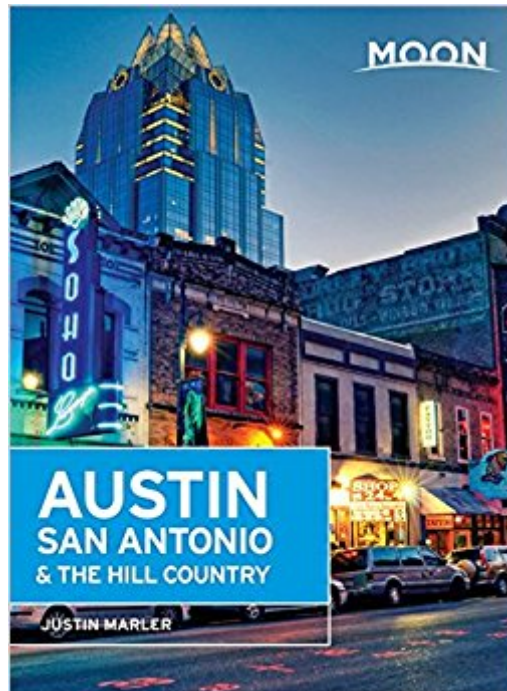




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Moon Austin, San Antonio & The Hill Country (Moon Handbooks)



Synopsis

Musician and freelance writer Justin Marler offers his insider's perspective on Austin, San Antonio, and Texas's Hill Country, including where to take a leisurely stroll, rock-climb in the great outdoors, or catch a live show. Marler shares unique travel strategies like Texas Pride, Family Fun in San Antonio, and Hill Country Road Trip—an itinerary that will take you on a whirlwind horseback-riding, antiques-hunting, and wine-tasting tour. With expert advice on exploring the region's most interesting historic sights and dining on the best Tex-Mex money can buy, *Moon Austin, San Antonio & the Hill Country* gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Justin Marler began writing and traveling in the San Francisco Bay Area in the early 1990s. At age 19, after joining a prominent alternative rock band and traveling extensively, he landed his first publishing deal writing fiction. Before finishing his manuscript, he left conventional life and entered an Eastern Orthodox monastery in northern California. As a monk, Justin worked in the publishing arm of the monastery, traveling the world over while penning spiritual texts and travelogues for magazines. An article in *The Washington Post* sparked a flurry of mainstream press attention after featuring a story on Justin's life and writings. The result was his first full-length book, *Youth of the Apocalypse*. After seven years, Justin left the monastery and returned to the world, where he entered both the music and publishing professions. He fronted an alternative rock band by

night and by day worked as an illustrator and occasional travel writer. Justin first encountered Austin while on tour with his band, where they performed at famed alternative rock venue, Emo's. He has now lived in Austin for 10 years.

I live in Houston and I'm constantly looking for things to do that don't require me to buy an airplane ticket. I've found a solution in this book. Austin and San Antonio don't really need introduction, but Hill Country is the beautiful rural surroundings of these two urban gems featuring beautiful limestone landscapes, lovely German villages, and wineries and restaurants to satisfy any sophisticated foodie. This is not a large book, but the quality is very high. The author has a gift for concise and engaging language that makes the most of its brevity. The lodging and dining listings are comprehensive and right up to date. Activities included are diverse, from interesting music venues to outdoor activities. The book even includes coverage of the new Circuit of the Americas race track. Sprinkle all this together with interesting sidebars like "Unusual Things You'll Notice" and you've got a fantastic guidebook. I would say that the coverage of Austin is most complete, while San Antonio and Hill Country are only slightly less so. The Hill Country, with its beautiful rolling low mountains, fields of wildflowers and live oaks perhaps deserves a bit more attention, but the attraction of the land and its small villages doesn't lend itself easily to capture in a guidebook of "sights." Otherwise, the recommendations are well thought through and reflect an honest working knowledge of this region and its unique character. I especially recommend this guide to visitors from abroad (or from a different part of North America) who may maintain certain stereotypical images of this part of the world.

The Frommers guide has 40% more pages and Frommers is usually well done. But it's 3 years older so I went with this shiny new Moon guide. A very useful introduction. It helped us a lot. Of course, you'll use Trip Advisor and Yelp for a lot of your hotel and restaurant choices, etc. A lot of the mentions are not easily find-able on the included maps. It's reasonably compact. They did not plump it out with a lot of white space. I do not agree with his statement: "Your money goes a long way in Austin eateries...with the exception of fine dining, your average meal will cost somewhere between \$10 and \$15." Except for food trucks, we had trouble finding restaurants in that range. ~~~

Comments & questions welcome ~~~

Book is okay for things to do but badly put together. Less than a month after getting it the book has literally fallen apart, pages split from cover then book split in half.

The book is dated 2014, but we found several of the places out of business in San Antonio. Although not mentioned, we discovered that much of Boerne is closed on Monday. Should have called ahead....

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