

EXPLORE



# My City: Austin

A look at the fun you can expect to have deep in the heart of Texas, from local food and fitness blogger Shayda Torabi.



@withshayda

**BRUNCH**

*Joann's Fine Foods* Iconic South Congress is the perfect backdrop for brunch. Joann's is the newest restaurant from the McGuire Moorman Hospitality group (the same folks behind Clark's and Elizabeth Street Cafe). On the menu, you'll see California-inspired cuisine married with Austin's signature Tex-Mex flavor. Grab a seat on the patio to take in the scene.

**SHOP**

*By George* This boutique features a mix of cool, high-end designers. Check out buzzy and hip looks from Sies Marjan, flowy dresses from Ulla Johnson, leather kicks from Golden Goose and chic perfumes from D.S. & Durga.

**ESCAPE THE CITY**

*Barton Springs* A 10-minute bike ride from downtown Austin lies Barton Springs, a 3-acre-large natural pool fed from underground springs. The water averages 68-70 degrees, providing a cooling outdoor swim to the hundreds of thousands of visitors this natural treasure attracts. While the daytime is filled with ample people watching opportunities, if you go during a full moon, you'll bear witness to crowds literally howling at the moon. Make sure to jump off the diving board into the cool water below for true local credit.

**DRINKS**

*Eberly* Grab a drink at Eberly restaurant's Cedar Tavern—where the bar itself

is a 150-year-old hand-carved mahogany piece of history hailing from Greenwich Village's Cedar Tavern. The cocktails are some of the city's best and change seasonally (a recent winter offering was the Smokin' Barrel: Old Forester bourbon, Old Overholt rye, Laphroaig Scotch and maple syrup). Complement them with the cornmeal hush puppies made with jumbo crab and green lentil jambalaya.

**DINNER**

*The Brewer's Table* Situated in Austin's growing East Side, The Brewer's Table isn't just for fans of craft beer. While it boasts an impressive in-house brewery and dozens of brews, it also infuses dishes with ingredients found in its beers.

**NIGHTCAP**

*Prohibition Creamery* Save a bit of room for this boozy ice creamery decked out in '20s-era decor, where you can go all out with a Speakeasy Flight (a trio of seasonal flavors) or try a signature Black Magic infused with El Silencio mezcal and Madagascar vanilla.

**SEE/EXPERIENCE**

*The Color Inside* by James Turrell Trek to the top of the Student Center at the University of Texas campus and budget 90 minutes of Zen. It's a unique opportunity to catch one of Turrell's legendary skyscapes. Time your visit to sunrise or sunset when the sights and sounds of nature's beauty and the UT Tower bells commingle with Turrell's famed light installations.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FLORIAN HOLZHER, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC IMAGE COLLECTION/ALAMY, PANTHER MEDIA GMBH/ALAMY, COURTESY OF BY GEORGE, COURTESY OF JOANN'S FINE FOODS.