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GUIDE AUSTIN

GO

Austin's weather is best from October through April, though nights can be cold in January and February. Temperatures soar into the nineties in the summer months. Many airlines, including American and JetBlue, offer nonstop flights from major U.S. cities.

STAY

GREAT VALUE **Driskill Hotel** 604 Brazos St.; 800/252-9367 or 512/474-5911; driskillhotel.com; doubles from \$169.

Four Seasons Hotel Austin 98 San Jacinto Blvd.; 800/332-3342 or 512/478-4500; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$295.

Hotel Saint Cecilia Hotelier Liz Lambert's newest property. Pearl Jam and Dave Matthews were recent guests. 112 Academy Dr.; 512/852-2400; hotelsaintcecilia.com; doubles from \$275.

GREAT VALUE **Hotel San José** 1316 S. Congress Ave.; 800/574-8897 or 512/852-2350; sanjosehotel.com; doubles from \$160.

EAT

Bess Bistro on Pecan 500 W. Sixth St.; 512/477-2377; *prix fixe dinner for two \$40.*

Blue Star Cafeteria A terrific brunch spot with 1950s-inspired interiors. 4800 Burnet Rd.; 512/454-7827; brunch for two \$30.

Counter Café Stop by for grilled pimento cheese sandwiches, cult-favorite Coca-Cola from Mexico, and a stellar burger topped with crumbly cheddar. 626 N. Lamar Blvd.; 512/708-8800; lunch for two \$18.

El Borrego de Oro #2 390 S. Congress Ave.; 866/609-1572 or 512/383-0031; dinner for two \$27.

Hoover's Cooking 2002 Manor Rd.; 512/479-5006; dinner for two \$38.

Jo's 1300 S. Congress Ave.; 512/444-3800; breakfast for two \$12.

La Condesa Visit for chef Rene Ortiz's contemporary Mexican cuisine. 4004 W. Second St.; 512/499-0300; dinner for two \$83.

Lamberts Downtown

Barbecue 401 W. Second St.; 512/494-1500; dinner for two \$62.

Walton's Fancy & Staple 609 W. Sixth St.; 512/542-3380.

Wink 1014 N. Lamar Blvd.; 512/482-8868; dinner for two \$100.

LISTEN

Austin City Limits Music Festival Oct. 8-10; acifestival.com.

Broken Spoke Catch musician and local legend Jesse Dayton on Thursday nights. 3201 S. Lamar; 512/442-6189; brokenspokeaustintx.com.

Continental Club 1315 S. Congress Ave.; 512/441-2444; continentalclub.com.

Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon 5434 Burnet Rd.; 512/458-1813; ginnyslittlesaloon.com.

Longbranch Inn 1133 E. 11th St.; 512/472-5477.

South by SouthWest Music & Media Conference March 12-21; 512/467-7979; sxsw.com.

SEE AND DO

Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria An Art Deco house set on 12 waterfront acres, featuring a rotating collection. 3809 W. 35th St.; 512/458-8191; amoa.org.

Barton Springs Pool Zilker Park's three-acre pool, created from natural freshwater springs, is a favorite local hangout. 2101 Barton Springs Rd.

Hamilton Pool 512/854-7275; texasoutside.com/hamiltonpool.htm.

Mexic-Arte Museum 419 Congress Ave.; 512/480-9373; mexic-artemuseum.org.

Town Lake Kayaking 2418 Stratford Dr.; 512/459-0999; rowingdock.com.

—STIRLING KELSO

T+L BLOG BONUS

The Lee brothers dish on their new cookbook, *Simple Fresh Southern*, at TravelandLeisure.com/blogs/carry-on—and share their favorite Austin-inspired recipe: migas with poblanos, collard greens, and chorizo.