

Facility Overview

The Austin Convention Center is located in the heart of the capital of Texas, one of the most affordable cities in America. The convention center has a convenient downtown location, between the shores of Town Lake and historic Sixth Street. It has easy access to I-35 and is a short distance from 5,500 downtown hotel rooms.

The facility's expansion has allowed events to expand their conventions, trade shows and expos. It has also brought new conventions and visitors to Austin and its convention center.

The Building

Constructed of native Texas materials, from rustic limestone to polished granite, the facility's different facades reflect the architectural diversity of an historic and vibrant city. Most pre-function spaces have generous, attractive views of downtown Austin, and the liberal use of windows keeps this facility from getting that "closed in" feeling.

Stretching over six city blocks and 881,400 gross square feet of space, the Center offers 246,097 square feet of column-free exhibit space divisible into five contiguous halls that can accommodate 1,289 10' X 10' booths. The fifth hall offers retractable riser seating for up to 1,500, making it an ideal location for general sessions, sporting events and concerts.

Ballrooms of all sizes are included in this facility's package. The upper level Grand Ballroom on the north side is one of the largest in Texas, with 43,300 square feet and enough space for over 3,000 to dine in style when Ballrooms D-G are used. Ballrooms A-C (south side) can be divided into rooms ranging in size from 3,896 to 23,418 square feet. The Center boasts of 54 meeting rooms and show offices that offer 61,440 square feet and are located on all four levels. They are designed for maximum flexibility and are perfect for just about any size meeting.

High Tech

The Austin Convention Center, a gigabit rated building that offers complimentary wireless Internet access, continues to bring a new standard for high tech capabilities and services in the meeting facility business. It has upped the ante in the technical convention industry by installing a communication infrastructure capable of moving voice, video and data at 1 billion bits a second. Meeting planners and show organizers also appreciate the highly skilled and technically proficient in-house staff. The 24/7 network monitoring system lets the Center take care of the technology while planners focus on their event.

Services

There's more to the Austin Convention Center than the building. From initial planning to the closing of events, clients can count on a level of attention that is unsurpassed. The gracious and professional staff's commitment to serving its customers brings clients back year after year.

The catering and concession management partner, Aramark, offers premier food and beverage preparation and portable concessions. Specialties include local, regional and Southwestern cuisine for meetings of 10 to 5,000.

The 24-hour on-site security is handled by the department.

Parking

The Austin Convention Center has two Parking Garages. A 10-story, 1,000-space garage is located two blocks west of the facility, at 201 East 2nd Street. Entrances are on Brazos and San Jacinto streets. A 5-story, 685-space garage is located at 601 East 5th Street, northeast of the facility at Red River and 4th Street. Its entrance is on 5th Street. Streets within a three block radius of the Center allow for additional 100 spaces of on-street parking. Handicapped parking is located at Trinity and Cesar Chavez Street, with direct access to the Center.

Transportation

Austin is centrally located in the center of the state and is an easy drive from many Texas cities. The Center is just two blocks off of IH 35. Another advantage of traveling to Austin is the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and its passenger-friendly design and festive atmosphere, enhanced by a live music stage. The airport is located just eight miles from downtown and houses 25 gates for travel to and from destinations all over the world.

Austin

In Austin, you can experience the unique atmosphere of a city that celebrates its history and cultural diversity, live music, the outdoors and cutting-edge technology. It offers conventioners 300 days of sunshine a year, fascinating history, excellent hotels, world-class dining, a thriving cultural scene and top-flight golf courses.

The Center has helped launch development in downtown Austin. The area features several new upscale restaurants and hotels, all within walking distance of the facility. There are over 5,500 hotel rooms in the downtown area, including the 31-story, 800-room Hilton Austin located directly across from the facility's north side.

Attendees also enjoy a rich downtown environment with plenty of entertainment, including live music playing at more than 100 venues on any given evening. They're also just steps away from the famous Sixth Street and Warehouse District areas. For a different pace, visitors can enjoy a stroll or a jog along beautiful Lady Bird Lake, which bisects the center of town and is bordered by 10 miles of hike-and-bike trails. Or they can join the crowd congregating on the shores of Lady Bird Lake, just below the Congress Avenue Bridge, to watch as 1.5 million Mexican free-tail bats take flight for the evening.

Austin boasts 13 nationally registered historic districts. Conventioners can enjoy touring the historic sights located downtown, like the Texas State Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center, Governor's Mansion, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin Museum of Art, Mexic-Art Museum and O. Henry Museum. Also close by are the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, located in the University of Texas, America's largest college campus, Lady Bird Johnson National Wildflower Center, Zilker Botanical Gardens, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum and many more museums.

Updated January 2010

