

## Destination Facts

### 1. Taxes

- a. How much is the total cumulative hotel tax?
  - i. 15%
- b. How much is the F&B tax?
  - i. 8.25%
- c. How much is the average F&B gratuity?
  - i. 20%

### 2. Airport

- a. How many miles from the airport to downtown?
  - i. 8 miles
- b. Is there public transportation, such as a bus or subway available?
  - i. Yes, the "Airport Flyer"- Capital Metro
- c. How much does the public transportation cost?
  - i. \$1
- d. What is the shuttle bus fare from the airport to downtown?
  - i. \$13
- e. What is the taxi fare from airport to downtown?
  - i. \$25
- f. How many daily flights into the airport?
  - i. 172- August, 2012
- g. How many daily flights out of airport?
  - i. 170- August, 2012
- h. Is the airport a hub for any carrier?
  - i. No

## Destination Facts

- i. What are the major carriers serving airport?
  - i. Air Tran, Alaska Air, American, Branson Air Express, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, United, and US Airways.

### 3. Hotels

- a. How many committable hotel rooms downtown on peak night? **Over 6,000 hotel rooms downtown, we can discuss committable needs.**
- b. How many committable hotel rooms downtown on peak within walking distance to convention center? **Over 6,000 hotel rooms downtown, we can discuss committable needs.**
- c. How many headquarter hotel properties?
  - i. **Currently 1- Hilton Austin. Second HQ hotel (JW Marriott) slated to open 2015.**
- d. How many rooms available on peak night at the largest headquarter property
  - i. **Hilton- 600- 700, JW Marriott- 800**
- e. Can you list hotels by rating?? 5 star , 4 star, 3 star?

### 4. Convention Center

- a. How many total gross square feet of exhibit space at Convention Center?
  - i. **246,097 GSF (COLUMN FREE)**
- b. How much of this exhibit space is contiguous?
  - i. **246,097 GSF**

## Destination Facts

- c. How many total gross square feet of meeting space is available at the Convention center?
  - i. 130,000 GSF
- d. How many meeting rooms does the convention center have?
  - i. 54 Meeting Rooms
- e. How big is the largest meeting room?
  - i. 6,625 GSF
- f. How many ballrooms does the convention center have?
  - i. 2 Ballrooms
- g. How big is the largest ballroom?
  - i. 43,300 GSF
- h. When was the last renovation or expansion?
  - i. Major expansion opened 2002. Environmental upgrades to achieve LEED Gold certification completed 2011.
- i. When is a future renovation/expansion scheduled?
  - i. No current renovation/expansion plans beyond routine upgrades and maintenance projects.
- j. Is there free Wi-Fi at the convention center?
  - i. Yes, Gigabit rated convention center
    - i. Yes. The Austin Convention Center offers limited, complimentary wireless internet access throughout the entire facility. We are proud of our gigabit-rated building and that it ranks among the most technologically advanced convention centers in the country.
- k. Is there an exclusive in-house Electrical provider?

## Destination Facts

All utilities services are exclusive to the Austin Convention Center

Department.

l. Is there an exclusive in-house AV provider?

No. Currently, Freeman Audiovisual is the Austin Convention Center's preferred audiovisual company. You are welcome to bring your own audiovisual company; however, some discounts may not apply.

m. Is there an exclusive in-house decorator?

No.

n. Is there an exclusive in house caterer?

Yes. Austin Convention Center Catering Services may be reached directly at (512) 404-4100. More information can be reviewed at [www.austinconventioncentercatering.com](http://www.austinconventioncentercatering.com).

o. Is the convention center a union property?

No. Texas is a right-to work state and we welcome your choice of contractors and vendors. Please note that the services exclusive to the building are utilities, security, alcohol, catering, concessions and paramedic(s).

p. If union property, can you provide estimated pricing list?

q. Here are a list of labor unions with whom planners will be required to work at the convention center:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 5. Off Site Venues

a. How many off site venues within walking distance can host up to 2,000 people? **3**

b. How many off site venues within a ten-minute bus transfer can host up to 2,000 people? **8**

## Destination Facts

- c. How many restaurants are within walking distance of the convention center? **About 60**
- d. Can you list 3-5 local attractions and there whereabouts?

### **Congress Avenue Bridge Bats** *Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge,*

<http://www.videocityguide.com/austin/listings/congress-bridge-bats>

The Congress Avenue Bridge spans Town Lake in downtown Austin and is home to the largest urban bat colony in North America. The colony is estimated at 1.5 million Mexican free-tail bats. Each night from mid-March to November, the bats emerge from under the bridge at dusk to blanket the sky as they head out to forage for food. This event has become one of the most spectacular and unusual tourist attractions in Texas. The most spectacular bat flights are during hot, dry August nights at sunset, when multiple columns of bats emerge. There are several points from which to view the event, and an information kiosk is located on the north bank of the river, just east of the bridge. The Four Seasons Lobby Lounge Bar offers a delicious Batini for you to enjoy as you watch the bats take flight. Free. SEASONAL – MID MARCH THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER.

### **South Congress Avenue**

*Congress Avenue generally between Barton Springs Rd to Elizabeth Street, [www.firstthursday.info](http://www.firstthursday.info)*

The strip of South Congress just below Town Lake sees politicians, hipsters and students come together to visit antique shops, eclectic restaurants and vintage retailers. This has become the essential “hip strip” of the city. Free to wander...

### **Texas State Capitol**

*Congress Ave. and 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 512-463-5495, <http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/SPB/Plan/Tours.htm>*

This sunset red edifice is the largest of America’s 50 statehouses, and stands 14 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol. Tours depart every 15 minutes from the south lobby, generally take around 45 minutes, and are very informative. Free.

### **Whole Foods Market Flagship Store**

## Destination Facts

601 N. Lamar Blvd, 512-476-1206,  
<http://wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/lamar> The world's largest organic grocer was founded in Austin. This 80,000-square-foot "culinary amusement park" and world headquarters store is the largest in the U.S. Shoppers can stop and eat at any of 14 in-store eateries including a raw bar, sushi bar, fresh pasta station, barbecue and taco stand. Free to browse.

### **Blanton Museum of Art**

200 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at Congress Ave. ,

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

6. Largest university-owned art collection in the country; acclaimed collections of contemporary Latin American, Western and Renaissance art. Admission is \$9, free on Thursdays.