

GETTING AROUND AUSTIN

FRIENDS OF NIGERIA ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2019

Meeting and Accommodations:

Friends of Nigeria will hold its annual meeting on June 20, 2019, in Austin, Texas. Our gathering will be held a day before the annual Peace Corps Connect meeting of the National Peace Corps Association. We have selected the **Holiday Inn Austin Midtown** as the venue. Call (512) 451-5757 to call the hotel directly. Ask for the “Friends of Nigeria” or FON rate. It should be \$99 (plus tax) for a double room, breakfast included. To get the group rate, you have to sign up before May 29th.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/austin/ausmf/hoteldetail>

The National Peace Corps Association, Peace Corps Connect 2019

The University of Texas (UT) at Austin has made its dormitories available at a discounted rate for the 2019 Peace Corps Connect Conference. The conference venue, the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center at UT, is a short walk from the dormitories and there are ample dining options available in the dorms as well. Find further information at:

<https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/events/peace-corps-connect-conference>

Transportation:

Driving in Austin can be a challenge, especially if you are not familiar with the area. Better to use Uber or a taxi, although the bus line that runs between the Holiday Inn Midtown and the UT Alumni Center will be convenient for those who also attend the NPCA conference. Use bus line 7 to get from near the hotel to the Peace Corps Connect venue.

Ground transportation at the airport:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/ground-transportation#bus>

Bus: From the airport, take Route 20N to Riverside/Grove, transfer to Route 350 northbound, and get off at the Airport/Koenig stop, which is 0.3 miles from the Holiday Inn. Two fares @ \$1.25, exact fare required. 7-day pass for \$11.25 (<https://capmetro.org/fares>)

Car Rental: You can rent a car at the airport, or take a taxi or bus to the hotel, and arrange a rental with Enterprise or Avis, which are about 5 minutes by taxi from the hotel.

<https://www.avis.com/en/locations/us/tx/austin/ad6>

<https://www.enterprise.com/en/car-rental/locations/us/tx/austin-airport-n-lamar-6540.html?mcid=yext:245709>

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Dining Options:

African:

- African Market/Restaurant (4.5 miles NE of Holiday Inn):
<https://african-market-nigerian-restaurant.business.site/>
- Wasota Food truck (Wasota Vegan Paradise): at 2410 E Seventh St.

Near the hotel:

Habesha Ethiopian Restaurant – 10 minute walk
Vivo Tex Mex – 4 minute walk
Lima Criolla, Peruvian – 6 minute walk
Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (Cajun style seafood) – 12 minute walk
Chosun Gandhi, Korean BBQ – 11 minute walk
Contigo (<https://contigotexas.com/restaurant/>) – 7 minute drive

Mexican/TexMex:

Chuys: three restaurants within a 20 minute drive of the Holiday Inn
<https://www.chuys.com/>

Torchy's Tacos: three within 10 minutes of the Holiday Inn
<https://torchystacos.com/>

El Chilito: two within 10 minutes of Holiday Inn
<http://www.elchilito.com/locations/>

BBQ:

- Rudy's (<https://rudysbbq.com>), 3914 North Lamar
- Poke-jos (<https://pokejos.com>), 1000 East 41st (just west of I-35)
- Franklin (<https://franklinbbq.com/>), 911 East 11th
- Salt Lick BBQ in the town of Driftwood is a 30 minute drive SW of the UT campus. Salt Lick has a stand at the Austin-Bergstrom Airport. (<https://saltlickbbq.com/>)

Food Trucks:

There are many **food truck parks** around Austin. Veracruz, at several locations, features all natural tacos

<https://austin.eater.com/maps/best-food-trucks-austin-trailers-barbecue-tacos>

Other Indulgences:

- Sugar Mama's Bakeshop: <http://www.sugarmamasbakeshop.com/>
- Thunderbird Coffee: <http://thunderbirdcoffee.com/>
- Gour dough's Donuts: <https://gourdoughs.com/airstream-south-first>
- Lick Ice Cream: <http://www.ilikelick.com/>

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- Cherrywood Coffee Shop (<http://cherrywoodcoffeehouse.com/>) – good breakfast options
- Banger’s Sausage House and Beer Garden (<https://www.bangersaustin.com/>)

Nearby Areas of Interest:

Mueller Market District

<http://www.muelleraustin.com/retail/market/>

Airport Boulevard Area, near Holiday Inn Midtown:

https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Restaurants+Airport+Blvd&find_loc=Austin%2C+TX

Central Market (<https://centralmarket.com>), 4001 North Lamar. Austin’s other natural-foods supermarket and café, with free live music most evenings.

Museums Near the University of Texas

- Blanton Museum of Art, on UT campus
- Bullock Texas State History Museum, across street from Blanton Museum of Art
- LBJ Presidential Library
- State Capital Building, near UT campus

Outdoor Art Around Austin

For 30 years the City of Austin has sponsored a program called Art in Public Places, which gives you such eclectic and whimsical sights as sculpture and decorated parking garages throughout the city:

<http://www.publicartarchive.org/austinaipp>

Austin is also known for its street-art murals:

<https://blog.freepeople.com/2014/12/tour-austin-street-art/>

Head to the corner of South 1st and West Annie Streets to take a selfie in front of the well-known *Greetings From Austin* mural, which is a replica of a vintage postcard.

