

Central Austin Expert Guide

We get it! Austin can be overwhelming when trying to pick the best! We've done all the leg work for you, so sit back and enjoy these top spots.

*= Multiple locations

FT= Food Truck

HH= Great happy hour

Bars:

[Better Half Coffee & Cocktails](#) (HH)– Chicken biscuit with a twist or their cheeseburger happy hour deal is a must! Happy hour Tues. – Fri. 3-6pm. Parking for free but not tons since Better Half and Holdout Brewery share a lot.

[Tweedy's](#) – Great UT centric spot with draft cocktails, beers, teas & coffees. Happy hour M-F 3-6pm. Street parking only.

[Donn's Depot](#) – Iconic Austin bar since 1978 with live music, lots of dancing and drinks. Happy hour M-F 2-8pm! Decent parking lot with street parking, too.

Cocktails:

[The Roosevelt Room](#)- One of the best spots for a date night cocktail or two. Make a reservation. Local pro tip: Pay to park in the Metropolis parking garage directly across 5th street from the venue.

Brewery:

[Hold Out Brewing](#)- Beer, great collabs with other breweries, wine, cocktails + food. Happy hour M-F 3-6pm. Shares a kitchen & parking lot with Better Half.

Restaurants:

\$ [Chuy's](#) *- Visit the original Chuy's on Barton Springs and enjoy a "Big as Yo Face Burrito" along with their creamy jalapeno dip. Lots of parking in their lots behind the restaurant.

\$\$ [Bar Peached](#) - A variety of nightly specials including their Happy hour (5-6:30 daily - patio only), but don't miss out on their brunch Sat & Sun. 11-2:30pm. Some parking behind the restaurant.

\$\$\$ [Red Ash](#) –Some of the best Italian in the city. Make sure to make reservations. If you go early enough, you can usually find street parking.

Activity:

[Town Lake](#)- You can start at any place on the trail and have lots of areas to cross over in order to make your walk as short or long as you'd like. Local pro tips: Top parking spots are under MoPac next to Austin High school or off Riverside near the Oracle buildings, so you can hop on the boardwalk easily. Great views of downtown along the trail or rent a kayak, donut boat or stand up paddle board to get on the water.

Attraction:

[Bat Viewing](#)- Local pro tips for seeing Austin's millions of Mexican free-tail bats: take to the water on a bat viewing boat or the hill under the Congress Ave. bridge between the end of March till September/October just before dusk. There will be crowds of folks on the bridge, so come prepared.

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