



WHAT'S NEW IN AUSTIN?

Whether it's a friendly vibe, a creative culture, or an active community, there's something special about Austin, the Live Music Capital of the World®. As the city's popularity as a travel destination grows, so does the demand for entertainment, [new attractions and distinct accommodations](#). Please access our online [Press Resources](#) for more information on specific industries and interests. For information about upcoming hotels projects and meetings and conventions, please reference the [Hotel Updates](#) page and the [Austin Convention Calendar](#) page. Here's what's new or upcoming in the city:

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Austin continues to gain favorability as one of the nation's top travel destinations. But don't take our word for it – check out what leading publications and research firms are saying:

- Austin named #4, “2016 LGBT Travelers Rising Stars Destinations” by gogobot awards. (April 2016)
- Austin ranks in the top 20 large cities with the most vibrant art community in America, according to [SMU's National Center for Arts Research](#). (March 2016)
- The Austin Convention Center was named one of the Best Convention Centers by Smart Meetings (2016)
- Austin's Zilker Park named third “Best City Park” in the USA by USA Today. (April 2016)
- #1 Best Cities for young families by ValuePenguin (February 2016)
- [Travel + Leisure](#)'s named Austin No. 12 out of 20 for the best on the continent as part of the magazine's annual World's Best survey (February 2016)
- #5 on the top 25 Future Ready U.S. Cities, ranked on human capital, infrastructure, and commerce by Professional Convention Management Association (February 2016)
- Austin is ranked #1 as America's Next Boomtown by *Forbes* (January 2016)
- Austin-Bergstrom International Airport was named the #16 Most Affordable U.S. Airport by Cheapflights.com (July 2015)
- *Conde Nast Traveler* named Austin's SoCo one of America's 50 places to visit (July 2015)

To check a list of recollected mentions of Austin as a top travel destination please visit our [Rankings](#) page.

FLIGHTS

In summer 2016, [Condor Airlines](#) will be flying between Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) and Frankfurt International Airport (FRA). The seasonal flights are scheduled to operate on Mondays and Thursdays from June 27,

2016 through September 1, 2016. Austin is the third addition to Condor's network in the United States within one year after launching nonstop service between Providence (PVD) and Portland (PDX) to Frankfurt, Germany this summer.

ATTRACTIONS

[NLand Surf Park](#)

NLand Surf Park is the only inland surfing destination in North America for surfers and wave sport enthusiasts from novices to world-class competitors. The lagoon features 11 surfing areas with four levels. The waves create one, four and perfectly tubing six foot waves every 60 seconds with a lengthy surfing experience of 35 seconds per wave. Created in conjunction with the Spanish engineering firm [Wavegarden](#), widely regarded as a leader in wave technology, both companies are dedicated to environmental stewardship in lockstep with ocean surfing. Even in the most challenging drought conditions, the lagoon is self-sustaining with rainwater.

[Austin Distilleries & Breweries](#)

Whether you like your martinis with vodka or gin, or prefer a gourmet Bloody Mary Mix, Austin has you covered. The distillery scene is bursting in Central Texas with [Genius Gin](#), [White Hat Premium Texas Rum](#), [Tequila 512](#), and [Revolution Bloody Mary](#). Each distillery has their own unique story that explains why they were born in Austin, TX.

[Thirsty Planet](#)

Coming by end of 2016, Thirsty Planet Brewing Company will open up a 60,000 square foot brewery complete with events, tours and a bar atmosphere. This new facility will allow the company to triple their output from their current 10,000 barrels per year.

DINING/ENTERTAINMENT

Austin is host to a wide range of premier dining in the United States:

- James Beard Award finalists for 2016 include:
 - [Lauderette](#) nominated for Best New Restaurant
 - Bryce Gilmore of [Odd Duck](#) and [Barley Swine](#) for Best Chef Southwest
 - Grae Nonas of [Olamaie's](#) for Rising Star of the Year
- Aaron Franklin was awarded a James Beard Award in the category of Best Chef: Southwest in May 2015.
- James Beard Award semifinalists for 2015 include: Aaron Franklin of [Franklin Barbecue](#), David Bull of [Congress](#), and Bryce Gilmore of [Barley Swine](#) for Best Chef Southwest.
- [Lauderette](#), [Juniper](#), [Vox Table](#) and [Emmer & Rye](#) are listed on *Texas Monthly's* ten best new restaurants. (2016)
- [Franklin Barbecue](#) tops the charts at #8 on *Yelp's* "Top 100 Places to Eat in US for 2016". [Uchi](#) and [Uchiko](#) place #59 and 97.
- Kevin Fink of [Emmer & Rye](#) named one of the Best New Chefs of 2016 by Food & Wine magazine. (April 2016)
- According to Time Out magazine, two of Austin's favorite eateries have been named the best in the country.
 - [Ramen Tatsuya](#) – No. 1 Ramen spot (March 2016)
 - [Uchi](#) – No. 1 Sushi restaurant in the country (October 2015)

[Parlor & Yard](#)

Fourth bar from Bridget Dunlap, Parlor & Yard brings yet another unique and wonderfully designed addition to West Sixth Street. A great hang out spot and place to revisit your childhood's favorite games, Rock'em Sock'em Robots and Battleship, this bar won't disappoint. Dog-friendly patio, brunch, classic cocktails, beers on tap and occasional yoga in the yard, this location will provide a relaxing atmosphere for most. The bar is a collaboration between Dunlap and Lion's Share Hospitality.

MUSIC

[Top of the Charts](#)

Three Austin music venues make “The 100 Greatest American Music Venues” list: Stubbs (6th), The Mohawk (24th) and Moody Theater (42nd). (2016)

[3TEN - Austin City Limits Live](#)

The TV show “Austin City Limits” has been one of the highlights of the Austin music scene since 1976. With great success, five years ago the production was moved into “The Moody Theater” at the W Hotel in Downtown Austin. A new smaller venue has been announced creating large buzz around [Austin’s Block 21](#). The space will be called 3TEN ACL Live and will host over 200 concerts per year.

[Antone’s](#)

Since first opening on Sixth Street in 1975, his club has hosted the likes of B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughn. Now the legendary club has moved to the corner of Fifth and Lavaca streets, but it remains the home of the blues in Austin offering space for 650 or less.

[Grizzly Hall](#)

New to the east side this music and events venue is introduced by a team well known in Austin. Jason Sabala of Grizzly Discovery, Kevin Crutchfield, Kurt Fasse and Dave Curren come together to run this new 7,000 square foot venue. Taxidermy and timber line the walls, perfect if you’re looking for a log cabin feel. Complete with a state of the art sound system, full bar, pool tables and TVs, Grizzly Hall will bring a fresh new atmosphere to this building situated on East Riverside.

UNIQUE DINING EXPERIENCES

- [Austin Alfresco](#)
 - Happening annually at Carson Creek Ranch, this culinary overnight escape is limited to 300 attendees, connecting the outdoor beauty of central Texas with the comforts and convenience of home. This glamping experience will feature more than 28 local Austin chefs, workshops and talents.
- [Fareground](#)
 - Austin’s first food hall will be located downtown in Austin in the One Congress Plaza Lobby. The Fareground will be open for lunch, dinner, happy hour and weekends, and will include a variety of local food and beverage vendors, and is projected to open in 2017.

DEVELOPMENTS

[Waller Creek Development](#)

Running from Waterloo Park at 15th Street to Lady Bird Lake, Waller Creek has the potential to become Austin’s vital green artery. This \$500 million dollar project envisions a community emulating that of San Antonio’s Riverwalk, complete with retail shops, restaurants and residences. The mixed-use development would change Austin’s skyline by adding three new towers, including a high-rise with condominiums and hotel rooms that could become Austin’s tallest building. Further information on the proposed hotel projects, such as Fairmont Austin and Hotel Van Zandt, can be found on the [hotel updates](#) page along with the other emerging hotel projects in the downtown area. The Sutton Co., the real estate investment and development company leading the charge, hopes to build this project on three acres near East Cesar Chavez and Red River Streets, along the banks of Waller Creek.

[Seaholm Power Plant Development](#)

Seaholm is a future urban oasis on the Southwestern edge of downtown Austin. Built in the 1950s, the long-dormant power plant offers a unique opportunity to preserve a key piece of Austin's past and unite it with the region's vibrant

future. Thanks to a unique partnership with the City of Austin, Seaholm will combine cultural and community needs in an exceptional setting for residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come. This \$130 million re-development includes a mix of 143,151 sq ft of office space, 280 high-rise condos, 48,363 sq ft of retail shops and restaurants, and meeting space; all surrounding a dramatic and accessible plaza. The new site, located on Cesar Chavez Street just east of Lamar Boulevard opened June 2015. The site will include the preserved power plant building and two new buildings to serve as apartment, office and retail spaces. In 2012, Trader Joe's specialty grocery store signed on to be the site's first retail location.

[The Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin](#)

The new project will improve health in Travis County and throughout the country by training new physicians, providing treatment in a new teaching hospital and conducting research to expand knowledge of medicine and medical technology. The medical school was created in unprecedented partnership with local taxpayers, who in 2012 voted to support a vision for better health in Austin and Travis County. The school, which is at the heart of a burgeoning medical district in downtown Austin, will welcome its first class of 50 students in the June of 2016. As part of the campus of one of the nation's leading research universities, it will pursue excellence in transdisciplinary and interprofessional education. As part of a visionary partnership with Seton Healthcare Family, a regional health care system, and Central Health, a public health care district, a new teaching hospital will be constructed adjacent to the new Dell Medical School.

[St. Elmo's Market](#)

To be located on South Congress Avenue, the St. Elmo project will house a 40,000 square foot public market similar in setup to the D.C. Union Market, Denver's The Source and Atlanta's Krog Street. Food and drink vendors will be locally oriented, and the space will house 25 to 30 businesses, including retail. Other development space will include office space, indoor and outdoor communal seating with rooftop spots, brewery, beer garden and more. This 11.5 acre space has a projected opening date of 2018.

[The Yard](#)

From creative offices and breweries to maker and artist studios, The Yard will be a community built on confluence. The design is aimed to inspire connection, collaboration and enrichment in South Austin and is being developed by founding members of Penn Field, 04, Canopy and Vuka. The Yard's collaborative mix of workspaces will span 135,000 square feet on 8.2 acres off South Congress, and will be located directly adjacent to the new St. Elmo's Market development on St. Elmo Road.