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Photo courtesy Omni Barton Creek.

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

The Essential Austin Staycation Guide

Fifteen places to unwind, reconnect, and get away right here in Central Texas.

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The dog days of summer are officially upon us, ushering in the inevitable ennui and crankiness that accompany months of relentless heat. But August is also the best time of year to schedule a relaxing respite before the busy fall season commences. We've compiled a list of both new and tried-and-true spots for a restorative overnight stay in Central Texas. From luxury safari-style tents and spa resorts to an inn inspired by a classic horror movie, here are more than a dozen places to get away without going too far out of town.



Photo courtesy Camp Fimfo.

Camp Fimfo

Locations: New Braunfels and Waco

The Scoop: If you loved summer camp as a child, you'll have a blast at [Camp Fimfo](#). Boasting a new second location in Waco as well as its original spot on the Guadalupe River, this resort is all about activity, whether it's showing off your putting skills with a game of mini golf, barreling down its Schlitterbahn-esque slides, playing pickleball, or making old-school arts and crafts.

Perfect For: Families and the young at heart



Photo courtesy Flophouze Shipping Container Hotel.

Flophouze

Location: Round Top

The Scoop: At this [funky-cool getaway](#), you can spend the night in one of six shipping containers that are retrofitted with architectural salvage (think countertops made with old bowling alley lanes and kitchen cabinet bases from a Brooklyn laboratory). A great place to enjoy the simple pleasures, Flophouze is an ideal spot for stargazing or roasting marshmallows at your own private fire pit.

Perfect For: Those who want to unplug—or, alternately, aspiring influencers: Its eye-catching pool-hot tub combo has a clear front that looks incredible in social media photos.



Photo courtesy Commodore Perry.

Commodore Perry Estate

Location: North Central Austin

The Scoop: The height of luxury, this [10-acre urban oasis](#) by Auberge Resorts features lush English gardens, an organic farm, and an [art deco-inspired pool](#) complete with 40 chaise lounges. Admire the ornate furnishings curated by celebrity designer Ken Fulk, and nab a reservation well in advance to dine at on-site Lutie's Garden Restaurant, helmed by husband-and-wife duo Bradley Nicholson and Susana Querejazu (Odd Duck, Barley Swine).

Perfect For: Bon vivants



Photo by @texas.traveler (Amanda Spencer).

The Yurtopian

Locations: Wimberley and Dripping Springs

The Scoop: Privacy is the name of the game at this [stylish hideout](#) tucked away in the woods. The resort features ornate yurts with plushy king-size beds, private plunge pools that can be heated as hot tubs, and incredible views of the sunset from its wooden balconies.

Perfect For: Couples. The romantic property has an adults-only and pet-free policy.



Photo by Will Graham Photography.

Walden Retreats

Location: Johnson City

The Scoop: Pack a cooler and head to the Pedernales! This [recently renovated property](#) features seven suites that epitomize the glam part of glamping. (Think Casper king-size beds, clawfoot tubs, ample kitchen space, and en-suite bathrooms.) When you go, be sure to bring swimsuits and closed-toed shoes so you can hike down to the river for a quick dip or canoe adventure.

Perfect For: Anyone! This space suits dynamic duos, families, or friends alike.



Photo courtesy Lake Austin Spa Resort.

Lake Austin Spa Resort

Location: West Austin

The Scoop: There is perhaps no more calming place in the city than [Lake Austin Spa Resort](#). This stunning, award-winning property has an array of soothing activities, from forest bathing to yoga on the water to guided fishing tours. Enjoy healthy fare, lounge by the pools, and book spa treatments that range from simple pedicures to [once-in-a-lifetime indulgences](#).

Perfect For: Solo trips and girlfriend getaways



Photo courtesy Getaway Hill Country.

Getaway Hill Country

Location: Wimberley

The Scoop: Ready to unplug? Take a cue from Thoreau and find respite in the woods. These [40 diminutive dwellings](#) in Wimberley feature either one queen-size bed or two (in a bunk bed-style formation), plus a kitchenette and a small shower. Go for a hike, read a book, build a fire, and don't miss the incredible night sky while you experience the blissful sound of silence.

Perfect For: Anyone in need of a digital detox



Photo by Sara Marie D'Eugenio.

The Gas Station

Location: Bastrop

The Scoop: Slasher fans, rejoice: This [unique property](#) served as the filming location of the gas station featured in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and now features four quaint cabins equipped with eerie red walls. Step inside “We Slaughter Barbecue” to find a trove of movie posters, dolls, masks, and costumes from horror movies. While here, snap a pic at the macabre photo op inspired by the film, which features a bloody bucket sitting underneath meat hooks. Spooky!

Perfect For: Cinephiles



Photo by Chase Daniel.

Thompson Austin

Location: Downtown Austin

The Scoop: An ideal spot for a [downtown stay](#), this posh hotel boasts an Instagram-worthy terrace with a living green wall and a pool flanked with cozy cabanas and daybeds. Order the boiled peanut hummus at [Wax Myrtle's](#) before catching a show at Antone's, which is mere steps away from the hotel.

Perfect For: Foodies. Don't miss The Diner Bar, one of its on-site restaurants helmed by [chef Mashama Bailey](#), who was won a James Beard Award for Outstanding Chef this year.



Photo courtesy the Retreat on the Hill.

The Retreat on the Hill

Location: Horseshoe Bay

The Scoop: You might recognize this [hilltop destination](#) from TikTok, as its stellar main attraction has garnered plenty of online buzz. In addition to the Stardome Suite—a see-through bubble tent with a king-size bed—The Retreat boasts several safari-style tents as well as tepees and a suite made entirely of shipping containers. Pro tip: Book one of the units that has a private bathtub on the deck, so you can soak under the stars.

Perfect For: A romantic getaway



Photo courtesy of ARRIVE by Palisociety.

ARRIVE Austin

Location: East Austin

The Scoop: No need for an Uber this time—after a fun night exploring the bars on East Sixth Street, you can hang your hat at [ARRIVE](#)'s chic digs instead. Located within steps of Whisler's, Yellow Jacket Social Club, the Grackle, and Zilker Brewing, this boutique hotel allures guests with plushy amenities like Brooklinen bedding and in-room Marshall Bluetooth speakers. Be sure to make dinner reservations at on-site Vixen's Wedding, which offers a seasonal prix fixe menu (think Spanish mackerel, grilled lamb chop, and pumpkin and cardamom mousse).

Perfect For: Martini lovers. The hotel's rooftop joint, Gin Bar, has more than 60 varieties of the spirit from around the world.



Photo by Miraval Austin.

Miraval Austin

Location: West Austin

The Scoop: Although it features breathtaking views of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and Lake Travis below it, [Miraval](#) is more than just a beautiful space. The wellness resort prioritizes the mind-body-spirit connection with classes like Unlocking Your Chakra Gateway, Floating Meditation, and Meet Your Spirit Guide. Of course, for guests who simply want to luxuriate, there are plenty of places to do so, like its full-service spa and two outdoor pools. *Ahhh.*

Perfect For: Solo trips, couples, and girlfriend getaways



Photo courtesy Omni Barton Creek.

Omni Barton Creek

Location: West Austin

The Scoop: You won't have any problem getting your daily steps in at this whopping 4,000-square-foot attraction, which received a \$150 million renovation in 2019. One of those comprehensive resorts where you can stay all weekend without ever having to get in your car, [Omni Barton Creek](#) boasts four championship-style golf courses, 10 pro tennis courts, three heated pools, and a mini golf area, plus plenty of on-site bars and restaurants to whet your appetite.

Perfect For: Sporty types



Photo by Ayuma Photography.

Colton House

Location: South Austin

The Scoop: Don't let its South Congress address fool you: [This stylish boutique hotel](#) is a great locale to escape the hustle and bustle of the city for a night. Impeccably decorated and awash with jewel tones, Colton House features beautiful library and lounge spaces in which guests can read or sip a craft cocktail from on-site Simona's. Cool off with a quick dip in the pool before retiring to one of the suites, which range from studios to three bedrooms.

Perfect For: Book lovers and introverts



Photo by Cassandra Klepac.

The Ranch House at Camp Hideaway

Location: Fredericksburg

The Scoop: Sometimes the best thing you can do to lift your spirits is assemble your whole crew for a veritable slumber party. At the [Ranch House at Camp Hideaway](#), friends can hang out and stay the night at a giant home with four bedrooms that each have their own bathroom. The luxe home features its own pool, putting green, fire pit, and hot tub, so you'll never run out of diversions or laughs.

Perfect For: A big, fun group of friends