

Austin Relocation Guide



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Moving to Austin



If there's one thing you need to know about Austin, Texas, it's that they like to do things a little differently here. With a dedication to their motto of "Keeping Austin Weird", the capital city of Texas truly doesn't know what boring is and is renowned for its open-minded, vibrant and creative atmosphere.

Located right at the heart of Texas, Austin is all about variety and having the most fun possible. Love the outdoors? Take your pick from one of Austin's 220 parks or go exploring in Texas Hill Country. Enjoy watching live music? With over 200 music venues in the city alone, you'll be spoilt for choice in the "Live Music Capital of the World".

But that's not all. Austin also has a thriving sports scene, unrivalled food experiences and countless galleries and museums that are all just waiting to be enjoyed. While it's a great place to visit, it's an even greater place to live.

Thanks to its amazing quality of life, thriving job market and affordability, Austin is a popular relocation destination for expats looking for a new career and way of life.

So, if you're considering moving to Austin but need help making your final decision, we've created this handy guide which includes everything you need to know before you go.

Things to know about Austin:

Population 
2.22 million (2022)

Boroughs 

Austin is made up of hundreds of different neighbourhoods, all grouped into nine geographical regions, including \

North, North-East, West, Central, East, South-West, South and South-East.

Time zone 

Winter: CST (6 hours behind the UK)

Summer: CDT (5 hours behind the UK)

Currency 

US dollar

Why Austin?



Aside from its fantastic array of attractions and entertainment venues, there are many other reasons why Austin could be the perfect new home for you and your family.

Austin is one of the fastest growing cities in the US, thanks in part to its year-round sunshine, it's exciting nightlife and its world-famous Texan hospitality. Its particularly popular with Millennials, who make up 31% of the population within the city.

Nicknamed the "Silicon Hills", the city has become a hub for the tech industry, with big companies such as Facebook, Dell and Google all relocating their headquarters here. This in turn has created a thriving job market within the city not only for the tech industry- but other industries, like property and construction too. In fact, studies have found that job growth within the city is set to increase by 47% over the next decade.

Work culture in Austin



Unsurprisingly, Austin's work culture is highly competitive and Austinites are renowned for being extremely hard-working. But this shouldn't put you off from relocating here. Skilled and experienced workers are in high demand across multiple industries, thanks to the booming jobs market within the city. **So much so, that Austin's unemployment rate reached an all-time low of 2.7% at the end of 2022.** That should mean that you have little trouble securing your first role here.

As for maintaining a healthy work-life balance, Austin is an epicentre for music, food and exercise and Austinites have a reputation for being friendly and fun-loving. So, there will undoubtedly be opportunities for regular networking and socialising with your new colleagues and friends.

But what about if you work in property and construction? In 2021, Austin was named the #1 destination for commercial real estate investment by the New York Times. This was further backed up when Austin ranked at #4 on a list of the top 49 cities for construction workers, which considered the number of construction workers employed in relation to the number of construction permits issued.



If you're interested in what potential property and construction job opportunities are currently available in Austin, you can get in touch with a member of our team. They will be able to help you kickstart your job search and find you a role that is specifically tailored to your skills, experience and career goals.

Visas and Permits



If the idea of relocating to Austin sounds good so far, visas and permits should be the next thing on your to-do list. There are several visa options to apply for, but it's important to remember that many employment-based US visas require you to be sponsored by a US employer who have offered you a job before moving here.

Firstly, there's the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) which enables UK residents to stay in the US visa-free for 90 days. While this visa doesn't allow you to work during this time, it will enable you to attend interviews, go to careers fairs and attend industry networking events. Plus, it will also give you the opportunity to get a feel for the city and its work culture to see if it's a good fit for you and your family.

Another option is to apply for an immigrant visa. These employment-based visas typically last for two-years before they require renewal. However, they can be renewed continuously, so long as you meet the visa's requirements. Once you've found a licensed company to work for and sponsor you, they will file a visa petition on your behalf with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

There are three work-based immigrant visa options available, from highest to lowest priority:



**E1 First Preference \\
People of "extraordinary ability"**



**E2 Second Preference \\
Professionals with advanced degrees and 5+ years of experience**



**E3 Third Preference \\
Professionals with 2+ years of training/experience or unskilled workers whose skills are in short supply**

Alternatively, there's also a non-immigrant visa which can be ideal if you aren't planning on working and living in Austin permanently.

The most popular visa options within the category are:



**H1-B Visa (Skilled Worker) **

For professionals performing services in a prearranged professional job for a US employer, who have a bachelor's degree or higher.

→ Visa lasts for 3 years but can be extended.



**H2-B Visa (Skilled and Unskilled Workers) **

For people going to the States to perform seasonal work or fill a temporary labour shortage.

→ Visa lasts between 1-3 years.



**L-1 Visa (Intra-Company Transferee) **

For managers and executives with specialist knowledge moving to the US within the same company.

→ Visa lasts between 5-7 years.

To find out more information on employment-based immigrant and non-immigrant visa process, you can visit the [USCIS website](#).

The last option you might want to consider is the Permanent Residence Card (PRC), more commonly known as 'The Green Card'. As the name suggests, this permit will allow you to permanently live and work within the United States, without having to renew your visa every few years. However, many people don't manage to get approval for a PRC until they have spent several years working in the US on a temporary visa.

There's no denying that the visa process can be a lot to get your head around. Thankfully, you don't have to tackle it alone. Our consultants are on hand to help guide you through the process and answer any questions you may have.



You can find out more about the Permanent Residence Card process by visiting the [USCIS website](#).

Cost of Living



Austin might have all the amenities you'd expect from a bustling capital city, but it has somehow remained relatively affordable. As a state, Texas has a cost of living that is **8% lower than the national average**, making it one of the most affordable places to live in the United States. **Recent studies have also found that Austin's cost of living is approximately 22% less than it is in London.** This might come as good news, but it's still wise to assess your finances very carefully before making the relocation leap.

To give you an idea of how much you could be spending per month while living in Austin, here's a list of some everyday essentials and their current approximate prices:



Utilities



You can expect to pay around **\$150 (£121)** per month for gas, electricity, water and garbage pickup, which is about 15% less than the national average. In addition to this, you'll also be looking to pay roughly **\$62 (£50)** for a basic internet package.

Groceries



Austin residents pay around **\$302 (£244) per month** on groceries, but this is dependent on the size of the household and where you choose to shop. Generally, a gallon of milk is around **\$2.00 (£1.62)**, a loaf of bread is around **\$3.00 (£2.43)**, and a dozen eggs is around **\$1.50 (£1.22)**.





Eating out

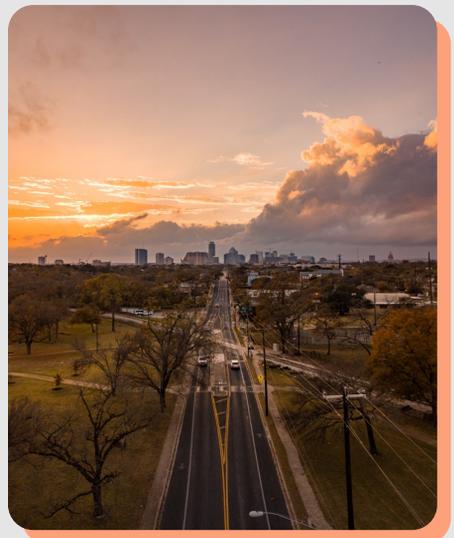


You're spoiled for choice when it comes to restaurants and eateries in Austin, but their prices vary greatly. A meal at a fast-food restaurant can be as low as **\$6.00 (£4.87)** whereas more expensive establishments can charge anywhere between **\$25-\$75 (£20-£60)**.

Transport



A gallon of gasoline will cost you on average between **\$2.40** and **\$2.60 (£1.95-£2.11)**, whereas a single ticket on the Capital Metro Bus System will cost as little as **\$1.25 (£1.01)**. There's also the option of taxis, which start at **\$2.20 (£1.78)** for the first 1/11 mile and an extra **\$0.20 (£0.16)** for every 1/11 after that.



Finding a home



Once you've secured a job in Austin, you now have the exciting task of deciding where you're going to live. However, with so many vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods to choose from, it can be challenging to know exactly where to start looking, particularly if you've never been to Austin before.

To help you get started on your search for a new home, we've compiled this list of great places in Austin for either families or single professionals to give you some much-needed inspiration.

Families



Brentwood



Considered one of the more affordable areas within the city, Brentwood is a quiet and laid-back area with a close-knit community. Filled with tree-lined streets and variety of nature spots, including the nine-acre Brentwood Park, Brentwood is located around 7 miles north of Downtown Austin. This makes it the perfect place for families wanting the best of both worlds.



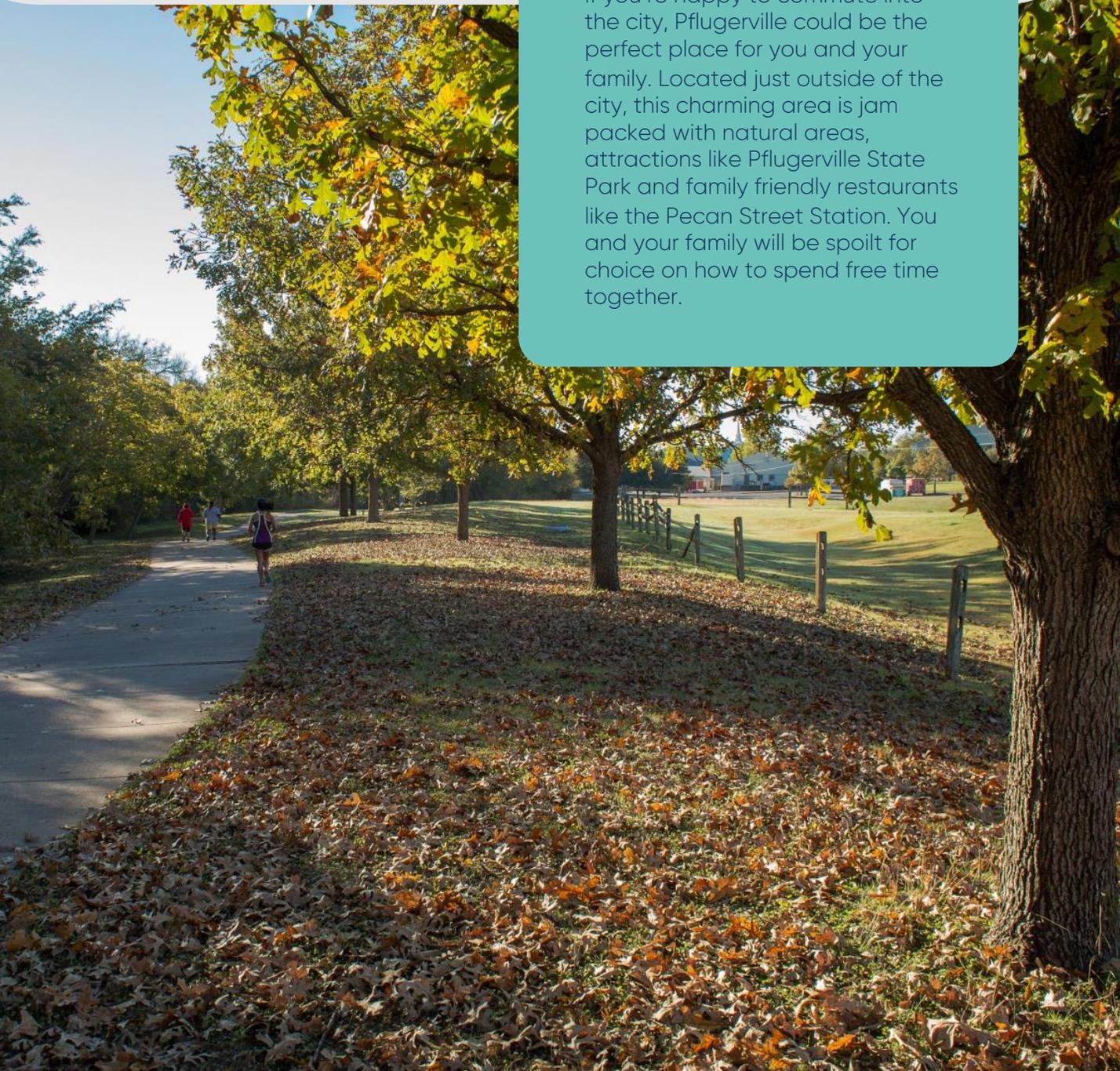
Families



Pflugerville



If you're happy to commute into the city, Pflugerville could be the perfect place for you and your family. Located just outside of the city, this charming area is jam packed with natural areas, attractions like Pflugerville State Park and family friendly restaurants like the Pecan Street Station. You and your family will be spoiled for choice on how to spend free time together.



Families



Cherrywood



If your family wants to be closer to the action, why not consider Cherrywood. Located just 3 miles from Downtown Austin, this small residential area is known for its quiet streets with an abundance of parks, coffee shops and eateries all within walking distance. With the University of Texas close by, you can even take your family to watch a Longhorn's game from time to time.



Families



South Lamar



This down-to-earth neighbourhood is yet another fantastic option for families wanting to move to Austin, without being too far from its centre. It's close to both Zilker Park and the Barton Creek Greenbelt where you can take your kids to cool off in Barton Springs. It's also only a short drive away from a whole host of family friendly attractions and venues, such as the Broken Spoke and Matt's El Rancho.



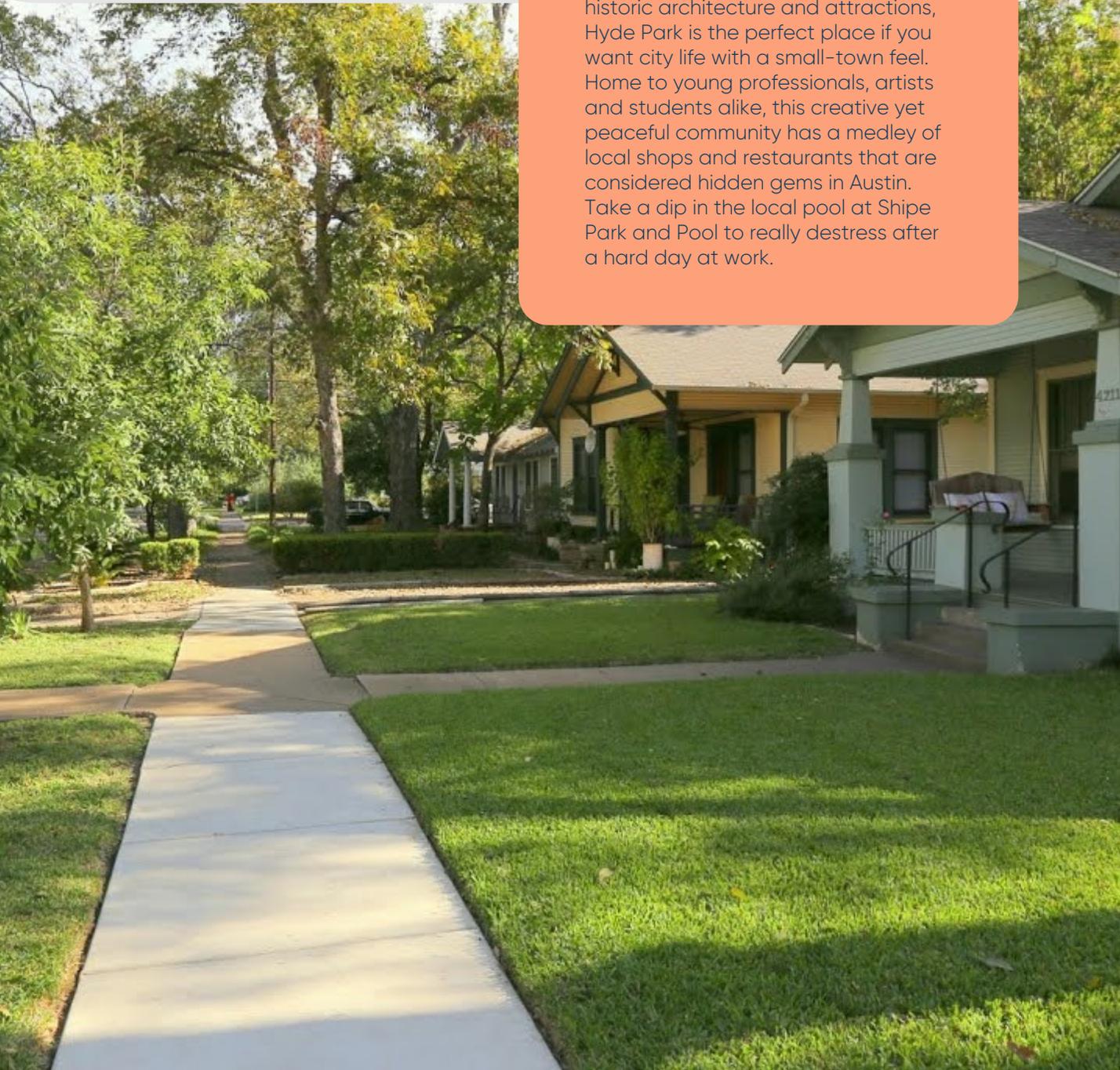
Singles



Hyde Park



With lush, tree lined streets and historic architecture and attractions, Hyde Park is the perfect place if you want city life with a small-town feel. Home to young professionals, artists and students alike, this creative yet peaceful community has a medley of local shops and restaurants that are considered hidden gems in Austin. Take a dip in the local pool at Shipe Park and Pool to really destress after a hard day at work.



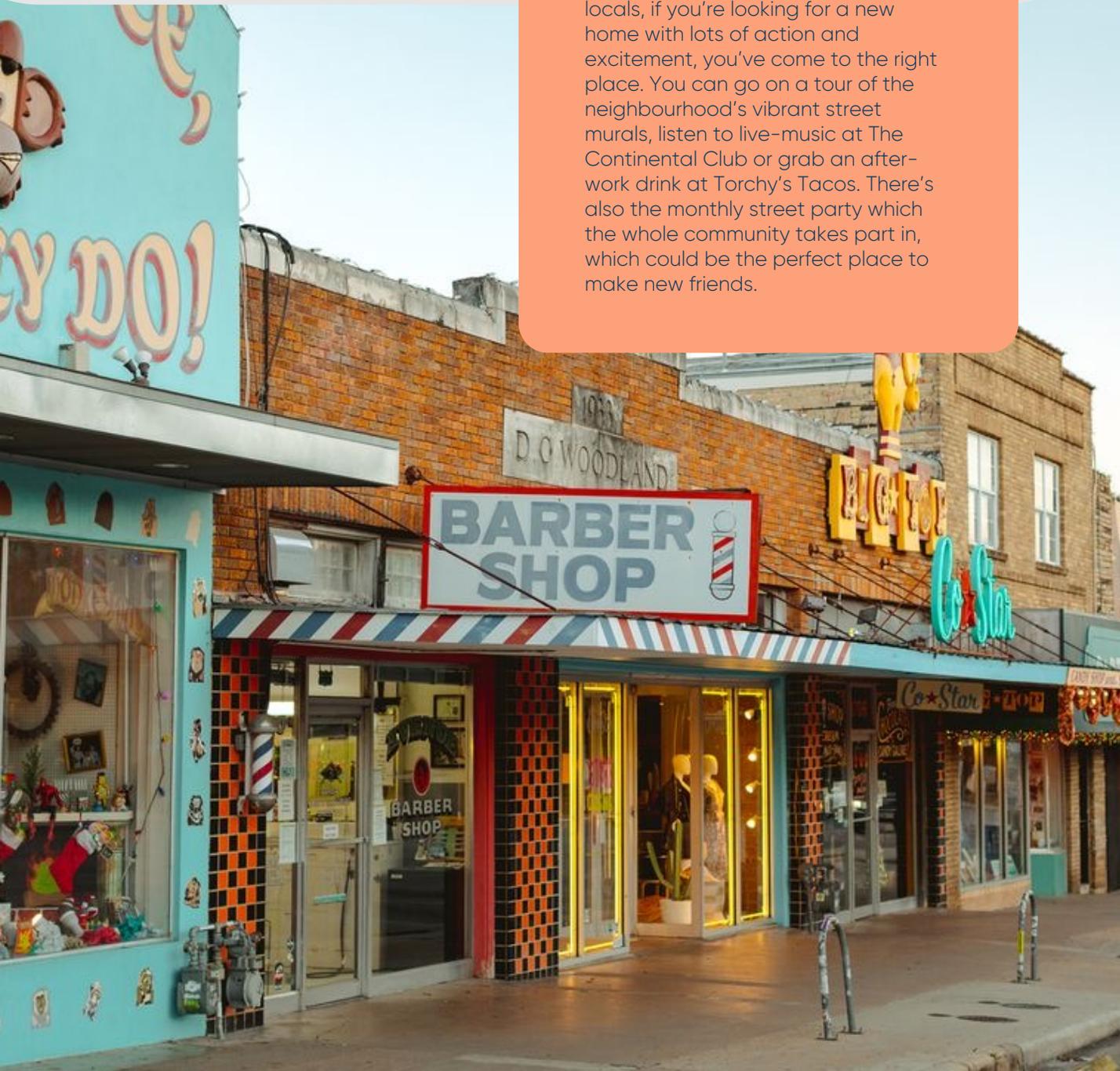
Singles



South Congress



Affectionately called SoCo by the locals, if you're looking for a new home with lots of action and excitement, you've come to the right place. You can go on a tour of the neighbourhood's vibrant street murals, listen to live-music at The Continental Club or grab an after-work drink at Torchy's Tacos. There's also the monthly street party which the whole community takes part in, which could be the perfect place to make new friends.



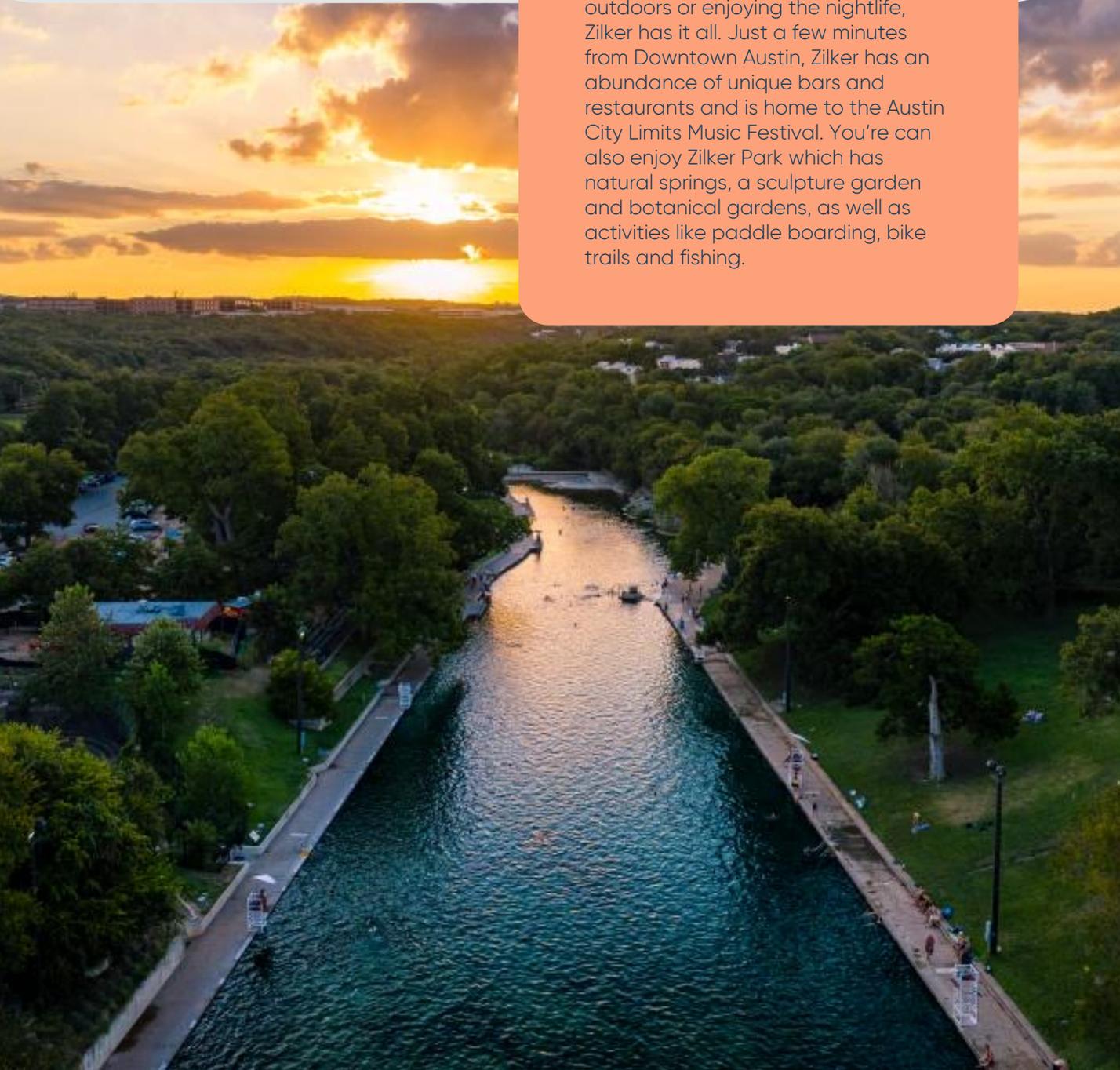
Singles



Zilker



Whether you're interested in getting outdoors or enjoying the nightlife, Zilker has it all. Just a few minutes from Downtown Austin, Zilker has an abundance of unique bars and restaurants and is home to the Austin City Limits Music Festival. You're can also enjoy Zilker Park which has natural springs, a sculpture garden and botanical gardens, as well as activities like paddle boarding, bike trails and fishing.



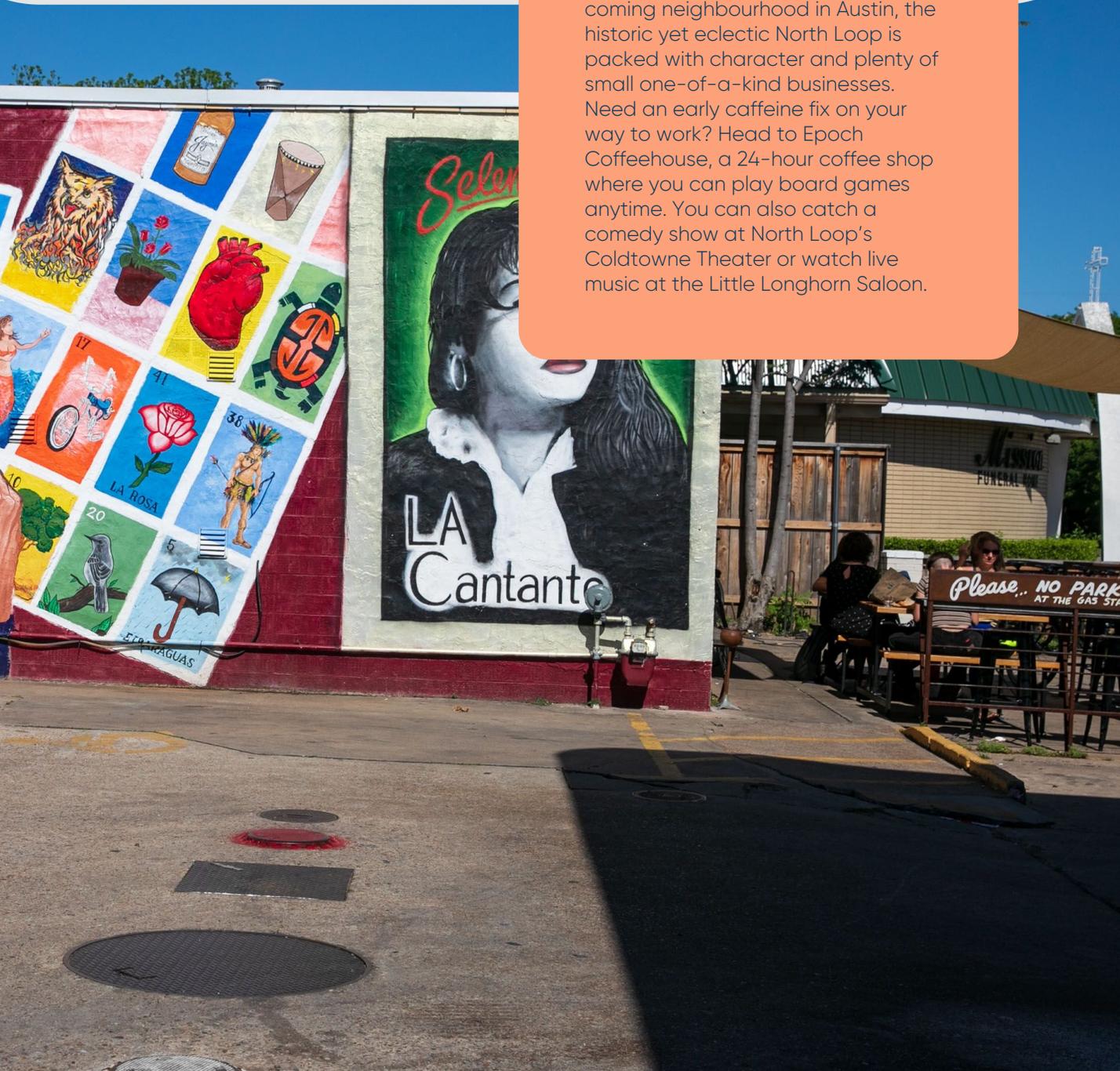
Singles



North Loop



Long considered the most up and coming neighbourhood in Austin, the historic yet eclectic North Loop is packed with character and plenty of small one-of-a-kind businesses. Need an early caffeine fix on your way to work? Head to Epoch Coffeehouse, a 24-hour coffee shop where you can play board games anytime. You can also catch a comedy show at North Loop's Coldtowne Theater or watch live music at the Little Longhorn Saloon.



Renting



For many professionals who relocate to Austin, renting can be a highly viable option. **Austin is also considered a renter friendly city, with 54% of its households being renter-occupied.** Renting can also be ideal for expats who want to get a feel for the city and its hundreds of differing neighbourhoods before making a more long-term commitment. Austin has seen an increase in its rental prices over the past few years, but it is still far more affordable than other capital cities and can be offset with the city's low-cost food, transportation and gas.

So, if you think renting could be a suitable option for your relocation to Austin, here's some important things you might want to consider before you start your search.

Unsurprisingly rent prices vary drastically depending on which neighbourhood in Austin you choose to live in.

For instance, rental prices in Downtown Austin, which is one of the most highly sought-after places to live in the city, average at around **\$3,378 (£2737) per month**. In contrast, a rental property in Northwest Hills will average at about **\$1,628 (£1319)**.

It's also crucial to consider the size of the home you're looking for, as this too can have an impact on the cost of your rent each month. Typically, a one-bedroom property can come to around \$1200 (£972), a two-bedroom \$1400 (£1134) and you could pay up to \$2100 (£1701) for a four-bedroom property. But again, these figures will vary depending on which area of the city they are located.

If these prices seem expensive, there is also the option of apartment sharing or moving further out of the city and commuting to work each day, which can help to bring rent prices down. You can find out more about apartment sharing on sites like [June Homes](#) or [Roomster](#).

US landlords and property management companies will ask for a security deposit before you can move into a rental property. Typically, this will be a flat rate of around \$300-\$350 (£243-£283) but in some cases, you may be asked for a month's rent upfront.

Before signing on the dotted line and parting with a deposit, you need to find out exactly what is included in your rent and utilities such as heating, water, electricity and internet. Maintenance and repair fees should also be covered so don't forget to ask about this too.

One of the biggest perks of renting, as opposed to buying in Austin, is that it gives you more flexibility. In Texas, month-to-month or short-term rental agreements are quite common and they involve renewing occupancy terms every month without a specific end date. Either the landlord or the occupant can terminate the lease at any time but will often have to give 30 days' notice. Alternatively, longer-term leases are also available which tend to last a year.



Now you know a little bit more about the rental market in Austin, why not start your search by visiting sites like [Zillow](#) and [Apartments.com](#).

Buying



If you're planning to stay in Austin for the long haul and have either a HB-1 visa or L1 visa, buying your own home could also be a potential option for you and your family. But before you start hunting for your dream new home, there are some vital things you'll need to think about first.

Austin is considered one of the **most expensive** places in the state to **buy a home**.

Recent research found that the average house price in Austin has reached around **\$537k (£435k)** over the past few years, due to the city's new-found popularity.

With this in mind, getting your finances in order and determining a budget should be your first port of call. The last thing you want is to guess what you can afford only to be disappointed later. Also, don't forget that the exchange rate between pounds and dollars is constantly changing, so bear this in mind when you're putting your offers on a property.

Buying a property can be complicated enough, let alone when you're buying one on the other side of the world. So it might be beneficial to seek out the help of some professionals who can help you tackle the different housing laws, property inspections, currency converting and viewing properties while you're still in the UK. This is another expense you will need to cater for when determining your budget.

The success of your home purchase will be largely dependent on the realtor (the US version of an estate agent) you choose to work with. Not only do they need to be reliable and understand your requirements, they also need to be registered as a member of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and have a wealth of local knowledge. If you can find a realtor that has previous experience of working with expats, that will be even more beneficial to you.

Once you have your realtor, they should be able to put you into contact with local lawyers, financial advisors and anyone else who can help to make your house purchase go as smoothly as possible. It's also worthwhile to plan a trip to see potential properties you're interested in before your relocation date. That way you can get a much better feel for the property, the local neighbourhood and its community.



Why not start your search for available properties in Austin by visiting Realtor or Zillow.

Once you
arrive



You've made it to Austin, now what?

Well, before you settle down into your new life as a Austinite, there are some formalities you'll need to take care of. One of the most important things to do when you arrive is to establish your residency in your new state of Texas. This will allow you to get your driver's license, register any vehicles you may have and enable you to pay tax.

Thankfully, this is a relatively easy process. Anything that demonstrates that you intend on staying in Austin will establish residency, such as:

- \\ **Renting/buying a house or apartment.**
- \\ **Being employed within the city.**
- \\ **Being registered to vote.**
- \\ **Having a business in the city.**

Here are some other important things you'll need to get sorted once you arrive in Austin:

- \\ **Get health insurance.**
- \\ **Sort out your finances, such as loans, bank accounts, pensions, and taxes.**
- \\ **Enrol your child into a school.**
- \\ **Get a license for your pets and find a local veterinarian.**
- \\ **Set up your utilities.**
- \\ **Register your car.**
- \\ **Get your driver's license.**
- \\ **Register to vote.**
- \\ **Update your address with the USPS.**
- \\ **Get car insurance policy, if needed.**
- \\ **Set up your social security (you can do this when you apply for your visa).**

Healthcare



It's no secret that the healthcare system in the US is very different to the UK.



In America, healthcare is not considered to be a universal right as it is in the UK, and they don't have an NHS equivalent there. Instead, the industry is fully privatised, which means that all medical facilities are run by independent companies and medical help comes at a cost.

Many Americans sign up for private health insurance via an insurance provider or their employer. By paying them a contribution each month, they can reduce their medical costs should they get into an accident or become ill. **Estimates suggest that the average American spends around 5% of their gross income on medical expenses.**

It's important that you do your research into healthcare insurance providers and the types of medical cover that are available for you and your family as expats before you arrive. Most expats tend to go for an Individual Private Medical Insurance policy, otherwise known as an IPMI, because it offers global health coverage and is tailored to suit each person's medical needs. This can be particularly beneficial if you or a member of your family requires ongoing treatment for an existing medical concern.

Don't forget to ask your new employer if they offer any form of healthcare contributions too. Generally, companies with 50+ employees must offer ACA-compliant health insurance to their employees who work over 30 hours per week. However, if this doesn't apply to you, you will have to find your own health insurance.

Schools



If you're relocating to Austin with your children, getting them enrolled into a school will naturally be a top priority.

In Austin, any students who are legal residents in Austin are entitled to free public education. Like many cities around the world, school eligibility for public schools is generally determined by which zone your home is located. This could mean that schools are a big factor in which area you decide to relocate to.

Once you've decided which public school you would like your child to go to, you'll need to get in touch with the school to find out their registration dates and process of enrolment. To enrol your child, you typically need to provide a birth certificate or passport, immunisation records, proof of residency and their latest school reports. But this can vary depending on the school so it's always best to check beforehand.

Alternatively, there's also the option of private schools. There are over 100 private schools in Austin, so you won't be short on options. However, it can be an expensive option with the average cost of private school tuition reaching \$12,674 (£10,294) per child per year. You'll also have to add on the additional cost of uniforms, textbooks and extra-curricular activities. Generally, private schools can offer perks such as a higher standard of education, better facilities and more one-on-one attention, plus you often won't be limited by catchment areas.

Again, if you choose to go down the private school route, it's crucial that you get in touch with the school as soon as you can to find out their enrolment process and registration dates.

The education system in the US has a slightly different format to the UK:

Elementary school



Kindergarten to 5th grade - ages 5-10

Middle school



6th to 8th grade – ages 11-13

High school



9th to 12th grade – ages 14-18



To help you get to grips with what school your child should attend once you've relocated to Austin, you can visit sites like [Inside Schools](#) or [Great Schools](#).

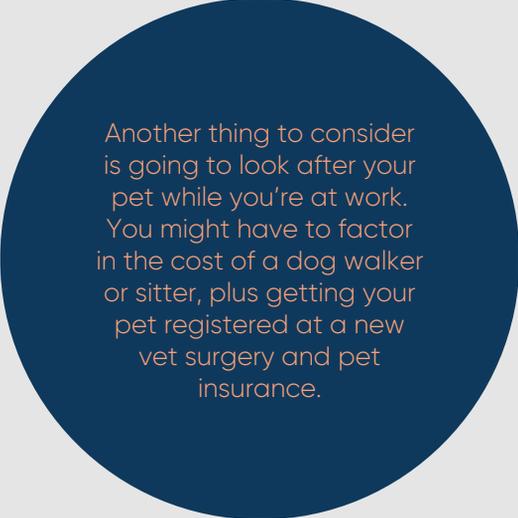
Moving pets over



Naturally, you won't want to leave your beloved pets behind when you relocate to Austin. After all, they are part of the family too. Thankfully, thousands of people move to the Texas capital with their pets each year so it's certainly possible. But there are some things you need to know first.

If you're renting, you might need to double check the conditions of your lease as some places won't allow pets at all. If they do allow pets, is there enough space for them?

Some property management companies might also ask for a one-time pet fee that is generally around **\$200 (£162)**.



Another thing to consider is going to look after your pet while you're at work. You might have to factor in the cost of a dog walker or sitter, plus getting your pet registered at a new vet surgery and pet insurance.

More importantly, it's crucial to think about how your pet will be during the transportation phase. There are multiple ways your pet can travel to Austin from the UK. The first option is to have them accompany you on the plane, either in-cabin or as baggage or cargo, but this can vary depending on the airline you are travelling with. Another option is to enlist the help of a **pet travel company** who can arrange the transportation of your pet for you.

According to the US Embassy, cats and dogs do not require a permit or rabies vaccination to enter the US. They will, however, need to have a health certificate from their vet that states that they are fit and healthy to travel. It can also be wise to contact your airline and the **CDC** to clarify just what documents you need to provide and how to register your pet once you've landed in Austin.



For more tips and advice on travelling on a plane with your pet, you can visit the **RSPCA** website.

Settling in





Feeling at home in Austin will come easy the more you get out and integrate with your new community.

That being said, we know it can be daunting to just go out and meet people, especially if you don't know where to start.

If you're eager to build a social network once you've moved to Austin, here's a variety of ways you can get started:

Join Expat groups \ \

Joining an expat group is a simple way of meeting fellow people from the UK. Not only will you have a shared life experience of moving to another country, but the people you meet can also offer invaluable tips and advice because they've already done it all before. Expat Facebook groups and websites like [InterNations](#) or [Meetup](#) will give you the chance to chat with other expats and find out about local events you can attend in your area.

Children \ \

Schools are a fantastic place to make friends with other parents. There's always plenty of events such as bake sales, school plays, and sports games to attend which can provide plenty of opportunities for you to introduce yourself.

Start a new hobby \ \

Whether it's joining the gym, learning a new language or getting creative at a pottery class, starting a new hobby and attending regular classes will automatically connect you with like-minded people with similar interests.

Ask for help at work \ \

Let your new colleagues know that you're new in town and ask for advice on the best places to grab lunch or go for a drink. They will undoubtedly share their favourites and may even offer to show you around. Work parties can also be a great way to get to know people in a less-formal setting.

Getting around



How to get a driving license \ \

If you're planning on driving when you get to Austin, you'll be pleased to know that you can use your UK driving license for up to 90 days. However, during this time you'll have to apply for a US licence which will involve an application, theory test and practical test.

To get this process started with the [Texas DPS](#), you'll need to have your visa, proof of residence and identity and you'll have to pay a fee. Once complete, you'll be given a temporary license which you can use for 45 days or until your permanent license arrives in the post at your home address.

If you've never driven in the US before, it's important to remember that Americans drive on the right-hand side of the road and undertaking is legal. This means you'll have to be extra careful when changing lanes.

Austin, like other major cities, is notorious for its heavy traffic. In fact, studies have found that commuters in Austin can spend up to 83 hours per year stuck in traffic, particularly when using the I-35 highway. So expect delays and the possibility of having to use toll roads and alternative routes to get to where you're going.

There's also parking to contend with. Not only can it be tricky to find parking in certain areas of the city, but it can also be expensive too. The average cost of parking in the city is \$2.00 (£1.67) per hour, which tends to increase to \$3.00 (£2.50) per hour after the third hour. You can find a handy [parking map](#) by the City of Austin which highlights parking areas throughout the city, which can be useful when you're new in town.

Public Transport \ \

Don't worry if you're not a driver, there are still plenty of ways to get around thanks to the countless public transport options that are available throughout the city. You can catch a ride by bus or train with Capital Metro, Austin's public transit to practically anywhere in the city. For an unlimited, 30-day commuter CapMetro pass, you can expect to pay around **\$96 (£79)**.

Alternatively, there's also the option of grabbing a taxi. The cost of your journey will be dependent on factors such as traffic conditions and distance, but generally taxis will charge a base fare of around **\$2.20 (£1.78)** and then an additional **\$0.20 (£0.16)** for every 1/11 mile after that.

If your home is only a short distance away from work, there's also the option of cycling. As well as being fun and environmentally friendly, you also don't necessarily need to own your own bike. You can download the [Austin B-cycle](#) app to rent a bike for 24-hours from one of the city's many on-demand bike stations.

Top attractions

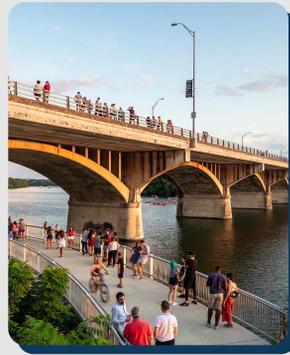


If you've never been to Austin before, here is a list of our favourite attractions that you absolutely must visit to get a real feel for this amazing city:



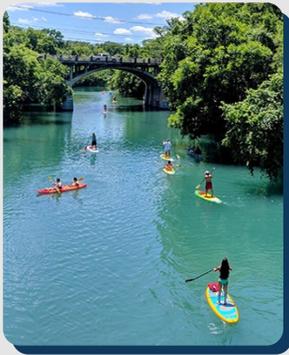
The State Capitol & Visitors Centre \\

Protected as a National Historic Landmark, The State Capitol is a fantastic place to visit if you're a history buff. With 22 acres of grounds, interesting exhibits on the history of Austin and numerous monuments, it makes for an intriguing yet fun day out.



Congress Avenue Bridge \\

Believe it or not, Austin is home to the world's largest urban bat colony and one of the most unique things to do in the city is watching the hundreds of Mexican free-tailed bats that roost under the bridge take flight each evening.



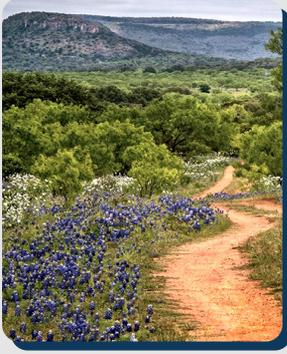
Lady Bird Lake \\

One of the city's top outdoor recreational areas, Lady Bird Lake is a must. It covers a whopping 416 acres and offers scenic hike and bike trails, canoeing and kayaking and river cruises. It's the perfect place to get some peace away from the hustle and bustle of the city.



Mexic-Arte Museum \\

Representing one of the city's largest populations, the Mexic-Arte Museum celebrates Mexican and Latin American culture through a variety of modern and contemporary art exhibits.



Texas Hill Country \\

Just west of the city is Texas Hill Country, a geographical region that sits on the Edwards Plateau. With plenty of attractions such as Hamilton Pool, Enchanted Rock, Pedernales Falls and Inner Space Cavern, this stunning natural area will truly take your breath away.



Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium \\

Located at the University of Texas in Austin and home to the Longhorns football team since 1924, watching a game here is a rite of passage for locals and visitors alike.



Greetings from Austin mural \\

You can't call yourself a true Austinite until you've had a selfie in front of the iconic Greetings from Austin mural. This colorful, wall-sized painting of a retro postcard is located on 1720 S 1st St and makes for a fun way to celebrate your move to Austin.



The Broken Spoke \\

If you love live music, you must see a show at the iconic Broken Spoke. Open since 1964, this historic honky-tonk has held performances by country legends like Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson and regularly hosts live music and dancing events.

Culture shocks



When moving to the US, there are a few general things that are specific to American culture that you might not be used to:

Tipping



Tipping **15-20%** of your total bill in bars, restaurants, and taxis is customary and expected in America, so make sure you don't forget to do so.

Jaywalking



Crossing the road wherever you want is illegal in the US, and you can end up with a fine of **up to \$250** if caught by the police.

Sales Tax



While the price tag of an item may say one thing, these prices don't generally include tax, like they would in the UK. So don't be shocked if the price of an item is higher once you take it to the checkout.

Holidays \ \

Americans mostly acknowledge the same holidays that we have in the UK, like New Year's and Christmas Day. Though, there are some American specific holidays you should be aware of, such as:



Independence Day

The Fourth of July is a federal holiday that commemorates the US declaring its independence from the UK. It's associated with fireworks and parades.



Thanksgiving

The 4th Thursday of November is a family holiday, with origins as a harvest festival. It's usually celebrated with a feast of turkey, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The third Monday of January is a federal holiday to commemorate the life and work of Dr. King, who was a prominent leader in the American civil rights movement.



Memorial Day

The last Monday in May is a federal holiday, dedicated to remembering military personnel who have lost their lives whilst serving in the United States Armed Forces.