

# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Each month in Central Texas, there is an array of exciting festivals and cultural events to satisfy a wide range of interests, age ranges and lifestyles. Want a music festival? How about South by Southwest or the Austin City Limits Festival? Want a more unusual Austin-style event? Try Eeyore's birthday. There are great film festivals in Central Texas too. Try the Austin Film Festival, the SXSW Film Festival or Fantastic Fest. If food and beverage sampling is your thing, tempt your taste buds at the annual Austin Ice Cream Festival, wet your whistle at the Austin Beerfest or hone your palate at the Austin Food and Wine Festival. Are you looking for a festival to attend with the entire family? Take part in the Austin Kite Festival at Zilker Park or the Mudquest Family Adventure.

The Central Texas Relocation Guide contains merely a sample of the annual events and activities going on around Austin. Be sure to keep your eye on the online Stewart Title of Austin Monthly Event Calendar – since this is Austin, you never know when a festival is going to pop up in your own backyard!

## YEAR ROUND

### **First Friday in DT Georgetown**

*Enjoy live music and a festive, evening atmosphere exploring the town square.*  
[visit.georgetown.org/first-friday](http://visit.georgetown.org/first-friday)

### **First Thursday in Downtown Austin**

*Food, fun, shopping and people watching*  
South Congress Avenue | [firstthursday.info](http://firstthursday.info)

### **First Thursday in Downtown Buda**

*Shop unique, antique and specialty vendors while enjoying food from downtown restaurants.*  
[hayshappenings.com](http://hayshappenings.com)

## JANUARY

### **Barton Springs Polar Bear Splash**

*Hundreds of people take the plunge at Zilker Park to help protect Barton Springs and our Hill Country land, water and wildlife.*  
Barton Springs | [sosalliance.org](http://sosalliance.org)

### **Free Week**

*Venues in Downtown Austin open their doors for this celebration of live music.*  
DT Austin | [freeweek.do512.com](http://freeweek.do512.com)

### **Hyde Park Theatre Frontera Fest**

*Five weeks of alternative, offbeat, new and just plain off-the-wall fringe theatre*  
Austin | [fronterafest.org](http://fronterafest.org)

### **MLK Celebration**

*After a march to the Capitol steps, the celebration continues at Huston-Tillotson.*  
DT Austin | [mlkcelebration.com](http://mlkcelebration.com)

## FEBRUARY

### **African American Community Heritage Festival**

*Live entertainment, games, arts, crafts, prizes, home décor, clothing, jewelry and storytelling*  
Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, 78702  
[austinheritagefestival.org](http://austinheritagefestival.org)

### **Austin Marathon®**

*Race along open roads that pass iconic landmarks such as the UT Tower, I Love You Mural and Lady Bird lake.*  
Austin | [youaustinmarathon.com](http://youaustinmarathon.com)

### **Carnaval Brasileiro**

*The largest indoor Brazilian Carnaval party on the planet!*  
Palmer Events Center, Austin, 78704  
[sambaparty.com](http://sambaparty.com)

### **It's My Park! Day**

*Annual community service day focused on improving Austin's parks*  
Austin City Parks | [austinparks.org](http://austinparks.org)

## Jugglefest

A three-day event full of workshops, games, demonstrations and shows featuring juggling and related circus arts  
Texas School for the Deaf, Austin, 78704  
juggling.place.org/jugglefest

## MARCH

### ABC Zilker Kite Festival

It's your day to fly a kite and see hundreds of kites in the sky at the nation's longest-running kite festival!  
Zilker Park, Austin, 78746  
abckitefestival.org

### Austin Music Awards

Presented by The Austin Chronicle and SXSW. Proceeds benefit the SIMS Foundation.  
Austin Music Hall, Austin, 78701  
sxsw.com

### Devine Lake Kite Festival

A 5K run, public flying areas, kite teams and demonstrations  
Devine Lake Park, Leander, 78641  
leandertx.gov

### Heart of Texas Rockfest

Rockfest features the best in unsigned talent that Austin and the surrounding southwest region has to offer.  
DT Austin | texasrockfest.com

### Mighty Texas Dog Walk

The doggiest day in Austin! Take a leisurely stroll with your pup and stock up on freebies galore. Proceeds benefit Service Dogs, Inc.  
DT Austin | servicedogs.org

### Rodeo Austin

A two-week exhibition featuring an acclaimed livestock show, fair, rodeo and live music  
Travis County Expo Center  
Austin, 78724 | rodeoaustin.com

### Sherwood Forest Faire

*(Runs through April)*  
Feel free to dress up as a peasant, knight or anything in between as you enjoy live performances, jousting, games and vendors of all kinds.  
Sherwood Forest Campground  
McDade, 78650  
sherwoodforestfaire.com

### South by Southwest

The South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference & Festivals offer the unique convergence of original music, independent films and emerging technologies.  
DT Austin | sxsw.com

### St. Patrick's Day Austin

A family-friendly day to celebrate the culture of Ireland including music, dance and language  
Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms  
Austin, 78754 | stpatricksdayaustin.com

### Taylor Home and Garden Expo

This indoor/outdoor event features live music, plants, crafts and more.  
Main Street Events Center  
Taylor, 76574 | taylorchamber.org

### Texas Independence Day Celebration

Celebrate the day Texas became Texas with a parade, 5K run, golf tournament, ceremonies and more.  
DT Austin | celebratetexas.net

### WGC – Dell Match Play

The PGA Tour comes to town for four consecutive years, 2016-2019. The world's top 64 players battle it out for three days.  
Austin Country Club, Austin, 78746  
austincountryclub.com

### Zilker Garden Festival

A family-friendly garden shopping destination, the garden festival offers something for everyone.  
Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, 78746  
zilker garden.org

## APRIL

### Art City Austin

This indoor/outdoor exhibition of art is joined by music, performances, good food and activities.  
Palmer Events Center, Austin, 78704  
artallianceaustin.org

### Austin Earth Day Festival

Music performances, demonstrations and celebrations for Earth Day in downtown Austin  
Huston-Tillotson University  
Austin, 78723 | earthdayaustin.com/

### Austin Food + Wine Festival

Enjoy artisanal food, drinks, and culinary demonstrations from accomplished chefs  
Auditorium Shores, Austin, 78704  
austinfoodandwinefestival.com

### Austin Reggae Festival

Featuring local and national reggae bands, a portion of ticket sales benefits the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas.  
Auditorium Shores, Austin, 78704  
austinreggae fest.com

### BP MS 150

The largest event of its kind in the U.S., the BP MS 150 is a two-day fundraising bike ride from Houston to Austin, benefitting the National MS Society.  
Austin | bpms150.net

### Buda Country Fair and Wiener Dog Races

Cook-off, bake-off, Buda Bee, pet parade, arts, crafts, dog races and a washer tournament  
Buda City Park, Buda, 78610  
budalionsclub.com

### Chisholm Trail Day

Live music, living history displays, cook-offs and more!  
Williamson Museum, Round Rock, 78681  
upthechisholmtrail.org

### Dragon Boat Festival and Race

Dragon boat race, music, dance, food and martial arts  
Lady Bird Lake's Festival Beach  
Austin, 78702 | asianamericanc.com

### Eeyore's Birthday Party

Live music, face painting, costume contests and other games with prizes for people of all ages  
Pease District Park, Austin, 78705  
eeyores.org

### Founders Day Festival

Parade, carnival, cook off, food booths, arts/crafts, live music and more  
DT Dripping Springs, 78620  
facebook.com/foundersdayfestival

### Fusebox Festival

Annual contemporary art and performance festival  
Downtown Austin, 78702  
fuseboxfestival.com

### Heritage Festival

Live country music, hamburger cook-off, washer tournament, pony rides, carnival games and much more  
Elizabeth Milburn Park  
Cedar Park, 78613 | cedarparktexas.gov

### Jonestown Cajun Cook-Off

Attractions for the day include a parade, crawfish races, barrel train rides and a live alligator show.  
Jones Brothers Park, Jonestown, 78645  
lagovista.org

### Lone Star Vegetarian Chili Cook-Off

Chili teams from all over Texas will delight you with an amazing array of delicious, healthy, meatless chilis as they compete for best chili and best booth!  
Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, 78664  
facebook.com/lsvchilicookoff

### **Louisiana Swamp Thing and Crawfish Festival**

Enjoy tons of crawfish and other bayou delicacies while experiencing live, authentic Cajun and Zydeco music.  
DT Austin | [roadwayevents.com](http://roadwayevents.com)

### **Moontower Comedy Festival**

Bringing world-class comedy to Austin through a variety of performances in stand-up, sketch, improv and musical comedy by well-known performers and up-and-comers alike  
The Paramount, Austin, 78701  
[austintheatre.org](http://austintheatre.org)

### **MotoGP™ Grand Prix of the Americas**

An elite competition featuring the world's most skilled motorcycle riders  
Circuit of the Americas, Austin, 78617  
[circuitoftheamericas.com](http://circuitoftheamericas.com)

### **My Radio Festival**

This two-day festival showcases local and regional musicians, becoming so popular that the mayor declared it an official San Marcos holiday.  
Downtown Square, San Marcos, 78666  
[ktsw.txstate.edu](http://ktsw.txstate.edu)

### **Old Settler's Music Festival**

Acoustic jazz and blues, bluegrass, old-time local faves and award-winning artists from around the world  
Salt Lick BBQ Pavilion and Camp Ben McCulloch, Driftwood, 78619  
[oldsettlersmusicfest.org](http://oldsettlersmusicfest.org)

### **Red Poppy Festival**

An all-day affair featuring a parade, live music, arts, crafts, Kid's Fun Zone and even a car show  
DT Georgetown, 78626  
[poppy.georgetown.org](http://poppy.georgetown.org)

### **SpringFest**

This event features live music, unique shopping, regional beer and wine, a boat expo and the KidZone.  
Hill Country Galleria, Bee Cave, 78738  
[laketravisspringfest.com](http://laketravisspringfest.com)

### **Statesman Cap 10K**

The largest 10K in Texas and seventh-largest 10K in the U.S., this race is free to the public.  
DT Austin, 78701 | [cap10k.com](http://cap10k.com)

### **Urban Music Festival**

Big names in hip-hop and R&B perform for this two-day, fun-filled event.  
Auditorium Shores, Austin, 78704  
[urbanmusicfest.com](http://urbanmusicfest.com)

### **Wimberley Arts Fest**

Festival happenings include over 115 artist booths showcasing a stellar variety of art media, food trucks, a beer and wine booth and continuous live music.  
Waters Point, Wimberley, 78676  
[wimberleyartsfest.com](http://wimberleyartsfest.com)

## MAY

### **Blues on the Green**

*(Runs monthly through Aug.)*  
Austin's longest running FREE music series! Blankets, lawn chairs, dogs on leashes and children are all welcome.  
Zilker Park, Austin, 78704  
[kgser.com](http://kgser.com)

### **Deutschen Pfest**

Pflugerville's most popular pfestival is three days of great pfun, including live music, a parade and carnival rides.  
Pfluger Park, Pflugerville, 78660  
[deutschenpfest.com](http://deutschenpfest.com)

### **Fiesta Amistad**

Features live music, plenty of food and family entertainment  
Round Rock | [elamistadclub.com](http://elamistadclub.com)

### **Kerrville Folk Festival**

18 days of original songwriter performances – a celebration of music that is not commercially compromised. This event is a family affair complete with camping, cook-outs and song circles.  
Near Kerrville | [kerrville-music.com](http://kerrville-music.com)

### **Muddy Miler Family Adventure**

A themed adventure run for the entire family with more obstacles, more mud and more fun than your average run!  
Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, 78664  
[roundrocktexas.gov](http://roundrocktexas.gov)

### **O. Henry Pun-Off**

The day of competition includes individuals performing prepared pieces filled with puns and head-to-head bouts of spontaneous punning.  
Brush Square Park, Austin, 78701  
[punpunpun.com](http://punpunpun.com)

### **Pecan Street Festival**

*(Biannual event, also occurs in Sept.)*  
Hundreds of artisan booths, performing artists, kid's activities and food vendors line up and down Historic 6th Street  
DT Austin | [pecanstreetfestival.org](http://pecanstreetfestival.org)

### **Viva Cinco De Mayo**

The official state-wide menudo cook-off brings competitors from all over Texas to prepare their winning version of an age-old traditional Mexican dish.  
San Marcos, 78666

South by Southwest



### West Austin Studio Tour

For two consecutive weekends, local artists open up their studios and exhibit their work.

Austin | [west.bigmedium.org](http://west.bigmedium.org)

## JUNE

### Central Texas Juneteenth Celebration

Festival, parade, beauty pageant and other activities

DT Austin | [juneteenthcentraltexas.com](http://juneteenthcentraltexas.com)

### Concerts in the Park

*(Runs Sunday evenings through Aug.)*

Free concert series featuring a different ensemble of the Austin Symphony each week. Take a blanket with a picnic dinner and make it a group outing!

The Long Center, Austin, 78704

[austinsymphony.org](http://austinsymphony.org)

### Keep Austin Weird Fest and 5K

A celebration of the people, places and businesses that make our city vibrant, eclectic and, well, weird

Riverside Drive, Austin, 78704

[keepaustinweirdfest.com](http://keepaustinweirdfest.com)

### National Trails Day

Help the Austin Parks Foundation keep our trails beautiful.

Austin | [austinparks.org](http://austinparks.org)

### Republic of Texas Biker Rally

The biggest motorcycle rally in Texas and one of the largest motorcycle events in the nation

Travis County Expo Center

Austin, 78724 | [rotrally.com](http://rotrally.com)

### WCSP Georgetown Rodeo

Plenty of food, fun and rodeo action for the whole family!

WCSP Arena, Georgetown, 78626

[wcsprodeo.com](http://wcsprodeo.com)

### Zilker Pops Concerts

Free concerts featuring the Austin Civic Orchestra. Take a blanket and picnic basket to complete the experience.

Zilker Hillside Theater, Austin, 78704

[austincivicorchestra.org](http://austincivicorchestra.org)

## JULY

### Austin Symphony H-E-B® July 4th Concert and Fireworks

More than 100,000 people gather at Auditorium Shores for the largest Independence Day celebration in town.

Auditorium Shores, Austin, 78704

[austinsymphony.org](http://austinsymphony.org)

### Bastille Day Festival

French wine, French food, French music and more!

Triangle Park, Austin, 78751

[afaustin.org](http://afaustin.org)

### Music Under the Star

This popular live concert series is free and runs every Friday evening in July.

The Bob Bullock Museum

Austin, 78701 | [thestoryoftexas.com](http://thestoryoftexas.com)

### Rooster Teeth Expo

A weekend convention of games and web culture where fans and professionals alike can talk about the industry.

Austin Convention Center

Austin, 78701 | [rtxaustin.com](http://rtxaustin.com)

### Zilker Summer Musical

Enchanting musical theatre productions that run throughout the summer and are free to the public.

Zilker Hillside Theater, Austin, 78746

[zilker.org](http://zilker.org)

## AUGUST

### Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival

One of the biggest and best-known food events in Austin, this festival is also a major fundraiser for the Central Texas Food Bank.

Waterloo Park, Austin, 78701

[austinchronicle.com/hotsauce](http://austinchronicle.com/hotsauce)

### Austin Pride Week

Highlights of the week include a fashion show, music festival and parade.

DT Austin | [austinpride.org](http://austinpride.org)

### Batfest

Get ready for the bats to emerge from under the bridge at dusk with three stages of live music, vendors, a bat costume contest and more.

Congress Avenue Bridge, Austin, 78704

[roadwayevents.com](http://roadwayevents.com)

## SEPTEMBER

### Art Outside

Outdoor art show with visual artists, musicians, performers, workshops food and more.

Apache Pass, Rockdale, 78567

[artoutside.org](http://artoutside.org)

Pecan Street Festival



### **Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival**

The event features films relating to the LGBTQ+ community, with filmmakers and other guests in attendance for Q&As and other activities.

Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar  
Austin, 78704 | agliff.org

### **Austin Museum Day**

Free exhibitions and activities at participating Austin-area museums  
DT Austin | austinmuseums.org

### **Burnet Bluegrass Festival**

Bring a cooler and some chairs and enjoy a full day of good music, tasty food, vendors and more.

Haley Nelson Park, Burnet, 78611  
cityofburnet.com

### **Diez y Seis Celebration**

Mariachi music, dancers in traditional dresses, a procession of costumed riders on horseback, vaqueros performing rope tricks and more fun

Fiesta Gardens Park, Austin, 78702  
diezyseis.org

### **Fantastic Fest**

This is the largest genre film festival in the U.S., specializing in horror, fantasy, sci-fi, action and just plain fantastic movies.

Multiple Locations, Austin  
fantasticfest.com

### **Kerrville Fall Music Festival**

Live music, activities for children, new folk competition and concerts for emerging songwriters.

Quiet Valley Ranch, Kerrville, 78028  
kerrville-music.com

### **Lone Star Le Mans**

Best of international and night-time endurance racing with a Texas twist  
Circuit of the Americas, Austin, 78617  
circuitoftheamericas.com

## OCTOBER

### **Austin City Limits Music Festival**

With great food, an art market, too many musical performers to list and much more, this certainly is an event you'll want to catch.

Zilker Park, Austin, 78746  
aclfestival.com

### **Austin Film Festival**

Outstanding program of narrative, animation, documentary features, shorts, premieres, advanced screenings and independent films

DT Austin | austinfilmfestival.com

### **Día de los Muertos Viva la Vida Fest**

Featuring Latino artists and entertainment, educational art activities and a grand procession in the heart of downtown.

Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin, 78701  
mexic-artemuseumevents.org

### **Fall Fun Fest**

This festival has plenty of monstrous games and rides that are sure to be a lively start to Halloween Day for the kids.

Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, 78664  
roundrocktexas.gov

### **Formula 1**

Catch one of the most popular high-speed races with competitors from all over the world.

Circuit of the Americas, Austin, 78617  
circuitoftheamericas.com

### **Fredericksburg Oktoberfest**

Have a blast at this celebration of German heritage with food, drinks, live music and activities for the whole family.

MarktPlatz, Fredericksburg, 78624  
oktoberfestinfbg.com

### **Mediterranean Festival**

Homemade food, wine and cocktails, dancing and live music

St. Elias Orthodox Church, Austin, 78701  
mediterraneanfestival.org

## NOVEMBER

### **Austin Celtic Festival**

The festival highlights the traditions and achievements of places like Ireland and Scotland, leaders in folk music and dance.

Fiesta Gardens, Austin, 78702  
austincelticfestival.com

### **Austin Powwow and American Indian Heritage Festival**

This celebration of Native American culture features Native dancers, a culture tent and many other presentations.

Toney Burger Center  
Sunset Valley, 78745 | austinpowwow.net

### **Christmas Affair**

More than 200 vendors, children's activities and events for the teens  
Palmer Events Center, Austin, 78704  
jlaustin.org

### **Chuy's Children Giving to Children Parade**

The Chuy's parade serves as a toy drive for children in need. Enjoy giant inflatable balloons, holiday floats, classic cars and marching bands.

DT Austin | chuyparade.com

Blues on the Green



### East Austin Studio Tour

Galleries and artist studios all over Austin open their doors to the public for two weekends of showcases, celebrations and workshops.

Austin | [east.bigmedium.org](http://east.bigmedium.org)

### Fun Fun Fun Fest

Independent genre based festival, known as one of the most relaxed, creative, and pioneering festivals in music today.

Auditorium Shores, Austin, 78704  
[funfunfunfest.com](http://funfunfunfest.com)

### Texas Book Festival

This festival showcases about 250 authors each year, offering live music, cooking demonstrations, book signings and much more.

Texas State Capitol, Austin, 78701  
[texasbookfestival.org](http://texasbookfestival.org)

### Texas Monthly BBQ Festival

Barbecue joints from all over Texas are represented at this festival of fun, music, and, of course, great food.

The Long Center, Austin, 78704  
[texasmonthly.com](http://texasmonthly.com)

### ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot

The largest 5-mile run in Texas, this event is one of Austin's Thanksgiving traditions.

The Long Center, Austin, 78704  
[thundercloud.com](http://thundercloud.com)

### Wizard World Comic Con

Special guests, panels and a sea of costumes serve to celebrate the best of pop culture.

Austin Convention Center  
Austin, 78701 | [wizardworld.com](http://wizardworld.com)

### Wurstfest

A unique celebration rich in German culture and Texas fun where you can enjoy good food, special events and Alpine and Bavarian-style entertainment  
Landa Park, New Braunfels, 78130  
[wurstfest.com](http://wurstfest.com)

## DECEMBER

### Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

Art fair and music festival rolled into one. It has long been the city's favorite scene for holiday shopping, Austin style.

Palmer Event Center, Austin, 78704  
[armadillobazaar.com](http://armadillobazaar.com)

### Austin Symphony Christmas in the Community

A reworking of the Christmas Sing-Along, the Austin Symphony takes the music out of the concert hall and into the community, reaching out to new audiences.

Austin | [austinsymphony.org](http://austinsymphony.org)

### Austin Trail of Lights

Follow the trail for over a mile of colorful lights and enjoy the multitude of holiday decorations, activities and food trucks.

Zilker Park, Austin, 78746  
[austintrailoflights.org](http://austintrailoflights.org)

### Blue Genie Art Bazaar

Shop for holiday gifts and support local artists simultaneously.

Airport Boulevard, Austin, 78752  
[bluegenieartbazaar.com](http://bluegenieartbazaar.com)

### Breakfast with Santa

Families get to meet with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and a host of Santa's helpers while enjoying a great breakfast buffet. Reservation required.

Lakeway Activity Center  
Lakeway, 78734 | [lakeway-tx.gov](http://lakeway-tx.gov)

### BudaFest

The event features a parade, a carnival located at the city park, food, live music and of course, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus!  
City Park, Buda, 78610 | [budafest.org](http://budafest.org)

### Christmas Stroll

Shop the craft vendors and enjoy the parade, food, live music and a chance to take a photo with Santa.

DT Georgetown  
[thegeorgetownsquare.com](http://thegeorgetownsquare.com)

### Zilker Tree Lighting

The Zilker Tree stands 155 feet tall and is composed of 39 streamers, each holding 81 multicolored, 25-watt bulbs - totaling 3,159 lights.

Zilker Park, Austin, 78746  
[austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov)

Zilker Tree Lighting

