

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

National Edition

Cloudy. Showers in the north and northwest. Highs in the 70s north to 80s across the south. Cloudy with a shower tonight. Lows in the 60s and 70s. Weather map is on Page 24.

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36 HOURS In Austin, barbecue, beer and SXSW.



10 PURSUITS On Spain's Costa Brava, eating prized sea urchin.



12 EXPLORER Traveling in a once-war-torn corner of Sri Lanka.

DISCOVERY | ADVENTURE | ESCAPE

Travel

The New York Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016

36 Hours

AUSTIN, TEX.

Have a classic barbecue, take in some contemporary art and down a rare draft beer on a working ranch.

By EVAN RAIL

The sprawling capital of Texas has not earned over \$5,000 new residents since 2010. Along with all the new Austinites, dozens of new shops, restaurants, bars and boutiques have appeared, turning the formerly sleepy city into a driving marketplace quickly approaching a million inhabitants. This means, the South by Southwest Interactive Festival will only add to the locale. To enjoy up on the cool arrivals, you'll need a rental car or a service like Uber or Lyft, as well as the patience to leave the city's traffic. If you're a first-time visitor, take time for the city's must-sees, like Lady Bird Lake, the State Capitol and the extensive but rocky trail that runs under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge. With all the excitement in Austin, you might also find yourself considering staying here for good.



WU CHOW: AN OVERVIEW
Wu Chow and the other restaurants in the area are less than a year old. Among the best new arrivals in Lower East City, where Steve Ortiz extends contemporary Mexican cuisine to include influences from regions like North Africa and the Levant, fish best success and contemporary accessory a creamy fish sauce appetizer, spicy Aleppo powder get an arrival in dose of may, and the juicy house burger arrives on a fluffy bun from the acclaimed pizzeria chef Louis Sorel. Lander's line of the house can't always keep up with the kitchen, but the excellent cooking and fun-loving crowd is the

Friday

4 P.M. ► THE NEW SOUTH

While South Congress Avenue, a.k.a. SoCo, has been a countercultural favorite for generations, new arrivals are reworking this redneck strip south of the Colorado River. Joining established shops like Service Merchandise, the recently opened Thrive! Cycles stocks cool gear from Austin's own Christian Davies, and the sleek South Congress Hotel, whose lobby bar has become a destination in and of itself. Across the street, Curve offers casual women's clothing from Maine Holtzman and other indie designers. Down the street, the well-established Stage Productions gives its old bar a new reason to stop through its rolls of heritage-wear clothing: an exclusive collaboration with local master Rod Wing, featured in the same magazine. Madame Toulon used by the United States Marine Corps (3200).



6 P.M. ► FRENCH FARE

With a name like Hopfields, it might sound like this place is all about the hops, but locate here the central Austin geography for each French-inspired fare as well as fresh fish, goat cheese, house-made pickles, and the French bistro with Cassoulet, sorrel, pork, whole grain mustard and caramelized onions, which many call the city's best. As just over four years old, Hopfields is really a veteran fare, but keep an eye out: Barons of a coming second location ahead.



3 9:30 P.M. ► FOWL PLAY

Betting on its hometown's claim as the Live Music Capital of the World, Geraldine's — the stunning fourth-floor bar and restaurant inside the new Hotel Van Zandt — offers live concerts 365 days a year. (Geraldine's is named after a neighborhood guinea fowl, who moved on to the great farmyard in the sky after being hit by a car in 2014.) Geraldine's offers killer views of the downtown skyline, as well as up-close views of musicians performing everything from modern indie-rock to traditional blues and country.



3 Geraldine's, 605 Davis Street; geraldinesaustin.com.

