscape.

ADDRESS: 8648 Old Bee Caves RD.

PHONE: (512) 288-6113

HOURS:9 AM–5 PM

OTHER

Lunch: Mum Foods Smokehouse & Delicatessen

Voted USA Today Best Restaurant of the Year 2024

Our commitment to quality ingredients starts with selecting the type of meat we serve. We buy only humanely raised, certified Akaushi beef with superior marbling and flavor that customers can taste. Our commitment doesn't stop there. All of our produce is sourced from Texas farmers and small producers in the Austin area. We make everything ourselves, from the mustard to the bacon. Our scratch kitchen is dedicated to using, preserving and fermenting the highest quality ingredients for our customers.

ADDRESS: 8511 Manor Rd

PHONE: (512)270-8021

HOURS: Wednesday - Sunday 11am - Sold out (around 3pm)