



In any given week in Georgetown, you can find multiple performances, art openings or live music to experience. Choose from multiple venues that showcase eclectic and traditional art, or find yourself swept away by award winning performances.

## 1 LIVING IN GEORGETOWN

### ACCOLADES

- #1 Retirement Town in America by Boston Globe (2011).
- Top 10 Best Places to Reinvent Your Life in Retirement by U.S. News & World Report (2010).
- 25 Best Places to Retire by CNN Money (2011).

### BEST CITIES FOR RELOCATING FAMILIES

Established in 1848, Georgetown, Texas has over 180 homes and buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Georgetown's population is just over 50,000 people. It is the perfect balance of "small town charm" with all the conveniences of larger cities. The city has grown 67% since the last Census. In fact, Georgetown was recently named the "7th Fastest Growing City in the U.S." (based on percentage). Those moving from larger cities will be pleasantly surprised by the range in shopping, healthcare, and entertainment found in the area.

"Georgetown is considered one of the prettiest cities in Williamson County, especially during the spring and summer months when poppies and wild flowers are in full bloom. ... residents who settle into one of the city's restored Victorian homes or new Tuscan villas can enjoy a walk along the bank of the San Gabriel River

## 2 EDUCATION

Georgetown is a community that places a high value on education. Georgetown ISD is a Texas Education Agency "Recognized" school district that serves a diverse population of Williamson County students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade including: 10,400 students, 10 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 high schools, and 2 alternative disciplinary program campuses.

Highly rated elementary and secondary schools contribute to both quality of life and the beginnings of exceptional labor pools to come.

Austin area households enjoy diverse options in education, including 29 public school districts, 27 charter school districts, and 120 private schools. The University of Texas and 26 other public and private universities and colleges with a combined enrollment of nearly 180,000 provide an ample supply of well educated workers to area employers. Within 200 miles of Austin, an additional 95 four-year colleges and universities enroll over 422,000 students. Over 40% of Austin area residents age 25 and over hold a bachelor's

## 3 BUSINESS

### BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Located at the northern edge of the Austin Metro area in the heart of one of North America's fastest-growing technology centers, Georgetown continues to grow and prosper. The city's success is illustrated in the many awards received and continuing recognition for its business climate and quality of life. Businesses in Georgetown enjoy:

- \*a well-educated, highly motivated, and highly skilled workforce;
- \*good cooperation between business & government;
- \*a diverse and vibrant business community;
- \*outstanding local and regional education centers;
- \*an excellent transportation system including dual rail service and a municipal airport;
- \*an extensive utility infrastructure; and
- \*a favorable tax structure.

### THRIVING BUSINESS

Georgetown offers many compelling advantages and amenities to its local businesses. This includes a tax rate that is one of the lowest in central Texas, a City-owned utility system that delivers 100%

## 1 LIVING IN GEORGETOWN

or play a round of golf on one of the five local courses. Mountain biking trails around Lake Georgetown lead riders to the edge of Texas Hill Country," says Fortune Magazine in its description of Georgetown as the #2 Place to Live & Launch a Small Business.

**RETIRING HERE** - Small town charm, warm weather, meticulously preserved historic buildings, and numerous festivals & concerts are some of the reasons why some consider Georgetown to be the top retirement destination in the country. Others point to Georgetown's vibrant downtown, numerous nearby medical facilities, and the city's exceptionally low crime rate. Georgetown has multiple 55+ communities and a large number of Georgetown residents are seniors.

**RECREATION AT SAN GABRIEL PARK** is the 180-acre park also provides space for concerts and festivals, as well as fields for soccer and baseball. A 9 mile hike and bike trail goes through the park. Georgetown also has a top notch dog park situated on approximately 6 acres featuring separate areas for small dogs and large dogs.

**BLUE HOLE LAGOON** - is a scenic lagoon bordered by limestone bluffs along the South Fork of the San Gabriel River. The park features picnic and wading areas.

Lake Georgetown is a 1200 acre lake that offers boating, skiing, fishing, four separate camping areas, a wildlife preserve and 16 miles of hiking trails.

Go exploring at **INNER SPACE CAVERN**. Hidden for 10,000 years, Inner Space Cavern is one of the best preserved caves in Texas and one of the few places where remains of prehistoric animals were unearthed.

The Palace Theatre is a non-profit community theatre showing musicals and other plays. The Theatre Department at Southwestern University produces four mainstage productions, including a musical theatre production.

**SHOPPING** - Bargain hunters, antique lovers, and shoppers with discriminating taste find the eclectic mix of boutiques and specialty stores a refreshing oasis in a desert of ordinary. Spend an afternoon on the Square marveling at artisan crafted wares and vintage treasures and pick up a few hand made chocolates at the local confectioner. Venture over to our new outdoor malls for a look at the latest fashions, and be sure to take in the spectacular Hill Country views. Wolf Ranch Town Center is an open-air community center with over 80 retail stores and restaurants. Downtown Georgetown is also home to numerous shops and restaurants. Also, 125 shops are located at the Round Rock Premium Outlets, located near the Georgetown/Round Rock border.

**ENJOY A GAME OF GOLF** -There are three public golf courses in Sun City as well as private golf courses at Berry Creek Country Club, Cimarron Hills and Georgetown Country Club.

## 2 EDUCATION

degree.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Each year, Newsweek picks the best high schools in the country based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with advanced placement college-level courses and tests. Just 2,000 schools—only 9% of all the public high schools in the U.S.—make the list. In 2013, 17 Austin area high schools rank in the top 9% nationally. The schools represent 8 different school districts and 34% of total area high school enrollments.

There are more than 8,600 public schools in Texas. How do you know how your child's school is doing compared to others in the state - Texas Education Agency Accountability Rating System. Every school gets one of two ratings: MET STANDARD or IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED. The Texas Education Agency looks at four areas in determining a school or district's accountability rating:

- Student Achievement
- Student Progress
- Closing Performance Gaps
- Postsecondary Readiness

Schools receiving the MET STANDARD rating may qualify for special honors called Distinctions.

There are 7 possible distinctions:

- Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts
- Top 25 Percent: Student Progress
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics
- Top 25 Percent: Closing Performance Gaps
- Academic Achievement in Science
- Postsecondary Readiness
- Academic Achievement in Social Studies

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Georgetown is home to Southwestern University, Texas' oldest liberal arts institution. This highly selective college is affiliated with the Methodist Church. Their 1,400 students have a passion for intellectual and personal growth; enjoy small classes and numerous collaborative undergraduate research opportunities. Living-Learning Communities and the Paideia Program offer exceptional opportunities to fully integrate one's experiences in and out of the classroom.

In addition to Southwestern University, National American University recently opened a Georgetown campus. NAU offers evening and online classes for Associate and Bachelor degree programs. College students also have the option to attend classes at Texas State University's Round Rock Campus or at Austin Community College's Round Rock Campus.

## 3 BUSINESS

renewable power, and an expanding transportation system that stays ahead of the community's growth and provides ready access between Georgetown and the four major Texas cities. In addition, Georgetown employers enjoy strong support and a true partnership with City government, the local Chamber of Commerce, and Southwestern University to maintain an environment where businesses can succeed.

Business continue to relocate to and grow in Georgetown. The success of these businesses has contributed an average of 650+/- new jobs per year over the last 8 years. We celebrate and support our businesses from retail outlets to life-sciences companies. For a look at some of the businesses that call Georgetown home, click on the links to the left to watch the videos and read through the stories of business leaders and press releases.

### FORWARD THINKING

The City of Georgetown Texas is committed to supporting the growth and success of its businesses today and into the future. Whether it be workforce, roads, utility infrastructure, safety, or financial tools to help businesses succeed, City leaders are constantly planning and implementing programs to ensure citizens and businesses enjoy an outstanding quality of life.

### INDUSTRIES & COMPANIES

Georgetown and the Austin Metro Area enjoy one of the healthiest business climates in the United States. Collaboration within the Metro area is strong and has resulted in high rankings on an impressive number of global and national lists. The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce is a great source of information on area awards and recognition.

Within the Georgetown city limits a diverse mix of successful businesses create a strong and stable economic base making Georgetown a Metro Area leader. Local businesses credit Georgetown's educated and motivated workforce, strong sense of community, low tax, low utility rates, and exceptional quality of life as key factors to their business success. Georgetown residents and businesses understand the importance of fostering existing and attracting new businesses. This is apparent by the outstanding participation in and support of local businesses and business initiatives.

There are currently over 3,300 business in Georgetown. Of those, over 500 have more than 10 employees and over 250 have more than 20 employees.