

Bastrop



BASTROP IS AN ORIGINAL TEXAS TOWN WITH
A FRESH APPROACH TO LIFE.



Bastrop, Texas is a place where big-sky nature, historic charm, and suburban convenience all intersect. Sitting roughly 30-35 minutes southeast of Austin, Bastrop offers residents a quieter pace of life without being disconnected from the amenities and opportunities of a growing metro area. In recent years, Bastrop has seen population growth, new developments, and increasing economic investment — all while retaining its small-town character and scenic surroundings.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Downtown Bastrop is known for its beautiful historic architecture, with more than 130 registered historic sites and plenty of restored 19th- and early 20th-century homes. Between its natural beauty and friendly small-town vibe, Bastrop scores well on many of the metrics people look for in quality of life. The cost of living tends to be lower than major metro areas, traffic is lighter, and there is a strong sense of community. Residents enjoy a mix of outdoor recreation, cultural engagement (arts, music, festivals), historic ambiance, and modern amenities. The city blends the old and the new, you'll find independent shops, local restaurants, and arts venues (like the Bastrop Opera House and the Lost Pines Art League) alongside newer retail centers and big-box stores.

That said, infrastructure (roads, utilities, water), managing development in a way that preserves the environmental character, and balancing affordability continue to be important issues. Bastrop seems to be actively planning and investing in growth (through economic development efforts, parks, mixed-use developments) in order to maintain its strengths while accommodating more people.

PARKS, NATURE & OUTDOOR RECREATION

One of Bastrop's strongest draws is its access to nature. The city is situated within the Lost Pines ecoregion, a unique forested area with loblolly pines, which gives it a lush, woody backdrop compared to much of Central Texas. Bastrop State Park is a major local gem: over 6,600 acres, where people can hike, bike, camp (both primitive and cabin), swim, and enjoy nature. Nearby, McKinney Roughs Nature Park provides river, trail, and equestrian opportunities. Lake Bastrop is also close by, offering boating, fishing, swimming, and lakeside recreation. Within the city, Bastrop manages over 65 acres of public parks, including riverfront parks like Bob Bryant Park and Fisherman's Park, which have docks, ramps, and trails.

EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR EMPLOYERS

The employment landscape in Bastrop is fairly diversified. Public sector roles (city, county, school district) are substantial, and education is a major employer. Bastrop Independent School District is among the largest employers locally. The Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa is also a major private employer, drawing in seasonal and year-round workers in hospitality, recreation, and associated services. Bastrop has also become part of more advanced industry clusters: life sciences, research, and technology appear through developments such as MD Anderson Cancer Center's presence, the regional business and industrial park, and companies like ARQ Genetics and Agilent in the nearby business park. Additionally, the advent of Elon Musk-affiliated businesses (such as The Boring Company, SpaceX facilities, and relocation of X) in or just outside Bastrop is bringing new kinds of jobs and attracting attention.

BASTROP ISD

The Bastrop Independent School District serves more than 13,000 students in Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Red Rock, Rockne and Paige. Nestled along the beautiful Colorado River in the picturesque Lost Pines, we are conveniently situated 30 miles southeast of Austin, 100 miles northeast of San Antonio, and 130 miles west of Houston. Bastrop ISD is one of the largest districts geographically in the State of Texas, at 433 square miles.

Bastrop has four high schools, two comprehensive high schools, a nationally-ranked and award-winning early college high school, and an alternative high school. They also have four middle schools and ten elementary schools (grades pre-K through 5).

In addition, Bastrop ISD operates three state-licensed, four-star-rated Child Development Centers for children aged 6 weeks to 4 years old.

THINGS TO DO

BASTROP STATE PARK

Bastrop State Park is home to the famous loblolly pine trees, or "Lost Pines." Explore a piece of natural history as these trees are thought to have originated during the Ice Age. The park covers nearly 6,000 total acres, so you can also enjoy swimming, canoeing, wildlife viewing, golfing and camping at one of the park's various campsites or historic cabins built in the 1930's.

DOWNTOWN BASTROP

Cozy downtown offers something for everyone. You can window-shop in any number of Bastrop's boutiques and shops before pausing for some much-needed comfort food. Whatever your fancy, you'll be met with Bastrop's famous Texas hospitality wherever you go.

LOST PINES ART CENTER

Lost Pines Art Center is a 12,000-square-foot facility with a gallery in the main building, classrooms and art studios, four renovated silos and a meandering sculpture garden. With free admission seven days a week, this may be Bastrop's best-kept secret.

BASTROP OPERA HOUSE

The historic 1889 Bastrop Opera House offers creative year-round stage performances of vaudeville, melodramas, musicals and comedies. Enjoy a dinner theater, musical, play, or date night at one of their award-winning shows.

DEEP IN THE HEART ART FOUNDRY

Take a tour and gain unique insight to the inner workings of bronze casting. Deep in the Heart Art Foundry occasionally hosts one-of-a-kind night-pour

events where you can watch artists pour liquefied bronze into molds for sculptures.

LAKE BASTROP

Discover the popular 900-acre lake in the heart of Bastrop. From sailing and water skiing to fishing and camping, Lake Bastrop has something great for everyone in the family to enjoy. Just pull up your RV to one of the 32 campsites or 18 cabins and let the fun begin.

COLORADO RIVER

Go kayaking, canoeing, paddle-boarding, fishing or tubing with the local experts.

TEXAS REPTILE ZOO

Designed as an exhibit, as well as an educational and behavioral research facility, the Texas Reptiles Zoo provides a unique insight into reptile species. Visitors can learn about more than 200 reptiles, from tropical to desert species, and maybe catch a feeding or two.

GOLF

Bastrop's stunning natural environment creates a perfect backdrop for a round of golf. With a range of unique golf courses like Hyatt's award-winning Wolf dancer golf course, ColoVista Golf Club and Pine Forest Golf Club, you're in for a one-of-a-kind golfing experience.

BASTROP LIVE MUSIC

No matter what time of year it is you will easily find live music in Bastrop. Songwriters serenaded by firelight at cozy restaurants and bars along the Colorado River and big bands and country singers make for festive foot-stomping events around town.

DINOSAUR PARK

Dinosaur Park shows life-size dinosaur statues with skin and color variations in their natural habitat. As you walk through the trails, you'll spot a full range of these majestic creatures that used to rule the Earth for more than 150 million years.

ZIP LOST PINES

Enjoy breathtaking views and local wildlife as you soar over pine forests and canyons. Zip Lost Pines is home to the longest side-by-side zip line tour in Texas and features six dual zip lines, three suspension bridges, and access to McKinney Roughs Nature Park.

HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES

Adjacent to the 1,100-acre McKinney Roughs Nature Park, this resort offers activities that capture the character of the area. Meet Texas longhorns, pigs and goats, ride a tractor, enjoy shady trails, sunny pools, a luxurious spa, nightly s'mores, great dining and more.