

## Top of the Charts

Austin continues to gain favorability as one of the nation's top travel destinations. But don't take our word for it – check out what leading publications and research firms are saying:

- Forbes.com names Austin among America's Best Cities for the Outdoors due to the mix of mild weather, plentiful park land and assortment of outdoor activities. (February 2009)
- Austin named one of the Top 10 Budget Travel Destinations for 2009 by *Budget Travel Magazine*. (January 2009)
- Yahoo.com ranks Austin among the Top 10 Hot Spots of 2009. (November 2008)
- Austin ranks #5 on MSN.com's list of the nation's best tech cities, "where tech titans and younger geeks do business." (November 2008)
- Forbes.com names Austin best city for the value due to affordable housing and promising prospects for job growth in coming years. (October 2008)
- Austin is the city's #1 place to get the "best bang for your buck," according to *Forbes* magazine. (October 2008)
- *Runner's World* ranks the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon at #1 on the magazine's inaugural list of the "Top 10 Greenest Races," lauding the race for implementation of reduced trash, increased recycling, natural cleaning products, composting and use of solar power. (October 2008)
- *Sporting News* places Austin among the top sporting cities in the nation due to the University of Texas at Austin's Longhorn basketball and football teams. (October 2008)
- TripAdvisor.com lists Austin among the top 10 underrated destinations in the nation due to the abundance of attractions and activities offered all year. (September 2008)
- Austin named as one of the top trail cities in the United States by *Trail Runner* magazine. (September 2008)
- *Hispanic* magazine ranks Austin among the top ten cities in the nation for Hispanics to live and work. (August 2008)
- Live Oak Brewery, located in downtown Austin, is the creator of Live Oak HefeWeizen Beer, named one of the top 25 brews on the planet by BeerAdvocate.com. (July 2008)
- Austin named the "Traveler's Choice 2008 Award Winner" by TripAdvisor.com because of the city's steady growth, abundance of outdoor activities and ability to maintain its mellow, small-town appeal. (July 2008)
- Austin listed as one of the top 10 best places to live in the U.S. by Msnbc.com due to its strong economy and natural beauty. (June 2008)
- *New York Times* names the Texas Hill Country and Austin among its top 31 places to visit for a summer vacation. (June 2008)

- Austin listed among the top 10 cities in which to live, work and play by Kiplinger's Personal Finance due to its strong economy, growing population and natural beauty. (July 2008)
- *Esquire Magazine* listed Austin's Deep Eddy Cabaret the second best bar in the country as part of its list of Best Bars in America. Five other Austin bars made the list. (May 2008)
- Austin listed in the top 10 of the nation's "greenest" retirement destinations by U.S. News and World and listed as an ideal place to raise grandchildren. (May 2008)
- *Forbes Magazine* named Austin number three city on a list of "recession-proof" cities due to its strong housing market, low unemployment rates and growth in agriculture, energy and manufacturing. (May 2008)
- *U.S. News & Report* names Austin among the "10 Greenest Places to Retire" due to the balanced mix of wilderness preserves and landscaped parks. (April 2008)
- Austin listed as the #1 Memorial Day Getaway by ShermansTravel.com (April 2008)
- Trip Advisor's Travelers' Choice lists Austin among its favorite destinations in The United States. (April 2008)
- Oilcan Harry's, in Austin's hip Warehouse District, was named as one of the world's 50 best gay bars by *Out* magazine. (April 2008)
- *Animal Fair* magazine names Austin's Driskill Hotel as the top animal-friendly hotel in the country for offering comfy pet beds and gourmet pet treats. (April 2008)
- Orbitz.com lists Austin as one of the country's top six movie landmark destinations. (March 2008)
- *Popular Science* names Austin as one of the top 10 green cities in the U.S. (February 2008)
- *Newsweek* names Austin as among the top 10 "Hot New Tech Cities" because of the city's surge of High-Tech Innovation. (January 2008)
- According to *MovieMaker* magazine, Austin is the #1 city in America to live and make movies, due to its industry infrastructure and "film friendly" attitude. (January 2008)
- The readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* name Lake Austin Spa Resort as the #1 destination spa in the country in the annual readers' poll. (January 2008)
- Forbes.com ranked Austin as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best city for jobs in America for 2008. (January 2008)

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