

WESTJETMAGAZINE

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50 REASONS TO TRAVEL THIS YEAR

CLOSE-UP ON

East Austin, Texas

Located near downtown, this area has transformed from a working-class neighbourhood into a local hot spot that begs to be explored. Past and present mixes along its streets, with museums next to craft breweries, and a nearly 150-year-old university set alongside modern music venues.



INDULGE Tucked away in the Quickie Pickie restaurant and grocery store, **la Barbecue** serves mouth-watering Central Texas-style smoked brisket, beef and pork ribs, turkey and sausage from its custom-built smoker. Hailing from the famous Mueller family, owner LeAnn Mueller puts a salty and savoury spin on her meats, which are sourced from a local ranch that raises grass-fed, hormone-free cattle. (labarbecue.com)

DRINK Dog- and kid-friendly, **Lazarus Brewing Co.** thrives on East Sixth Street by pouring English, American, French, Belgian and German beers and craft brews. Seven days a week, it serves pints of Prodigal Pils and Despereaux, plus Mexican street food favourites, including tacos, and house-roasted coffee at its espresso bar. (lazarusbrewing.com)

GROOVE Live music—both indoors and out—at the **Historic Scoot Inn** takes place rain or shine. From Wednesdays to Saturdays, musicians performing a wide range of genres rock-out on stage. Established in 1871, the bar at the Scoot Inn is also the oldest in Central Texas and slings one-of-a-kind cocktails. (scootinnaustin.com)

LEARN Focused on exhibiting, researching and collecting African-American historical and cultural artifacts, the **George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center** houses galleries, meeting rooms, a theatre, dark-room and dance studio. Walk 10 minutes south from the museum to explore the oldest college in Austin—**Huston-Tillotson University** was founded in 1875 and sits on a 19-acre campus. (austintexas.gov/carvermuseum and htu.edu)

BROWSE Discover a selection of thoughtfully crafted goods such as organic cotton towels, essential oils and alpaca teddy bears at **Take Heart**. Artists with a strong emphasis on Japanese design and minimalism feature in housewares, books, jewelry and children's items. (takeheartshop.com)

SHOP Handmade items inspired by Victorian times, along with vintage 1930s and 1970s clothing and accessories, line the walls of **Charm School Vintage**. Whether you're looking for leather, lace, velvet or silk, this boutique has it all in the form of ethically sourced materials from companies with serious sustainability practices. (charmschoolvintage.com) —Mandy Ellis



Explore

Tour the Tejano Walking Trail and its many Hispanic cultural sites, including a Cesar Chavez statue.



GETTING THERE

Westjet flies to Austin twice a week from Calgary, starting April 30.



Listen

Shuffle through the records at BLK Vinyl for everything from soul to hip-hop.