

## "Best Free Sites in Austin"

Created by: Cityseeker

 9 Locations Bookmarked

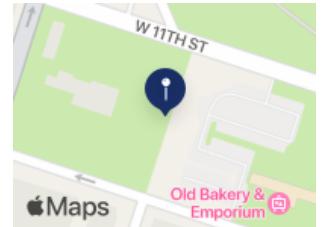


 by Larry D. Moore 

### Governor's Mansion

"Historical Houses in Texas"

The Governor's Mansion is one of the most significant landmarks in Austin. It was built in the mid 19th Century, giving it a historical status. The mansion is accentuated with elegant furnishings such as Sam Houston's bed, antiques, famous paintings and more. The Governor's Mansion was built using bricks and wood, thus giving a timeless touch to it. There are regular guided tours conducted here, although reservations are a must.



 +1 512 474 9960

 [www.txfgm.org/](http://www.txfgm.org/)

 [admin@txfgm.org](mailto:admin@txfgm.org)

 1010 Colorado Street, Austin TX

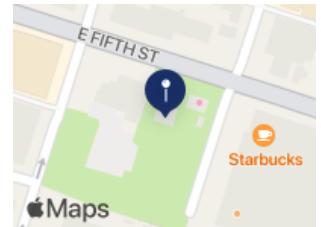


 by John Lightle 

### William Sidney Porter House

"Visit the 1890s Home of O. Henry"

Short story writer William Sydney Porter, whose pen name was O. Henry, lived in this home for three years while he spent time in Austin. It was constructed in 1891 and is filled with rare books, O. Henry's writing desk, original furniture, photographs, personal belongings and the chairs that brought The Gift of the Magi to life. Enjoy a guided tour and learn about the history of this home and its famous occupant. The house has been moved twice since from its original location at 308 East Fourth Street. It now features a gift shop with books, videotapes and more. The museum offers writing clubs for Austin children and sponsors many local events such as the Victorian Christmas celebration and the "O. Henry Pun-Off." Admission is free, but donations are welcome.



 +1 512 472 1903

 [www.austintexas.gov/department/o-henry-museum](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/o-henry-museum)

 409 East 5th Street, Austin TX

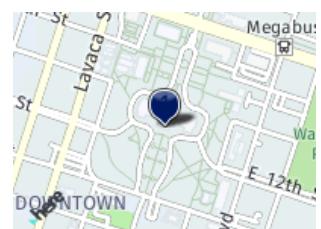


 by LoneStarMike 

### Texas State Capitol

"The Heart of Texas"

A famous slogan states that everything is bigger in Texas, and if one views its capitol building, the age-old phrase rings true. Standing a stately 309 feet (94 meters) and modeled after the United States Capitol in Washington D.C., the Texas State Capitol owns the distinction of being the nation's tallest capitol building. Designed by architect Elijah E. Myers and constructed using lustrous red granite, the capitol took more than seven years to complete. It was finished in the year 1888 at a total cost of more than three million dollars, an extravagant price even by today's standards. The perfectly landscaped grounds reflect the languid pace of life under the central Texan sun, inviting passers-by for a quiet stroll or a lazy day under a tree.



 +1 512 463 0063

 [tspb.texas.gov/prop/tc/tc/capitol.html](http://tspb.texas.gov/prop/tc/tc/capitol.html)

 1100 Congress Street, Austin TX

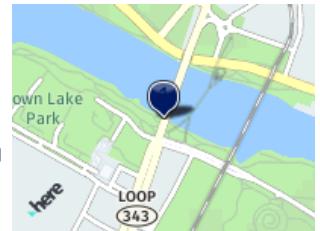


by Brandon Turner

## Barton Creek Greenbelt

### "A Natural Wonderland"

This greenbelt winds through Central and South Austin along the picturesque Barton Creek, featuring beautiful hiking and bike trails as well as many choice swimming holes. The surroundings have been left to flourish in their natural manner, featuring great limestone cliffs, shallow lagoons, and dense forests. One of the more popular areas is at the far north end of the park, called the Scottish Woods Trails. It is a rocky path leading to a gorgeous private swimming hole at the base of a small waterfall. Barton Creek Greenbelt runs west and north from Zilker Park for nearly eight miles (12.8 kilometers).



+1 512 499 6700

3755 South Capital of Texas Highway B, Austin TX

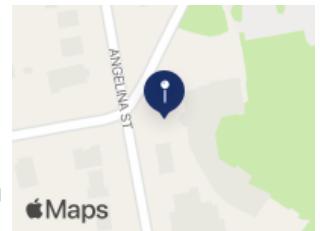


by David E Hollingsworth

## George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center

### "African-American Culture Museum"

As the first neighborhood museum in the state dedicated to African-American history and culture, this 1926 structure houses several insightful displays and exhibits. The center was once Austin's main library and received a Texas State Historical Marker in 1976. The museum is named in honor of Dr. George Washington Carver, a renowned botanist and inventor. The museum features several impactful exhibits, the most notable among which is the permanent Juneteenth Exhibit. It also features changing exhibits of black history and culture in Austin and Travis County.



+1 512 974 4926

[www.austintexas.gov/department/george-washington-carver-museum-cultural-and-genealogy-center](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/george-washington-carver-museum-cultural-and-genealogy-center)

[carver.museum@austintexas.gov](mailto:carver.museum@austintexas.gov)

1165 Angelina Street, Austin TX

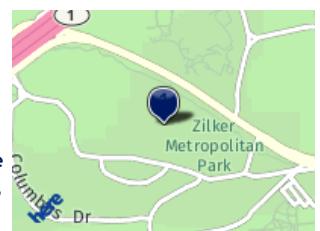


by Mwyzykowski0821

## Zilker Metropolitan Park

### "Wonderful Public Park"

Patrons will enjoy a huge variety of activities at Zilker Park. You can check out the hike and bike trails, picnic facilities, Zilker Botanical Garden, canoe rentals, soccer fields, sand volleyball courts, riverboat rides on Town Lake, concerts, festivals and even a miniature train. The wide-open stretches of grass in this park are just minutes from the downtown area. There is plenty of room and various diversions for the kids, so you can get a suntan, take long walks by the river or just curl up with a book down by the river.



+1 512 974 6700

[austintexas.gov/department/zilker-metropolitan-park](http://austintexas.gov/department/zilker-metropolitan-park)

2100 Barton Springs Road, Austin TX

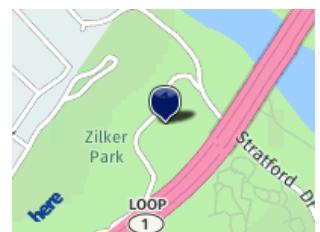


by Larry D. Moore

## Austin Nature and Science Center

### "Wildlife Retreat"

Spend a day with the kids that is both fun and educational — head over to the western edge of Zilker Park and take in the fantastic wildlife at the Nature Center. Albino raccoons, barn owls, snakes and other furry creatures roam about the petting zoo. While escaping the urban life, wander down winding trails and past the beautiful pond. Even though this park is in the middle of the city, nature permeates the surroundings, making every adult feel like a kid again. The center also offers interesting programs for visitors of all ages.



+1 512 974 3888

[www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-science-center](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-science-center)

[ansc@austintexas.gov](mailto:ansc@austintexas.gov)

2389 Stratford Drive, Zilker Park, Austin TX



by Phillip Barnhart

## Elisabet Ney Museum

### "Home of Noted Sculptress"

The former home and studio of German sculptress Elisabet Ney is open to the public for exploration. This home was one of the first buildings erected in the Hyde Park neighborhood, which was developed as a suburb in 1892 by Monroe Martin Shippe. Visitors flock to this museum to view nearly 50 busts and statues of Texas heroes, as well as Europeans she sculpted as a young artist. Her tools and several personal items are also on display. Admission is free.



+1 512 458 2255



[www.austintexas.gov/department/elisabet-ney-museum](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/elisabet-ney-museum)



304 East 44th Street, Austin TX

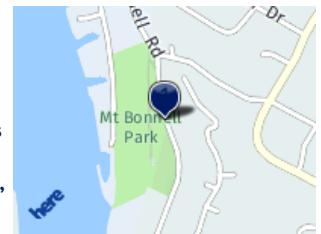


by Leaflet

## Mount Bonnell

### "Incredible Lake Views"

Set along the eastern banks of the restful Colorado River, Mount Bonnell's verdant headlands dominate Austin's western topography. Also known as Covert Park, the location is a stunning progression of luxuriant grasslands, scenic waterfronts, peaceful picnic spots and breathtaking vista points. Inducted into the National Register of Historic Places in the year 2015, the lands are home to Mount Bonnell's Indian Trail, one of the cornerstones of the American War of Independence. Legend has it that the final 99 steps to the mount's top hold enchanting qualities; if a couple climbs the mount once, they fall in love, twice, they become engaged, and three times, they are destined to be married.



+1 512 974 6700



[mountbonnell.com/](http://mountbonnell.com/)



3800 Mount Bonnell Drive, Austin TX

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