

A brief History of Austin Texas

Austin Texas, originally known as the village of Waterloo, was founded in 1837 by a large bunch of Anglo-Americans who wished to settle near central Texas. Just a few years later, in 1839, the settlement became known as Austin, named after Stephen F. Austin. A year after the annexation of Texas to the United States the town became the official capitol of the state. From this time the town grew and grew and is now one of the largest cities in the United States.



Driving instructions from the nearest major airport

The most convenient airport to fly into if you headed to Austin would be the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. It is about 15 minutes from the heart of Austin. The best place to head to from the airport would probably be downtown Austin, where the music industry of Austin became famous. Because of the awful traffic during music festivals and events, the best approach would be to find one of the many shuttle busses leaving from the airport and catch a ride to the downtown area.

Who was the president during the founding of Austin?

- When Austin was founded, Texas had not yet been annexed to the United States. The president of the Republic of Texas was Sam Houston. The city's economy was suffering because of the war that won their independence, and Sam Houston tried to reach out once again to the U.S. to be annexed. President John Tyler was all for the idea, and saw it through right before he gave up office to James K Polk. The decision was not popular due to the fact that Texas would enter the union a slave state, but the transition took place all the same.

Oldest/ Largest Business.

Though it is not the oldest business in all of Austin, the Gruene Hall goes perfectly along with Austin's famous theme for live music and entertainment. Gruene Hall is a dance hall that was built in 1878, and has become popular both with locals and visitors. It has been known for its quality live music that can almost always be found playing.



Austin's City Government.

- Austin is governed by the Council-Manager form of city government. It has been running in this fashion since 1924. As of now, it consists of six council members and a mayor. They serve three year staggered terms, and can serve no more than three consecutive terms, unless a petition is presented.

Historic attractions in the area/ Festivals and events.

If you are looking for a great historical sight to visit, the Capitol building won't disappoint. It was finished in 1888, and is a beautiful representation of the renaissance style of architecture. As for festivals, there can be as many as twenty music festivals a year. The most popular of these would probably be Austin City Limits, which takes place in October. To find more information and to get tickets, you can go to www.austintexas.org/visit/music-scene/festivals/



Where can we stay if we visit Austin?

The Driskill Hotel is an upscale hotel that was built in 1886. It is considered a historic Texas landmark, and is well known for its Texan hospitality. It is located in downtown Austin near most of the music festivals and other landmarks, which makes it a very convenient and comfortable place to stay.

Website: www.driskillhotel.com



Why would I want to visit this historic town?

The last time I visited Austin my family was seeing friends, but we were not there for a long amount of time, and I was very young so I don't remember that much of our trip. I would like to go back not only to visit the sights I saw but don't remember, but to experience all the things I missed out on, such as going to a festival or walking around the downtown area.



Austin, Texas- U.S.
History II, Section II,
AEB

**Links that you may
want to visit:**

- www.austintexas.gov
- www.austintexas.org