



OMNI BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA

ART & HISTORY TOUR

ABOUT THE RESORT

OMNI BARTON CREEK STANDS TALL AGAINST PICTURESQUE HILL COUNTRY VIEWS AND IS MATCHED IN VASTNESS ONLY BY ITS STORIED HISTORY.

Barton Creek Country Club first opened in the mid-1980s. The vision of the future development of a sprawling resort in the rolling Hill Country came together with the aid of former Texas Governor John Connally and former Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes. The resort's doors officially opened September 5, 1987, with Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady, in attendance at the grand opening ceremony. Soon after, four championship golf courses were introduced, one designed by Bill Coore and Austin native Ben Crenshaw, another by Arnold Palmer, and two by Tom Fazio, earning the property its current reputation as the best golf resort in Texas.

Over the years, the resort has welcomed many notable guests including President George H.W. Bush, President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, music great Willie Nelson and Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell. The University of Texas Football Coach, Darrell K Royal was a founding member of Barton Creek Country Club and frequently golfed the courses. You will see many touches that pay homage to his legacy, including a statue at the Country Club and our Darrell K Royal Ballroom.

While the face of the resort has changed over time, the central mission remains steadfast: to provide unrivaled, Texas-sized hospitality to each and every guest who walks its storied hallways.

ART IN NATURE

Art in nature influences the resort's design at every corner. From the cool blue-green carpet that lines the halls, reflecting the long lines of flowing water across a creek bed, to the dark blue and warm beige walls which imitate the blue depths of water and the rocky limestone escarpments of the surrounding rivers, creeks and hills.

LEVELS OF ART

As you begin the self-guided art tour, note that artwork titles and locations are color coded by level. Please be mindful of other guests and events taking place in these areas as you explore.

■ – lobby level ■ – lower dining level ■ – conference level

ONLY THIS DAY

LOBBY LEVEL, ENTRYWAY

Artist: David Mensing

David Mensing conjures a feeling of immensity in his atmospheric painting *Only This Day*. His energetic brush strokes create a layered effect that allow the clouds to lift off of the canvas. This view of Austin's Lady Bird Lake on a stormy winter day highlights the big Texas sky and natural beauty that surrounds Austin. Mensing is known for his strong underpaintings and this artwork is no exception as the warm undertones seem to vibrate quietly against the vibrant brush strokes painted on the top layer of canvas. This juxtaposition of color gives the painting an added sense of life and warmth that speaks to the richness of the land and expansive view, which is the subject of this painting.



FIREFLIES

LOBBY LEVEL FRONT DESK

Fireflies decorate the night sky in the Texas Hill Country during the summer. This lighted art piece beckons the whimsical spirit of lightning bugs and memories of childhood during the summer months as it lights the area from dusk to dawn.



ABOUT JIM BOB MOFFETT

A native of Louisiana, Jim Bob Moffett first made his way to Texas to play tackle for Coach Darrell K Royal at The University of Texas, where he studied geology. After the bankruptcy of Barnes and Connally, the original developers of Barton Creek, Moffett's company purchased the real estate development and proposed a 4,000-acre project to include residences and three golf courses, as well as commercial space. Jim Bob Moffett is remembered as a wildcatter with a Texas-sized personality. View many pieces of art and history honoring the geological development of Texas in Jim Bob's Lobby Lounge.



HILL COUNTRY

LOBBY LEVEL, JIM BOB'S
LOBBY LOUNGE

Artist: Michael Dines

This painting was commissioned specifically for Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa. Featuring the rolling green hills that are ubiquitous to Central Texas, Michael Dines

worked from photographs and sketches of far west Austin. Live Oak trees dot the deep green expanse, inviting viewers to imagine themselves on the narrow path that winds under shadowed boughs. The subdued hues of this painting create a feeling of stillness, as though the land is taking a moment to pause before the breeze picks up again. Dines likes to experiment with his artworks, "I love when there are accidents in the art," he says. "I don't know if it's intentional accidents, or accidental intention, but it's the act of letting go."



VINTAGE FLORAL

LEVEL LOBBY, LEFT

This colorful piece is made of hundreds of vintage wildflower prints that were cut, folded and carefully assembled by hand in a quilt-like pattern.

Depending on where the viewer stands, different flowers and colors draw the eye, reflecting the ever-changing floral landscape of the surrounding Hill Country.

Though there are multiple seasons for colorful wildflowers and foliage, spring is the best time to explore Texas' colorful landscape and see fields filled with bluebonnets, the state flower, and many other vibrant wildflowers.

PRICKLY PEAR I & II
LOBBY LEVEL, LOBBY
STAIRCASE

Artist: Meri Sawatzsky

In these artworks commissioned specifically for Omni Barton Creek, the dreamlike colors evoke a sense of whimsy and blur the line between dream and reality. The embroidered cactus adds playful texture to an already bright and captivating piece. Prickly pear cactus blooms in the spring, later yielding bright purple colored fruit. Prickly pear fruit are also known as tuna. Nopal, a common name in Spanish for this cactus, is derived from the Nahuatl word nōpalli. Our Latin-inspired restaurant, Nopales, is also named after this popular plant. Prickly Pear Cactus can be found along Barton Creek's nature trail, golf courses and on the menu in Nopales.



LAKE TRAVIS
LOBBY LEVEL, SPA

This layered piece reflects the topography of Lake Travis, one of the clearest lakes in Texas. Lake Travis is located on the western edge of Austin and was created in 1937 in conjunction with Mansfield Dam, a 26-story hydroelectric dam. This crown jewel of the Hill Country's Highland Lakes is known for its crystal-clear blue waters and is a popular outdoor recreation destination for bass fishing, boating, sailing, camping, scuba diving and zip lining. Glimpses of the sparkling lake can be seen by golfers from our popular Palmer Lakeside golf course, located in Spicewood, Texas, just 20 miles from the resort.





WATERWAYS IN MOKARA SPA

LOBBY LEVEL, SPA

In the private area of Mokara Spa, there are more pieces of art inspired by Austin's waterways.

Pictured left is a piece titled *Deep Eddy Retreat*. These hand-made porcelain tiles bring to the spa the vibrant color of the oldest well-fed swimming pool in Texas. Tour the spa during your scheduled treatment to see pieces by Elle Ray, M Juul, and Pedro Covo that depict other popular swimming holes located in Austin.



GREENBELT FORAGE

LOWER DINING LEVEL, BY STAIRCASE

Artist: Emily Blincoe

Photographer Emily Blincoe finds inspiration in faces, new places, shapes, colors, light and quiet little moments. This piece is created from items foraged from the Barton Creek Greenbelt, which is located just down the road from the resort. Blincoe artfully arranged these elements and photographed them from above.



MARFA ROADSIDE

LOWER DINING LEVEL, BY ELEVATOR

Artist: Kati Ramer

Texas-based artist Kati Ramer says, "Art allows the artist and viewer to sense their connection to one another, to Earth, to the Spirit."

Ramer's works embody the heart of Texas, from the Hill Country and beyond.

Similar to Austin, Marfa is a cultural center for artists. This roadside cactus piece reflects the muted landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert in Marfa, which serves as an unlikely oasis for creatives from around the world.

ON THE LAKE

LOWER DINING LEVEL, BY ELEVATOR

Artist: Lependorf-Shire

The Texas Highland Lakes are a chain of six sparkling freshwater reservoirs formed by six dams on the lower Colorado River. The Colorado River winds its way from West Texas, eventually meeting the Gulf of Mexico. This piece reflects the stillness that can be felt in the Texas Highland Lakes as light barely glints off of the lake's surface creating a soft glow.



TOWN LAKE (LADY BIRD LAKE)

LOWER DINING LEVEL, NEAR EXIT TO
LADY BIRD LAWN

Artist: Valtcho Tonov

This oil painting by artist Valtcho Tonov, displays the colorful beauty of Austin's Town Lake, now known as Lady Bird Lake. Bright colors bring the autumn foliage to life.



ABOUT LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Lady Bird Lawn, located behind the resort, pays tribute to Lady Bird Johnson's legacy. During her time as First Lady of the United States, she promoted conservation efforts and campaigned for the beautification of the country's highways. Every spring, her efforts are recognized as blooming wildflowers line Texas' highways. At Barton Creek, we remember her as we gather around Lady Bird Lawn every evening to enjoy the beauty of Austin's Hill Country.

EXPLORE MORE: The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is the state botanical garden and arboretum of Texas, located 13 miles from the resort.



Robert Knudsen, White House Press Office (WHPO) / Public domain

BARTON CREEK LEGENDS

Stop by the foyer near Texas Spice and Crenshaw's Bar & Eatery to learn about Barton Creek legends including The Texas Longhorns Football Coach and founding member of Barton Creek Country Club, Darrell K Royal, Masters champion Ben Crenshaw, and music great Willie Nelson and so many more notable influences that make up the legacy of Barton Creek. Drop by Crenshaw's Bar & Eatery to see art pieces inspired by the golf architect.



LONGHORN

LOBBY LEVEL, STAIRCASE NEAR
VELVET JOE'S COFFEE HOUSE

Artist: Michael Tunk

Tunk's artwork is created with photographs and magazines from the 1800's - 1980's. His pieces are never photoshopped, instead he uses carving tools to carefully cut and combine the images. This surrealist longhorn

is a not-so-subtle nod to Darrell K Royal, The Texas Longhorns Football coach, after whom the adjacent ballroom is named.



BUTTERFLY LANDSCAPE

LOBBY LEVEL, SIDE ENTRANCE TO
VELVET JOE'S COFFEE HOUSE

Central Texas is a haven for butterflies, including the Giant Swallowtail, Monarch, American Painted Lady and more.

The migratory Monarch, which is the state insect, passes through Austin twice a year in the spring and fall. The dazzling display of bright butterflies overtakes the hills as the butterflies make their trip between Mexico and Canada.

Take a step back while admiring this piece and see a surprising, yet serene scene of Hamilton pool, one of Austin's many iconic waterways.

EXPLORE MORE: Hamilton Pool Preserve is home to butterflies, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and a variety of other wildlife. Advanced reservations are required year-round.

MOCKINGBIRDS

LOBBY LEVEL, VELVET JOE'S

The song of the Mockingbird is a collection of the calls of other birds. Its species name, *mimus polyglottos*, comes from the Greek *mimus* to mimic, and *poyglottos* for “many-tongued.” Most sing 20 to 30 different calls. The bird’s unique musical ability and fiercely protective demeanor is perhaps the reason why it was selected to be the State Bird of Texas in 1927. The clever Mockingbird depicted in this piece is scrambled in a way that is evocative of its varied and often scrambled calls. Mockingbird songs can include those of other birds, insects and even the occasional mechanical sound. (Source: 10000birds.com)



BARTON CREEK TOPOGRAPHY

LOBBY LEVEL, OUTSIDE OF
DARRELL K ROYAL BALLROOM

This topographical map of Barton Creek showcases the home of the Barton Springs Salamander and Austin Blind Salamander. These amphibians reside along the creek bed, in fissures and in subterranean areas of the Edwards Aquifer, which is an underground layer of porous limestone under Barton Springs.

The Austin Blind Salamander’s only known habitat is the Edwards Aquifer. Very little is known about these mysterious subterranean salamanders because their habitat is not easily accessible to humans. Young blind salamanders have been observed on occasion in the Barton Springs area. The resort’s signature restaurant, Blind Salamander Kitchen & Bar, is named after this illusive amphibian. (Source: austintexas.gov)



EXPLORE MORE: Blind Salamander pins are available for purchase in Velvet Joe's Coffee House and proceeds benefit Central Texas Food Bank in an effort to support Omni Hotels & Resort's mission to end hunger in America.

THE FLAGS OF TEXAS

Location: Outside of Darrell K Royal Ballroom

Six flags have flown over Texas: the Kingdom of France, the Kingdom of Spain, the Mexican Federal Republic, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America and the United States of America.

The first flag of the Republic is recognized for its blue color. This flag is known as the first official flag of the Republic of Texas and was adopted in 1836. Lorenzo de Zavala, a Tejano physician, politician, diplomat and author, is credited as the designer of this flag. Two other versions of the blue flag, displayed here, were also flown by Texans as they sought independence from Mexico.



The tri-color “Alamo Flag”, created in 1835, was a reference to the Mexican constitution, which granted the people of Texas rights similar to those of U.S. citizens. Texans were willing to remain part of Mexico as long as the constitution was honored. When the agreement was broken by Santa Anna, Texans removed the Mexican coat of arms from the flag and replaced it with 1824, the date of the constitution. This was the first flag of the Texas Revolution. The Troutman Lone Star Flag was created by Joanna Troutman, an 18-year-old from Crawford County, Georgia. It bears a blue five-point star and reads “Liberty or Death”. The flag made its way to Velasco, Texas with volunteers from Georgia and was flown above the American Hotel. Later the flag was carried to Goliad, Texas, and was later raised as the national flag when the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. (Source: Texasflagpark.com, flagdom.com)





HILL COUNTRY LANDSCAPE

CONFERENCE LEVEL, CONFERENCE CENTER ATRIUM

Hand-painted oak rounds create a dotted Hill Country Landscape. Take a closer look to spot fine details, or take a step back to see the full picture. Oak trees line the golf courses and top the hills throughout the Austin area. Treaty Oak is a famous Texas Live Oak tree. It was once part of a grove of 14 trees that served as a sacred meeting place for Comanche and Tonkawa tribes. It is estimated that Treaty Oak is around 500 years old and is recognized as a significant part of this area's history. (Source:thestoryoftexas.com)

COLORADO RIVER

CONFERENCE LEVEL, BY CEDAR TOWER ELEVATORS

The mighty Texas Colorado River, which is over 800 miles long, flows through the heart of Austin to the Gulf of Mexico at Matagorda Bay. This piece, carved into walnut, depicts the section of the river that flows through the rugged Hill Country terrain, where the river snakes through a winding pathway and Lake Travis, later meeting Barton Creek.



SHARE YOUR ART ADVENTURE #ATTHEOMNI

Snap a selfie and tag @OmniBartonCreek on Instagram or Facebook.

A BRIEF HISTORY

15th – 18th Centuries Evidence shows Tonkawa and Comanche Native Americans were first in the Barton Creek area during this time. Spanish explorers visit Texas and comment on the area's beauty.

1782-1840 William Barton, after whom Barton Creek is named, was a native of Greenville, South Carolina. He came to Texas in 1828 with two of his brothers, Elisha and Benjamin, in Stephen F. Austin's second colony. William Barton settled on land near the Barton Spring in 1837. After receiving a parcel of land from the Mexican government on the west side of the Colorado River, now Bastrop County, he became the local *comisario* in 1830. When a neighbor settled on land within ten miles of his cabin, the eccentric Barton moved another 45 miles up the Colorado River to a site near that of present day Austin.

1839 Austin, Texas is selected as the final location for the capital of the Republic of Texas and is incorporated under the name of "Waterloo", which was soon changed to Austin in honor of Stephen F. Austin, who is known as the "Father of Texas".

1860 Two new groups entered the Texas Hill Country culture: Anglo-Americans from states such as Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri, and immigrant Germans, who settled towns such as Fredericksburg and New Braunfels.

1881 The University of Texas is established and later opens in 1883.

1956 32-year-old Darrell K Royal takes the head football coaching job at The University of Texas.

1959-1975 The University of Texas wins three National Championships (1963, 69, 70) and eleven Southwest Conference Championships (1959, 61, 62, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75) under Coach Royal.

1976 Coach Darrell K Royal retires as head football coach of the University of Texas. *"I want to be remembered as a winning coach, but I also want to be remembered as an honest and ethical coach."* - Coach Darrell K Royal

1984 Ben Crenshaw wins his first Masters Championship.

1985 The development of Barton Creek Resort & Country Club is initiated by Ben Barnes and former Texas Governor, John Connally, in a joint venture with Kindred & Company, and in conjunction with The Community Investment and Development Corporation. The developers envisioned residential development comprised of estates, a private country club, a spa and fitness center and an executive hotel conference center. *"Every detail of the complex would be designed to harmonize with nature and preserve the splendor of the Texas Hill Country."*

June 1985 Ground is broken for the Barton Creek Country Club.

June 1986 Fazio Foothills golf course opens. *"The course design has proven to be an embodiment of the natural Hill Country, celebrating waterfalls, hills and caves."*

September 1986 The Barton Creek Country Club clubhouse is constructed of

limestone, Fredericksburg stone and copper roofing.

Summer 1987 The bridge over Barton Creek is completed. Designed after a prototype in Switzerland, the bridge rests on two piers rather than five, and spans the creek without relying on supports that would disturb the creek bed.

September 1987 The Barton Creek Spa and Executive Conference Center opens.

August 1989 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company announces its selection of Barton Creek as the new site of its Legends of Golf senior pro tournament. The Legends tournament is held at the resort each spring from 1990 to 1994.

October 1989 Ground is broken for a second golf course, designed by Crenshaw & Coore, a partnership including Ben Crenshaw, Barton Creek's touring Professional, and architect, Bill Coore.

April 1991 The Crenshaw & Coore (Coore Crenshaw Cliffside) course opens for play.

May 1991 Club Resorts acquires Hidden Hills Country Club, a residential community located west of Austin on Lake Travis, renaming the property Barton Creek Lakeside.

1992-2002 Barton Creek sponsors the Ben Willie Darrell East Austin Youth Classic. Ben Crenshaw, Willie Nelson and Darrell K Royal host celebrities for a three-day event with finale concert by Willie Nelson.

1995 Barton Creek's touring golf professional, Ben Crenshaw, wins his second Masters Championship.

December 1998 Barton Creek begins construction of 158 new rooms, additional meeting space and two new dining rooms. The new sleeping rooms would connect the conference center to the fitness building.

October 1999 A new Tom Fazio-designed course, Fazio Canyons, opens for play. The new course is located just three miles from the main property.

July 2000 Barton Creek's \$50 million plus expansion opens. The resort hosts a grand opening celebration at which the Darrell K Royal Ballroom is dedicated.

Summer 2000 Soon to be President George W. Bush endorses the Fazio Foothills as his personal favorite course to play.

2013 Omni Hotels & Resorts purchases Barton Creek Resort and renames it Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa.

2017 Omni Hotels & Resorts embarks on a \$150 million expansion and renovation. The transformed 4,000-acre resort will feature 493 newly designed guest rooms, an expansive Mokara Spa, seven dining experiences, a new tennis complex, conference center and events pavilion.

May 2019 Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa reopens. The resort celebrates with a ribbon cutting attended by Governor Greg Abbott. In June, the resort celebrates with a grand reopening party.



OMNI  RESORTS
barton creek | austin