







Austin Itineraries (May 23–26, 2026)

Table of Contents

	Art & Music.....	2
	Water & Sports.....	4
	Family-Friendly Activities in the Austin Area.....	7
	Hook'em Horns - A Day on the UT Campus.....	10
	Family-Friendly Activities Outside Austin.....	12
	General Tips	13

Art & Music

Day 1 – May 23 (Saturday)

- **Breakfast option: Jo's Coffee** – Coffee, pastries and breakfast tacos at Jo's Coffee. <https://www.joscoffee.com/south-congress-jos> The iconic “I love you so much” mural is here. Live music on weekends.
- **Activity Option:** Explore South Congress Avenue –Shop and explore. Must visit- Allen's Boots. <https://www.allensboots.com>
- **Activity Option:** Explore South Congress Avenue for free street music and murals.
- <https://www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/blog/post/austin-mural-tour/>
- **Activity Option: Guero's Taco Bar (Oak Garden Stage)** on South Congress- live music, shade, margaritas (family friendly!) <https://gueros.com>
- **Upscale Dinner Option:** Lamberts Downtown Barbecue – upscale BBQ with live music in the lounge. <https://lambertsaustin.com>
- **Casual Dinner Option: Stubb's BBQ-** enjoy BBQ at the iconic music venue. Check the schedule for shows.
- **Evening Show Option:** Catch Sports at Mohawk Austin (doors 7 PM). * <https://mohawkaustin.com>
- **Evening Show or Late-Night Option:** Drinks at The Continental Club, an iconic Austin music spot since 1955. <https://continentalclub.com>

Day 2 – May 24 (Sunday)

- **Brunch Option:** Stubb's Gospel Brunch – buffet with live gospel music. <https://stubbsaustin.com/gospel-brunch/>
- **Brunch Option:** Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden – live music and craft beer. <https://www.bangersaustin.com>
- **Lunch option:** Austin Beer Garden Brewing Co (ABGB) – craft beer, pizza, and local bands. <https://theabgb.com>
- **Activity Option:** Walk along Lady Bird Lake or visit Barton Springs. <https://www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/blog/post/austins-hike-bike-trail> / <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/barton-springs-pool>
- **Activity Option:** Blanton Museum of Art. <https://blantonmuseum.org>

Dinner: NISOD Excellence Awards Dinner

Or, if you're not joining us for our Awards Dinner...

- **Upscale Dinner option:** Roaring Fork <https://www.roaringfork.com/>
- **Casual Dinner option:** Hopdoddy Burger Bar on South Congress. <https://www.hopdoddy.com>
- **Casual Dinner option:** Stubb's BBQ- enjoy BBQ at the iconic music venue. Check the schedule for shows. <https://stubbsaustin.com>
- **Evening Show Option: Demi Lovato** – It's Not That Deep Tour at Moody Center (7 PM). <https://moodycenteratx.com/event/demi-lovato/>
- **Evening Option:** The White Horse – honky-tonk – often has free or low-cost shows. <https://www.thewhitehorseaustin.com>

Day 3 – May 25 (Monday)

- **Breakfast Option:** Veracruz All Natural for breakfast tacos (downstairs at the Line Hotel) <https://www.veracruzallnatural.com>
- **Lunch option:** Fareground Austin (Downtown Food Hall) Multiple local vendors under one roof. 11am-9pm. <https://www.faregroundaustin.com>
- **Activity option: ACL Live Tour- at Moody Theater-** get a behind the scenes look at ACL Live. Tours are approximately 90 minutes. <https://www.acllive.com/tours>
- **Activity Option:** Texas State Capitol Tour- <https://tspb.texas.gov/plan/tours/tours.html>
- **Dinner option:** La Condesa- Modern Mexican. <https://lacondesa.com>
- **Dinner option:** Bill's Oyster <https://www.billsoyster.com>
- **Evening Show Option:** Antone's – historic blues venue. * <https://antonesnightclub.com>
- **Evening Show Option:** Echo & The Bunnymen at ACL Live at The Moody Theater (8 PM). <https://www.acllive.com/event/2026-05-25-echo-the-bunnymen-at-8-pm>
- **Late night option:** C-Boy's Heart & Soul- Drinks and live music on South Congress. * <https://www.cboys.com>
- **Late night option:** Sagebrush- lively honky-tonk. Old-school dancehall feel. Has outdoor space with picnic tables, vendor markets and a few food trailers. <https://sagebrushaustin.com>

Water & Sports

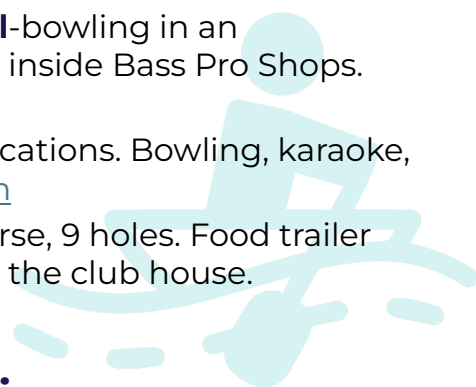
Day 1 – May 23 (Saturday)

- **Breakfast Option:** Veracruz All Natural for breakfast tacos (downstairs at the Line Hotel) <https://www.veracruzallnatural.com>
- **Activity Option:** Typhoon Texas Water Park- in Pflugerville- slides, lazy river, wave pool (day passes available) <https://typhoontexas.com>
- **Lunch option:** Hat Creek Burger- near the park- <https://hatcreekburgers.com/restaurants/round-rock>
- **Activity Option:** UT baseball game at UFCU Disch-Falk Field (check schedule- likely will be an SEC playoff game). If baseball is not scheduled, consider a campus tour. <https://texaslonghorns.com/sports/baseball>
<https://admissions.utexas.edu/explore/visit-campus/>
- **Activity option: Bouldin Acres-** Pickleball and several TVs for viewing games. <https://bouldinacres.com/south-lamar/>
- **Dinner option-** Uptown Sports Club- New Orleans vibes at Aaron Franklin (Franklins BBQ) eastside spot. <https://www.uptownsports.club>
- **Dinner option: Vaquero Taquero** – famous al pastor tacos near DKR stadium. <https://www.vaquerotaquero.com>
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching/>
- **Evening activity option:** Book a bat watching boat cruise with Capital Cruises <https://capitalcruises.com/bat-watching/>

Day 2 – May 24 (Sunday)

- **Activity option: Kalahari Resort in Round Rock:** a massive African-themed destination featuring one of America's largest indoor waterparks, complete with thrilling slides, wave pools, and family-friendly attractions. Day passes are available. <https://www.kalahariresorts.com>
- **Activity option:** Speed City/COTA Karting- go-karts and mini-golf at the iconic Circuit of the Americas. <https://circuitoftheamericas.com/speedcity/>
- **Lunch option: P.Terry's Burger Stand-** several locations - <https://pterrys.com/>
- **Lunch option: Hopdoddy Burger Bar** – Several locations. Creative, chef-inspired burgers, house-cut fries, and craft cocktails. <https://www.hopdoddy.com>
- **Lunch option: True Food Kitchen-** vibrant, health-focused restaurant. <https://www.truefoodkitchen.com/locations/austin/>
- **Lunch option:** Terry Black's BBQ- iconic Austin BBQ spot. <https://terryblacksbbq.com>

- **Activity option: Uncle Buck's Fish Bowl & Grill**-bowling in an underwater-themed setting with casual dining inside Bass Pro Shops. <https://www.unclebucksfishbowlandgrill.com/>
- **Activity Option: Punch Bowl Social**- Several locations. Bowling, karaoke, arcades and more. <https://punchbowlsocial.com>
- **Activity Option: Butler Pitch & Putt**- 3 par course, 9 holes. Food trailer Gimme Burger and drinks can be purchased in the club house. <https://butlerpitchandputt.com>



Dinner: NISOD Excellence Awards Dinner

Or, if you're not joining us for the NISOD Awards Dinner...

- **Dinner option: Hopfields** – French-inspired gastropub near UT campus with craft beer and hearty plates. <https://hopfieldsaustin.com>
- **Casual Dinner option: Hula Hut**- Tex-Mex with a Hawaiian twist; great views of Lake Austin. <https://www.hulahut.com/locations/austin/>
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching/>

Day 3 – May 25 (Monday) *

- **Breakfast option: Jo's Coffee** – Downtown location. <https://www.joscoffee.com/downtown-jos>
- **Breakfast option:** Caroline- All-day eatery. Hearty breakfast. <https://www.carolinerestaurant.com>
- **Activity option:** Kayaking & paddleboarding on Lady Bird Lake. Rental options
 - **Texas Rowing Center:** <https://www.texasrowingcenter.com>
 - **Austin Rowing Club:** <https://austinrowing.org>
 - **Rowing Dock:** <https://www.rowingdock.com/>
- **Activity Option: Spectate the** CapTex Triathlon at Auditorium Shores. <https://by.supertri.com/austin-triathlon/>
- **Lunch option: Lou's** – near Barton Springs. Burgers, chicken, and cocktails. <https://www.lousaustin.com/barton>
- **Lunch: Taco Deli**- Local favorite for breakfast and lunch tacos with award-winning salsa. <https://www.tacodeli.com/>
- **Activity Option: Butler Pitch & Putt**- 3 par course, 9 holes. Food trailer Gimme Burger and drinks can be purchased in the club house. <https://butlerpitchandputt.com>

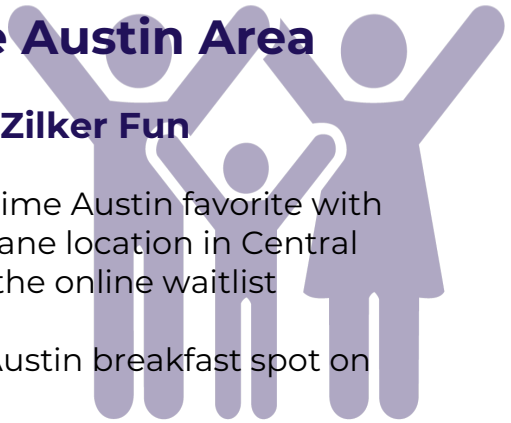
- **Activity Option: Topgolf Austin-** a high-energy sports entertainment venue where guests play interactive golf games in climate-controlled bays while enjoying a full-service restaurant, bar, and lively social atmosphere. <https://topgolf.com/us/austin/>
- **Activity Option:** Swimming at Barton Springs. <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/barton-springs-pool>
- **Dinner: Pool Burger-** Next to Deep Eddy Pool and the iconic dive bar Deep Eddy Cabaret. <https://www.poolburger.com> and <https://deepeddycabaret.com>
- **Dinner option: Honey Moon Spirit Lounge** – chic spot for elevated comfort food and cocktails near campus. <https://honeymoonspiritlounge.com>
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching>

****CapTex Triathlon will be taking place Monday morning, road closures may be in effect***

Family-Friendly Activities in the Austin Area

Day 1 – May 23 (Saturday) Classic Austin & Zilker Fun

- **Breakfast option: Kerby Lane Café**- Long time Austin favorite with multiple locations. Visit the original Kerby Lane location in Central Austin. Waits can be long, consider joining the online waitlist <https://kerbeylanecafe.com>
- **Breakfast option: Magnolia Café**- Classic Austin breakfast spot on South Congress- open late night as well. <https://www.magnoliacafeaustin.com>
- **Activity option: Zilker Park Playground**- Burn off energy here at the large, shady playground. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/zilker-metropolitan-park#ParkFeatures>
- **Activity option: Take a ride on the Zilker Eagle Mini Train**- take a 10–15-minute train ride through Zilker Park. Not to be missed with little ones! <https://www.zilkertrain.org>
- **Lunch option: Chuy's Tex Mex**- Original Barton Springs location- Classic Austin Tex-Mex. <https://www.chuys.com/home>
- **Lunch option: Phil's Icehouse + Amy's Ice Cream**- Large burger menu paired with Amy's Ice Cream shop inside. Bonus: Each location has a playground! <https://www.philsicehouse.com>
- **Activity Option: Austin Nature and Science Center** - hands-on nature exhibits, education programs, and recreation activities for adults, families, and children of all ages. <https://www.austintexas.gov/ansc>
- **Activity Option: Deep Eddy Pool**- great for swimming with small children. <https://www.deepeddy.org>
- **Dinner option: Matt's El Rancho**- Austin institution for Tex-Mex. On most weekends, balloon animals are made for kids in the waiting area. Menu item not to be missed- Bob Armstrong Dip- queso at its finest! <https://mattselrancho.com>
- **Dinner option: Pool Burger.** <https://www.poolburger.com>
- **Activity + Dinner option: Alamo Drafthouse:** Several locations. Dine while you watch one of the latest releases. <https://drafhouse.com>
- **Post dinner treat option:** Amy's Ice Cream- several locations. <https://amysicecreams.com>
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching/>
- **Evening activity option:** Broken Spoke from 7:30pm-9pm offers two-stepping lessons for \$10. Family friendly until 9pm. <https://www.brokenspokeaustintx.net>



Day 2 – May 24 (Sunday) Museum & Downtown Fun

- **Breakfast option: Whole Foods Market Flagship Store**- Many different options for breakfast including smoothies and bakery. There is a playground and picnic area on the rooftop.
<https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com>
- **Breakfast option: Veracruz All Natural** – breakfast tacos at the Line Hotel. <https://www.veracruzallnatural.com>
- **Activity Option: Thinkery**- Stay cool inside Austin's premiere children's museum. <https://thinkeryaustin.org>
- **Activity Option: Laguna Gloria**- outdoor sculptures and plenty of space for kids to explore. There are peacocks on the property too!
<https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/visit/>
- **Activity option:** Blanton Museum of Art - <https://blantonmuseum.org>
- **Activity Option: Bullock Museum** - 3 floors of dynamic exhibitions. Check out the IMAX Theatre for current Texas themed films.
<https://www.thestoryoftexas.com>
- **Lunch option: Littlefield's Tacos + Coffee**- Has outdoor picnic tables.
<https://www.littlefieldsatx.com>
- **Lunch option: Aviator Pizza & Drafthouse**- near the Thinkery.
<https://aviatorpizza.com>

Dinner: NISOD Awards Dinner

Or, if you're not joining us for the NISOD Awards Dinner...

- **Dinner option: Austin Beer Garden Brewing (ABGB)**- Off South Lamar. Live music and from 4-7pm free two-stepping lessons. Kid friendly! <https://theabgb.com>
- **Dinner option: Central Market**- North Lamar location. Pick up dinner inside the market and dine on the shady patio next to the playground. Often there is live music outdoors on the weekends.
<https://www.centralmarket.com/locations/austin-north-lamar>
- **Dinner option:** Torchy's Tacos – Creative tacos under \$6 each.
<https://torchystacos.com>
- **Post dinner treat:** Inside Central Market there is a gelato counter
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching/>

Day 3 – May 25 (Monday) SoCo (South Congress) and Lady Bird Lake Fun


- **Breakfast: Daymaker Café-** serves diner classics. <https://daymakeratx.com>
- **Breakfast option: Toasty Badger-** diner classics on South Congress. <https://www.loboshospitality.com/venues/toastybadgeratx>
- **Activity option:** rent paddleboards or paddle boats on Lady Bird Lake
 - **Texas Rowing Center:** <https://www.texasrowingcenter.com>
 - **Austin Rowing Club:** <https://austinrowing.org>
 - **Rowing Dock:** <https://www.rowingdock.com/>
- **Activity Option: Peter Pan Mini Golf-** Classic Austin mini golf within the true spirit of “Keep Austin Weird”! <https://peterpanminigolf.com>
- **Activity option: Butler Park-** interactive play area. **Observation Hill** provides panoramic city and Lady Bird Lake views. <https://austin.com/winner/butler-metro-park/>
- **Activity option:** Explore SoCo shopping and keep the kids happy with these stops...
 - **Big Top Candy-** Old-fashioned candy store. <https://www.bigtopcandyshop.com>
 - **Allen’s Boots-** Iconic boot store with kid sizes and fun for photo ops and souvenirs. <https://www.allensboots.com>
 - **Monkey See Monkey Do-** Quirky gift shop. <https://shopmsmd.com>
 - **I Love You So Much** Mural at Jo’s Coffee. <https://www.ilovesouthcongress.com/i-love-you-so-much-mural/>
 - **Amy’s Ice Cream** <https://amysicecreams.com>
 - **Jeni’s Splendid Ice Cream-** <https://jenis.com>
- **Activity Option: Cidercade:** Over 150 arcade games with unlimited play for \$10. Family-friendly until 8pm, then 21+. <https://cidercade.com/austin/>
- **Lunch option:** Sandy’s Old-Fashioned Hamburgers – Burgers under \$10 <https://sandysaustin.com/menu/>
- **Lunch option: Homeslice Pizza-** South Congress. Has outdoor ping pong table. <https://homeslicepizza.com>
- **Dinner option: Fresa’s** – modern take on classic Mexican chicken al carbon. Kids menu available. Large outdoor patio dining and play area. <https://www.fresaschicken.com>
- **Dinner option: Hula Hut-** Tex-Mex with a Hawaiian twist. Great views of Lake Austin. With adult supervision, kids can explore the marina and watch the fish. <https://www.hulahut.com/locations/austin/>
- **Evening activity option:** Bat Watching from the South Congress Bridge at dusk. <https://www.austintexas.org/things-to-do/outdoors/bat-watching/>
- **Post dinner treat option:** Mozart’s Coffee- on Lake Austin near Hula Hut. Cookies and pastries. <https://mozartcoffee.com>

Hook'em Horns - A Day on the UT Campus

- **Breakfast option: Kerby Lane on Guadalupe**- Classic Austin breakfast spot- this location puts you right near campus to start the day. <https://kerbeylanecafe.com/locations/university>
- **Activity option- Blanton Museum of Art:** Features diverse art collections, including Latin American and modern works, with a popular outdoor space. <https://blantonmuseum.org/>
- **Activity option: Harry Ransom Center:** A humanities research center with significant holdings like the Gutenberg Bible, early photography, and literary manuscripts. <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/>
- **Activity Option: LBJ Presidential Library & Museum:** Explores the life and presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. <https://www.lbjlibrary.org/>
- **Activity Option: Texas Science & Natural History Museum:** Showcases Texas's natural history with fossils (like the Mosasaur) and wildlife dioramas. <https://sciencemuseum.utexas.edu/>
- **Activity option: Dolph Briscoe Center for American History:** Home to unique archives and artifacts related to Texas and American history. <https://briscoecenter.org/>
- **Activity Option: Bullock Museum:** A larger, state-run museum focusing on Texas history, featuring an IMAX theater. <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>
- **Lunch option: Dirty Martin's Place-** Historic campus burger joint since 1926. <https://www.dirtymartins.com/>
- **Lunch option: El Patio-** Classic Austin Tex-Mex. <https://www.elpatioaustin.com/>
- **Evening activity option:** Donn's Depot- gritty, historic Austin bar in a converted railroad depot known for strong drinks and classic live country and swing music. <https://donnsdepot.com/>

Other Attractions & Landmarks

- **The UT Tower:** Offers panoramic views of the campus and city from the observation deck. <https://tower.utexas.edu/>
- **Landmarks Program:** Public art installations scattered across the campus, like Austin by Ellsworth Kelly. <https://landmarks.utexas.edu/> and <https://blantonmuseum.org/permanent-collection/austin/>

- 
- **Visual Arts Center (VAC):** Hosts contemporary art exhibitions from students and emerging artists. <https://utvac.org/>
 - **The Drag (Guadalupe Street):** The bustling street bordering campus, filled with shops and eateries. Don't miss the University Co-op for all things UT. <https://www.universitycoop.com/>
 - **The Littlefield Home & Campus:** Historic university building. Not open for tours, but the exterior is stunning. Rumor has it that it's haunted! <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/campus/buildings/information/nlogon/maps/UTM/LFH/>
 - **Dinner option: Hyde Park Bar & Grill-** American Bistro in charming Hyde Park neighborhood close to campus. <https://hpbng.com/>
 - **Dinner option: Allday Pizza-** Some of the best pizza in Austin. Sandwiches and salads are available too. <https://allday.pizza/>
 - **Dinner option: Bureau de Poste-** an old post office was converted into this casual French bistro. https://bureaudeposteatx.com/?utm_source=google
 - **Sweet treat option: Zed's Real Fruit Ice Cream-** New Zealand-style ice cream with 3 Austin-area locations. <https://www.zedsicecream.com/>
 - **Sweet treat option: OMG Squee-** Soft-serve ice cream with a changing rotation of unusual flavors and toppings- always gluten-free. Don't miss the mochi donuts! <https://www.squeeclub.com/about>

Family-Friendly Activities Outside Austin

Water Parks and Play

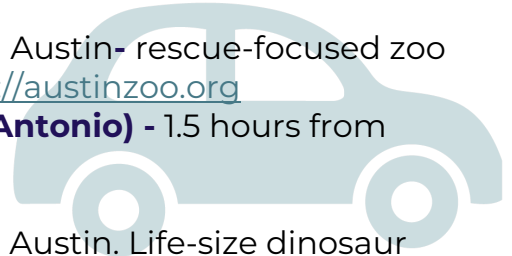
- **Kalahari Resort** - 30 minutes from downtown Austin- in Round Rock, TX- Indoor and outdoor waterparks. Day passes are available. Dining options onsite. <https://www.kalahariresorts.com>
- **Rock'N River Water Park**- in Round Rock, TX- 30 minutes from downtown Austin. Slides and play areas. Great price points for entry. <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/city-departments/parks-and-recreation/facilities/pools/rock-n-river-water-park/>
- **Typhoon Texas Waterpark** - 35 minutes from downtown Austin in Pflugerville, TX. Slides, a lazy river, and a wave pool. Onsite dining options available. <https://typhoontexas.com>
- **Volente Beach**- 45 minutes from downtown Austin- Lake Travis beachside waterpark. Slides, rope course, lake/beach. <https://www.volentebeach.com>
- **Schlitterbahn**- 60 minutes from downtown Austin in New Braunfels, TX- 1 hour from Austin. Huge waterpark. Trams are available to travel between 2 sides of the park. <https://www.sixflags.com/schlitterbahnnewbraunfels>

Nature & Outdoor Adventures

- **McKinney Falls State Park** - 20 minutes from downtown Austin. Hiking trails, geocaches, and waterfalls. Can swim in Onion Creek. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mckinney-falls>
- **Mount Bonnell**: 15 minutes from downtown Austin. Panoramic views from one of Austin's highest attractions. <https://www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/blog/post/mount-bonnell-for-beginners/>
- **Hamilton Pool Preserve**- Dripping Springs, TX- 50 minutes from downtown Austin. Stunning natural pools. Reservations required for swimming. <https://parks.traviscountytexas.gov/parks/hamilton-pool-preserve>
- **Pedernales Falls State Park**- 60 minutes from downtown Austin- scenic river views, hiking and swimming spots. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/pedernales-falls>
- **Krause Springs**- Spicewood, TX- 50 minutes from Austin. Shady natural swimming hole/spring fed pool. <https://www.krausesprings.net>
- **Speed City/COTA Karting**- about 30 minutes from downtown- go-karts and mini-golf at the iconic Circuit of the Americas. <https://circuitoftheamericas.com/speedcity/>

Animal Encounters/Interactive Fun

- **Austin Zoo**- 15-20 minutes from downtown Austin- rescue-focused zoo with lions, tigers, monkeys and more. <https://austinzoo.org>
- **Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch (Near San Antonio)** - 1.5 hours from Austin- Drive-thru safari experience. <https://www.wildliferanchtexas.com>
- **Dinosaur Park** - Bastrop - 40 minutes from Austin. Life-size dinosaur replicas and nature trails. <https://www.thedinopark.com>
- **Inner Space Cavern** - Georgetown - 30 minutes from Austin. Guided cave tours with prehistoric fossils, zip rides and more. <https://innerspacecavern.com>



General Tips

- Tickets: Book early for ACL Live and Moody Center shows.
- Transport: Use rideshare or walk between downtown venues.
- Weather: May averages 66°–86°F, perfect for outdoor patios.
- When possible, make reservations.
- Group up with other attendees in the Whova app to explore together!

