

Austin Landmarks



BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

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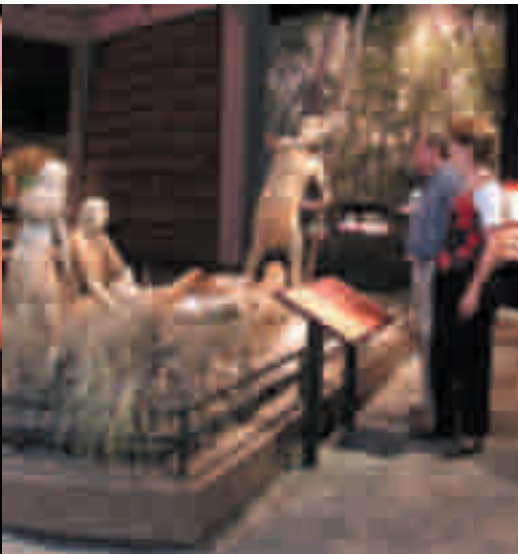
Operated by the Texas State Preservation Board, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is a dynamic educational institution that engages visitors in the exciting Story of Texas through a variety of program and exhibit experiences. The Museum provides a new kind of history experience -- one that recognizes that Texas is unique because of its history.

The museum is named after the legendary Texas politico who conceived the idea of a State history museum for "the greatest state in the Union." The museum will be a source of pride for all Texans for generations to come and no visit to the Capital City is complete without a stop here.

Approved in 1997 by the 75th Texas Legislature, the State History Museum opened on April 21, 2001 at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and North Congress Avenue in downtown Austin. The museum contains three floors of exhibits depicting Texas history through three themes: Land, Identity, and Opportunity. Exhibits include historic artifacts, documents, re-creations, interactive displays, and multi-media presentations.

The museum also features the "Texas Spirit Theater," a multi-media special effects theater seating 200 and boasting three screens, fixed sets, and numerous special effects scenes which will definitely make 'the earth move' beneath you. The main show features a multi-media journey through the history of Texas entitled "The Star of Destiny." The Star of Destiny focuses on Texas stories of perseverance. Historic events such as the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 come to life with sets, special lighting, and amazing sound effects. Seats shake as visitors witness a gusher exploding from an East Texas oil derrick and the takeoff of Saturn V as seen from Mission Control at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The State History Museum features Austin's only IMAX Theatre. This 400-seat, state-of-the-art theatre uses innovative IMAX technology to create the ultimate film experience. Unlike many IMAX theatres, the museum's is equipped with an IMAX projector that has both 2-D and 3-D capabilities. The Theatre can also show special films on a movie-quality 35mm projector. The IMAX Theatre is a fully accessible facility. With its own separate entrance, the Theatre is able to operate independently of the Museum and remains open in the evenings, with the last movie showing at 8 p.m. and extended hours on weekends. The IMAX Theatre Lobby is a distinctive, dramatic space with a carpet pattern that incorporates native Texas flora in the design. The museum also contains a store featuring the finest in products about Texas and products made by Texans. The museum Cafe features indoor/outdoor seating for 200. For more information and reservations call Fran Walker, Head of Visitors Services, (512) 936-4609.



Bat Colony (Congress Avenue Bridge)

Located about a mile south of the Capitol, this is the ideal spot to view bat flights, especially during late summer. With a peak population of 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats, the Congress Avenue Bridge is home to the largest urban bat colony in North America. Bring a blanket and head down to the Austin American-Statesman's Bat Observation area to watch the bats take flight at sundown.

Dos Banderos

410 East 6th Street

Features three bay windows with brick front and rubble sides. Dos Banderos served as saloon and bawdy house in its early years. Condemned by the city in 1961 for "nefarious activities," it was restored in 1968 as a townhouse.

The Drag

To understand UT campus life and its contribution to the city's laid-back feel, take a stroll down Guadalupe Street, or The Drag. Pick up a Texas Longhorn's T-shirt, buy a new-age crystal or some original artwork at the outdoor Renaissance Market. Find a CD or some vintage vinyl, or simply slack at the nearest coffee house. There is plenty of eclectic shopping and good people watching on the Drag.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Congress Avenue and 16th Street

A tribute to the Swedish community that helped establish Austin, the church was built in 1883 with materials from the Capitol building that burned in 1881. The last formal service was held at this state and national historic landmark in 1961. The current church is located at 200 West Anderson Lane (836-8560).

The Governor's Mansion

1010 Colorado Street
463-5516

Adjacent to the Capitol grounds sits the Governor's Mansion, Texas' premier historic home. The mansion has been the official residence of Texas governors and their families since 1856. Designed by Richard Payne and built by well-known Texas master builder, Abner Cook, it is the nation's fourth oldest continuously occupied governor's mansion. The rooms are filled with museum-quality, 19th century art and furnishings, including the writing desk of Stephen F. Austin. While the Texas Historical Commission is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of the Governor's Mansion, it belongs to all Texans and is open to the public for tours.



The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 La Crosse Avenue
292-4100

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (formerly the National Wildflower Research Center), was founded in 1982 to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants. The Wildflower Center is a non-profit educational organization headquartered in Austin, Texas, with links to native plant societies and environmental organizations across the country and around the world.

The headquarters in Austin, Texas combines native plants with local culture, reflecting the specifics and peculiarities of Central Texas Hill Country ecosystems. Walking through the Center, you'll find native plants in gardens and natural areas, an unparalleled rainwater collection and storage system, recycled building materials, American folk art, environmentally conscious construction, and engaging educational facilities – all designed to help us learn to live a little more gently on the land.

Littlefield Building

601 Congress Avenue

Civil War hero George Washington Littlefield built this ornate and modern structure in 1910. He later added another floor when a neighboring building also reached 8 stories. It was, for the time, the tallest building between New Orleans and San Francisco.



Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum

2313 Red River
721-0200 or 476-0029

The LBJ Library and Museum boasts the most visitors of all presidential libraries. Administered by the National Archives & Records Administration, it houses two major operations: The Library, with 45 million historical documents used by scholars; and the Museum, which provides year-round public viewing of historical exhibits.

Mayfield Park

3801 West 35th Street
Hours: 5am-10pm daily, 974-6700

Mayfield Park sits on 23 acres overlooking the Colorado River. It consists of a two-acre formal garden area of native plants, graceful palm trees, rock gardens and lily ponds surrounded by a nature preserve. Developed by Milton and Mary Mayfield Gutsch with their partner, Esteban Arredondo in the 1920s and 1930s, today it is operated by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Moonlight Towers

Downtown Austin
478-0098 or 800-926-2282



These 17, seven-story towers located throughout downtown served as street lighting in the 1890s. Maps are available from the Austin Visitors information Center. The towers celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1995.

Mount Bonnell

Climb the 99 steps up 785 feet to one of the highest spots in the city limits. Overlooking the 360 bridge on Lake Austin and West Lake Hills, this is one of the most picturesque and romantic spots in town. For the most best views, go at dawn or dusk.





Nature Preserves

These preserves are dedicated to the protection and development of native plants and animals. You will find acres of wooded land with streams and caves, meadows and hills, all providing a tranquil, natural setting.

Barrow Preserve, 7715 Long Point Drive

Bee Creek, 3800 Red Bud Trail

Big Walnut Creek, North of Northeast District Park

Blunn Creek, 1100 block of St. Edwards Drive

Balcones Canyonlands, 8000 North Capital of TX Hwy.

Colorado River, NE corner of South US 183 and Colorado River

Karst, 3900 Deer Lane

Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd., a privately operated natural area about thirty miles west of Austin.

Wild Basin Wilderness, on Highway 360, 1 1/4 miles north of Bee Caves Road

Old Bakery & Emporium

1006 Congress Avenue
477-5961

Built in 1876 by Swedish immigrant Charles Lundberg, this downtown landmark has been recently renovated. The building houses a shop that sells baked goods and items made by Texas senior citizens. Open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.



Pennybacker Bridge

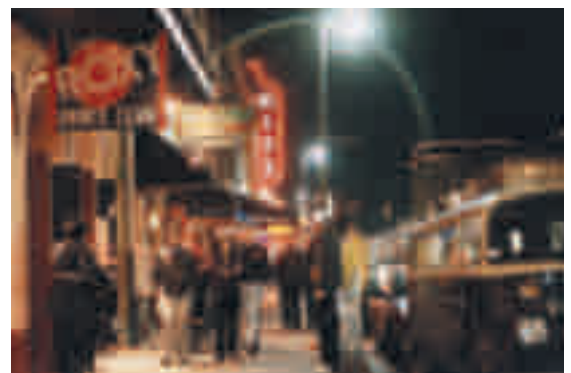
Capital of Texas Highway

Austin's Pennybacker Bridge is truly an extraordinary site. Designed by David McDonald, it was the only bridge of its kind in the United States when it opened on December 3, 1982. It was the last link to completing Austin's first highway loop circling the city, which utilizes US 183, Hwy. 71, Capital of Texas Hwy., and Loop 360. It's unique features include its Korean made steel designed to rust to a striking amber color and its unique structure which spans Lake Austin without any parts touching the water. If you're dropping by the Pennybacker Bridge, consider stopping at Mt. Bonnell which is just a short ride away.

Old Pecan Street/Sixth Street

Congress Avenue to I-35
478-0098 or 800-926-2282

This area features restaurants, clubs and shops. Two National Historic Register Districts boast Victorian and native stone buildings, as well as the Texas Walk of Stars. Guided walking tours begin at the south entrance of the Capitol and are offered Thursday-Saturday at 9am and Sunday 2pm, spring and summer. Call for schedule.



St. Charles House

316 East 6th Street

Built as a residence in 1871, it was later converted to a hotel and restaurant mainly to serve the newly arrived railroad.

St. David's Church

304 East 7th Street

Built in 1854, and one of the oldest Episcopal churches west of the Mississippi, this building was originally simple Gothic Revival in limestone rubble. It was remodeled in 1870 to its current configuration. Some of the windows are Tiffany creations. Allegedly, funds were donated by gamblers for the original building.

St. Edward's University

St. Edward's University is a private, Catholic, liberal arts university of more than 3,700 students in Austin. It was founded in 1885 by the priest who founded Notre Dame University. **St. Edward's Main Building** is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historical Landmark.



St. Mary's Cathedral

203 East 10th Street

Built in 1874, this rusticated limestone Gothic structure was designed by noted Texas architect, Nicholas Clayton. It is built in the shape of a Latin cross with a magnificent rose window above the massive Gothic doorway. German and French stained glass windows were added in the 1890s.

Stevie Ray Vaughan Statue

Auditorium Shores, Town Lake

This statue commemorates blues legend Stevie Ray Vaughan, whose life was cut tragically short in a 1990 helicopter crash.

"It did not take long for Stevie Ray Vaughan the man to be replaced in the public eye by Stevie Ray Vaughan, the legend. Dying tragically at the age of thirty-five made him an immediate object of worship in the great rock-and-roll tradition. Dying under such tragic circumstances after overcoming his own personal battles with the demons of booze and drugs elevated him to something just short of sainthood."

--- Joe Nick Patoski and Bill Crawford, *Caught in the Crossfire*



Texas Memorial Museum

2400 Trinity Street, University of Texas
471-1604

This museum features permanent and changing exhibits of Texas and Native American culture, artifacts and wildlife. Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm.



The Texas State Capitol

Capitol Visitor Center – 112 East 11th Street
463-0063

Open Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 10am-5pm **Admission is Free**

Located in the center of Austin, the State Capitol represents a grand part of our heritage and is considered a national treasure. Built over a three-year period between 1885 and 1888 and designed by Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers, this majestic granite building is the nation's largest domed state capitol and is seven feet higher than the National Capitol in Washington, DC.

On the southeast grounds of the Capitol sits the oldest surviving state office structure, the Texas General Land Office Building. Built in 1856-57, it served the Land Office until about 1917. The building originally housed the maps and records of the state's vast public lands. Following an early 1990s architectural restoration, the building today houses the Capitol Visitor's Center.

The Historic Texas Capitol Complex includes the Capitol and Capitol Extension, the General Land Office Building, their contents and grounds. The Visitor's Center, housed in the General Land Office Building, is a visitor's introduction to the Texas Capitol and a reflection of Texas heritage. It tells the story of the Capitol: of its design, construction, contents, restoration, and place in Texas government through the years.

Texas State Cemetery

900 Navasota
463-0605

This is the burial ground of many heroic figures from Texas history, including General Edward Burleson, Stephen F. Austin, Barbara Jordan and John Connally. A new visitors center and extensive renovation of the grounds have recently been completed. A self-guided tour brochure is available from the Austin Visitors Center.

Texas State Library

1201 Brazos Street
463-5455

A part of the Capitol Complex, this library houses the State archives and documents which may be used for research purposes. A genealogy collection, a reference collection of state and federal documents, lobby exhibits of archival material and a mural depicting Texas history are also here. The library is a regional depository of federal documents and the depository of state documents.

Treaty Oak

503 Baylor Street, 440-5174

The 500-year old Treaty Oak, the lone remaining member of the Council Oaks—a grove of live oaks sacred to the Tonkawa and Comanche Native Americans—was nearly killed after a deliberate poisoning in 1989. Austinites and people worldwide banded together to save the tree, whose stature is equal to the lore that surrounds it. Only about one-quarter of the majestic tree stands today.



The University of Texas Tower

(Built in 1934-1935)

For many years, this symbol of the University of Texas dominated the Austin skyline as the tallest structure in the city. Today it houses the administrative offices and the Office of the President of the University. An American historical site and symbol of optimism, the Tower has recently been reopened so visitors can safely enjoy awesome Austin views from the observation deck.

UT Tower Honor Lights

Tower orange with the #1 displayed on each side:

1. On occasions marking a great distinction in the life of the University
2. When a NCAA national team championship is won in any approved varsity sport
3. Bowl Championship Series victory in football

Complete Tower Orange:

1. At Commencement
2. When a big 12 Championship is won in any team sport
3. On nights of football victories over Texas A&M
4. When a basketball tournament championship is won in the NI or the NWIT
5. Student organization sports club national championships
6. UT's birthday (Sept. 15), Texas Independence Day (March 2)



Tower shaft white, observation and column decks orange:

1. Football victories other than those involving Texas A&M
2. For basketball or baseball victories in a Big 12 Tournament, so long as the team is in the running for the national championship
3. For victories in NCAA district or regional championships, so long as the team is in the running for the national championship
4. For each basketball victory in the NIT or NWIT
5. On April 21, Easter, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

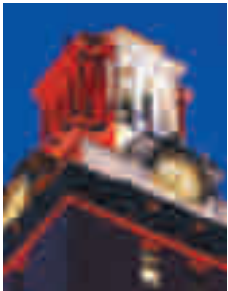


Tower shaft orange, observation and column decks white:

1. Academic and staff achievements.

Tower sides orange, top split orange and white:

1. Symbolic campus events such as Gone to Texas
2. The welcoming of new students to the university



Tower sides dark, white cap and observation deck:

1. Solemn occasions such as the annual UT Remembers service honoring members of the UT community who died in the previous year



Walter Tips Building

710-712 Congress Avenue

Built in 1876, this historic structure's interior columns and girders are made of recast Confederate artillery shells. The first floor is done Corinthian style while upper floors are Venetian Gothic.

Watering Holes

Deep Eddy Pool	401 Deep Eddy Avenue	472-8546
Hamilton Pool Preserve	Off TX Hwy. 71 on RM 3238	264-2790
Hippie Hollow	2.5 m. off RM 620	473-9437
Stacy Pool	800 East Live Oak Drive	476-4521

For additional listings of swimming facilities and lake activities see the Recreation section

Zilker Park Complex

2100 Barton Springs Road

At Zilker Park you can enjoy the pleasures of a jaunt along a creek, an afternoon picnicking under a tree, a dip in Barton Springs or a hike up a rocky path. On any given Saturday afternoon the place is hopping with life – swimmers, soccer players, sun-bathers, canoeists, picnickers, runners, cyclists, hikers and mountain bikers. On the northeast corner of the park, overlooking the river, is a place called Lou Neff point. From this vine covered spot you can view the city skyline, feed the ducks and just sit and watch the world go by. Bring a picnic and call it an afternoon. Can't decide what to do first? A ride through the park aboard the **Zilker Zephyr** will at least help you figure out your options. Weather permitting, it operates year round, seven days a week from 10am to sunset. Howling through the tunnel is optional. Zilker Part is the site of a variety of annual events including:

Austin Music Festival

Held on a weekend in September, this festival is only two years old and has been a wonderful success. The three-day event features multiple stages with constant music from local, national, and international bands such as R.E.M. Local vendors offer plenty of food, drink, and souvenirs. Parking is available in all state and city parking lots with shuttles running to the park on a regular basis.

Zilker Tree Lighting and the Trail of Lights

The City of Austin will light the Zilker Christmas tree from December 7 through 31. The Trail of Lights starts a few weeks before Christmas. The Zilker Tree Stands 155 feet tall and is composed of 39 streamers, each holding 81 multicolored, 25 watt bulbs, totalling 3,309 lights. At the top of the tree, a double star measures 10 feet from point to point. The double star displays 150 frosted bulbs. This unique spiral pattern of lights was created by City of Austin electricians. At its circumference, the tree measures 380 feet. The diameter is 120 feet. The base of the tree is made up of 19 utility poles, each 14 feet tall, arranged in a circle around the Moonlight Tower.

The Trail of Lights Festival is an annual Austin holiday tradition and celebration held in Zilker Park. The festival, originally known as Yule Fest, began in 1965 by Mrs. Alden Mabel Davis and then Parks and Recreation Director, Beverly Sheffield as a holiday gift from the Parks and Recreation Department to the citizens of Austin and visitors. The first display, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", was set up in Zilker Park. This display still holds a prominent location on the Trail this year and has become a big part of the deep tradition of the Trail.

Zilker Annual Kite Festival

kites@zilkerkitefestival.com or (512) 339-0412 or (512) 647-7488

The Zilker Kite Festival with contests, stunts and kites galore is usually scheduled for March.



Barton Springs Pool

867-3080

Barton Springs is a natural, spring-fed swimming facility so you don't have to worry about the children getting chlorine in their eyes – they don't use the eye-stinging chemical in Barton Springs. After a refreshing dip in the constant 68-degree waters, the whole family can stretch out on the long, grassy hill, big enough for lots of sunbathers.

Zilker Botanical Gardens

477-8672

The Zilker Botanical Gardens is an urban oasis. These lush 22 acres overlook the Zilker park playing fields. The Botanical Gardens are actually made up of many different gardens. The gardens include the Xeriscape Garden, Cactus and Succulent Garden, Herb and Fragrance Garden, Azalea Garden, Butterfly Garden, the Rose Garden and the Taniguchi Garden. The popular Taniguchi Garden was built by Isamu Taniguchi who retired here in the 1960s. Taniguchi spent over a year without pay or compensation building the garden treasure. The garden has a waterfall, a running stream, ponds, and bridges. More than 200,000 people a year stroll through the lush vegetation that is the Zilker Botanical Garden. Zilker Botanical Garden is also a popular wedding and photo op spot. The Zilker Botanical Gardens are irresistible any time of year, but are particularly beautiful in the spring. What's more, the gardens now offer guided adult tours.



Zilker Nature Preserve

A meadow, a flowing stream, and a high cliff face make up the 60-acre Zilker Nature Preserve. A habitat above the cliff is typical of the dry Edwards Plateau. Croton Brush, Myrtle Croton, and Mountain Laurel are abundant. An overlook trail offers a spectacular view of downtown Austin. For hiking and nature enthusiasts, two miles of trails take a hiker through a wooded area filled with Spanish Moss-covered trees.



Zilker Boat Rentals

478-3852

A unique way to take in the scenic beauty of Zilker Park is to rent a boat for a few hours. The Barton Springs Pool, Zilker Park Boat Rentals are located near Barton Springs and offer canoes and kayak rentals by the hour. You can paddle down Barton Springs until it empties into Town Lake, and then wind along Town Lake. A favorite path is to glide under the Congress Avenue bridge, where the bats reside. Water currents are not a problem, so even the less experienced can manage to maneuver along the lake. Notice the turtles sunning themselves on the rocks, and soak up some of the natural Austin beauty that makes the city such a wonderful place to live.

Athletic Fields

472-4914

8 Soccer fields; 2 Softball fields; 1 Rugby field; 9-hole Disc Golf Course. Call to reserve a field.

Texas Botanical Garden Society

478-0010

The Texas Botanical Garden Society is headquartered in the Zilker Botanical Gardens and is involved in education, research and the preservation of nature. The Society is affiliated with the Austin Area Garden Council, the American Association of Botanical Gardens & Arboreta, the American Horticultural Society and the Association of Texas Botanical Gardens.