

Skip the plane ride. Peace and relaxation can be close to home

Want to be pampered but don't have time for a getaway far from home? You might want to check out Lake Austin Spa Resort, which Zagat Survey named the No. 5 spa in the United States. Most of the spa's visitors come from Houston and Dallas, but Austin is the third most popular market for the resort, which hugs the upper reaches of Lake Austin.

Condé Nast Traveler, Travel + Leisure and Luxury Spafinder magazines also named Lake Austin Spa one of the top in the country. If you've never visited, or haven't been lately, be sure to schedule at least one treatment at the new LakeHouse Spa, which opened in April. The 30 treatment areas include a couple's suite and private tents where you can receive treatments outdoors. But the Blue Room, where guests relax between treatments, or just hang out and read, is the masterpiece. Surrounded by hand-painted linen drapes, an 18<sup>th</sup> century French mirror, Moroccan-styled leather ottomans, a Tiffany lamp and walls washed in a soothing blue, you'll feel your blood pressure drop the moment you walk through the door.

Three-night packages, which include lodging, meals, fitness classes and activities, start at \$1,280 per person, double occupancy. Three-night Refresher Packages, which include \$280 in credit for services at LakeHouse Spa, start at \$1,150. Location: 1705 S. Quinlan Park Road. Information: (800) 847-5637 or 372-7300 or visit [www.lakeaustin.com](http://www.lakeaustin.com).

The Crossings, a wellness spa, learning center and business retreat overlooking Lake Travis, also offers overnight accommodations and spa services. Weekend rates start at \$105 per person, per night (twin bed in a bunkhouse) or \$122.50 per person for couples (queen bed in a lodge).

Rates include lodging, meals, some classes, evening entertainment when offered and use of pool, hot tub, cold dip pool, sauna, steam rooms and walking trails. Location: 13500 FM 2769, Volente. Information: (512) 258-7243 or [www.thecrossingsaustin.com](http://www.thecrossingsaustin.com).

–Janet Wilson

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