



FROM THE HIP



Dustin Downing

Spots like J. Black's Lounge might not be keeping it weird, but they're keeping it plush with cool, dark rooms that exude a metropolitan attitude.

J. Black's. Austin has evolved, culturally, from hippie to hip in the past 30 years. You still can lease funky, semi-rustic watering holes like Antone's and Stubb's for parties. Yet clubs these days are just as likely modeled on the lounge or even ultra-lounge model that remind of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Miami, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin or New York. That doesn't make a spot like J. Black's Lounge feel any less Austin, just a tad more sophisticated than your typical boozy haunt from Armadillo daze. The cool, dark room eases back to a raised, limited lounge area, perfect for that celebrity meet-up or small office party. And, oh yes, Central Texas counts another 290 or so clubs and bars that are variously available for your private purposes. [710 W. Sixth St. 296-2101.](#)