



From finger-licking comfort food, where barbecue is just the beginning, to the larger than life music scene and sweeping expanses of the great outdoors, it's absolutely true, everything really is bigger in Texas! With a diverse culture, history and vibrant cities, the Lone Star State is absolutely bursting at the seams with unique and unforgettable experiences that will delight anyone who visits.

Containing hints on all the essential things to do, see and eat, this guide is the ultimate itinerary for a true Texan adventure. Covering the best of the best in Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, Fredericksburg, Austin and the Gulf Coast, this guide will ensure you can create the best possible Texas itinerary for your clients.

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**FIND OUT MORE** 



# DALLAS

## **i** ABOUT

Dallas is a diverse hub of cowboy culture, urban metropolis, trendy arts scene, and the home of the world-famous Dallas Cowboys.

Whether you're travelling solo, with the family or a significant other, Dallas is a bustling city that retains its Texan charm. The food, friendly locals, great shopping and non-stop sporting action is what makes Dallas such a popular destination in Texas.

## **📍** ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Start your trip with a bird's-eye view of the city skyline, 470 feet (143 metres) up at the **Reunion Tower**. Stop by **Klyde Warren Park** on your way to the **Arts District** to explore the **Nasher Sculpture Centre**, **Dallas Museum of Arts** and plenty more. Shop 'til you drop at Texas' second largest mall, the **Northpark Centre** with 235 retailers, restaurants and bars or cheer on the **Dallas Cowboys** on their home turf. Celebrate the win (or commiserate the loss) with an evening spent at **Off the Record** brewery and record store.

## **🍴** WHERE TO EAT

### AllGood Cafe

Dishing up some of the best chicken fried steaks in the city.

### Taqueria La Ventanna

Quality ingredients and chilled patio dining make this eatery a local favourite.

### Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse

Popular for real deal Texas BBQ and deliciously charred steaks.

## **🏠** WHERE TO STAY

### The Fairmont Dallas

1717 North Akard Street, 75201 Dallas, United States of America

★★★★★



# FORT WORTH

## **i** ABOUT

From NASCAR racing to rodeo, world class museums to luxury shopping, cowboy cuisine to fine dining, Fort Worth is full of unique attractions and plenty of Texas charm.

Chow down on traditional barbecue and let the kids run wild at a playcentre on West 7th Street, find hidden gems in the artsy Downtown District, meet real deal cowboys on the cobble streets of the Stockyards, or do as the Fort Worthians do and simply slow down, take it easy and enjoy life.

## **📍** ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Get a true taste of Fort Worth at the **Stockyards National Historic District** with more spurs, cowboy hats and frozen margaritas than you can throw a lasso at. For a true Texas experience, head to **Billy Bob's Texas** honky tonk for mechanic bulls, plenty of bars, live country music and line dancing lessons every Thursday.

The whole family will enjoy **Sundance Square**, a hub of eateries, entertainment and art, or the **National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame**, where all the trailblazing cowgirls of past and present are celebrated.

## **🍴** WHERE TO EAT

### Joe T. Garcia's

This Fort Worth institution serves up tex-mex fare and zesty margaritas.

### Ol' South Pancake House

Biscuits and gravy don't get much better than Ol' South Pancake House.

### Velvet Taco

With over twenty tacos on the menu, the hardest part is choosing just one.

## **🏠** WHERE TO STAY

### Omni Fort Worth Hotel

1300 Houston Street, TX 76102 Fort Worth, United States of America

★★★★★



# SAN ANTONIO

## i ABOUT

A vibrant metropolis with authentic Spanish-influences, San Antonio is a must when visiting the Lone Star State.

Take in an NBA game and cheer on the San Antonio Spurs, visit one of the many popular food trucks, indulge in a side of history and culture at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, and of course no visit is complete without a tour of The Alamo, a 300-year old Spanish Mission. The magic of San Antonio promises that you won't want to leave!

## 📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

With the historic **Alamo** at its heart, San Antonio is bursting with Texan pride. Visit the annual **San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo** and enjoy petting zoos and livestock shows; feast your eyes on work from van Gogh, Picasso and Pollock at the **McNay Art Museum**, or see otherworldly formations at the **Natural Bridge Caverns**. You can even live like a local and shop, eat and drink your way down the quaint **San Antonio River Walk** - be sure to pop into the **Blue Star Brewing Company** and enjoy craft beer and cuisine made using the freshest local produce. They even have bikes to explore the **Mission Trails!**

## 🍴 WHERE TO EAT

### The County Line

Famous for its slow smoked ribs, brisket and spicy German sausage.

### Pearl District

Trendy culinary district - Cured and La Gloria are our picks!

### Mi Tierra Café y Panadería

Authentic Mexican eatery with strolling mariachis. Open 24 hours.

## 🏠 WHERE TO STAY

### Mokara Hotel & Spa San Antonio

212 W Crockett Street, 78205

★★★★★



# AUSTIN

## i ABOUT

Known for its eclectic live music scene, offbeat art and plethora of honky tonks and dive bars, Austin is a hotspot for the weird, wacky and truly wonderful.

Festivals like SXSW and Austin City Limits have helped put the city on the map as a creative hub, and this spirit lives on well after the festivals have ended. A trip to Austin offers visitors a chance to experience a vibrant mid-sized city that values creative expression, but also retains its strong Texan roots.

## 📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Embrace the city's unofficial slogan 'Keep Austin Weird' with a visit to the **Cathedral of Junk** where one man's trash has become a city treasure. Catch a movie at the **Alamo Drafthouse Cinema** where kooky sing-alongs, dancing, wacky props and lots of noise are the norm. Head to **Broken Spoke** for an evening full of fun and two stepping or laugh until you cry at **Esther's Follies** fast paced show full of comedy, music and magic. **Zilker Park** is the perfect spot for some outdoor fun, with waterfalls, hiking trails and the **Barton Springs Pool**. See some major monuments with a **Haunted Limo Tour** and maybe a ghost or two!

## 🍴 WHERE TO EAT

### Franklin BBQ

This institution is as renowned for its epic brisket as it is for its epic queue.

### Veracruz All Natural

It's no secret that the handmade migos tacos are some of the best in town.

### Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

Enjoy classic Texas comfort food and a laid back atmosphere.

## 🏠 WHERE TO STAY

### JW Marriott Austin

110 E 2nd Street, 78701 Austin, United States of America

★★★★★





# HOUSTON

**i ABOUT**

Whether you're a history buff, a serious foodie, a shopaholic, or you just love to have fun, you're bound to find what you're looking for in Houston.

Hang out with the cool kids on Washington Avenue, get cultured at an art exhibit, shop up a storm at The Galleria or Uptown Park, treat the taste buds to a good dose of Tex-Mex or take your pick from dance clubs, honky tonks, pubs and wine bars for a bit of fun after dark!

**📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES**

Boasting a diverse mix of history, world-class attractions and quirkiness, Houston is most famous for the **Johnson Space Center**, where visitors can go behind the scenes of NASA and even have lunch with an astronaut! Other fun family activities include the **Downtown Aquarium**, which offers interactive exhibits and a dining adventure; the **Children's Museum of Houston**, where kids aged 0-12 years can have fun and learn at the same time; and even the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**. For a touch of history, visit the **Battleship Texas State Historic Site** and imagine life as a sailor. For something fun, visit the **Beer Can House!**

**🍴 WHERE TO EAT**

**Feges BBQ**  
Serves a diverse selection of classic smoked meats with a twist.

**Goodnight Charlie's**  
Honky Tonk offering live music, delicious comfort food and true Texan spirit.

**Theodore Rex**  
Serves eclectic dishes in a modern bistro setting.

**🏠 WHERE TO STAY**

**Magnolia Hotel Houston**  
1100 Texas Avenue Houston, TX 77002  
★★★★★



# GULF COAST

**i ABOUT**

Texas might not always spring to mind when you think of picture-perfect beaches, but the Gulf Coast will change all that. A cultural, entertainment and foodie hub, the island city of Galveston is the place to peruse antique stores, enjoy a long lunch, take in a show or enjoy some fun in the sun.

For something more low key, visit Port Aransas, or Port A as the locals call it, and go swimming, parasailing, kayaking, or kick back and take in the laid back coastal vibes.

**📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES**

Experience the best of Galveston and wander **The Strand**, which is home to a variety of retail stores, entertainment and nightlife. If you're travelling with kids, make your way to **Moody Gardens**, an interactive zoo, museum and amusement park; stop by the **Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum** and experience life on board a rig; or visit the family-friendly rides and attractions at **Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier**. Explore Port Aransas' **Mustang Island State Park** and see the incredible marine and bird life, or try your luck at the 18 dune-carved championship holes at **Palmilla Beach Golf Club**.

**🍴 WHERE TO EAT**

**Iries Island Food**  
Casual Port Aransas eatery serving fresh local cuisine with a twist.

**Beach & Station Street Grill**  
No-fuss Port Aransas eatery serving fresh seafood and delectable desserts.

**The Rooftop Bar at The Tremont House**  
Offers an array of wine, beer and cocktails with views of Galveston.

**🏠 WHERE TO STAY**

**Hotel Galvez & Spa, A Wyndham Grand Hotel**  
2024 Seawall Blvd, Galveston TX 77550  
★★★★★

# FREDERICKSBURG

**i ABOUT**

A traditionally German town, the city of Fredericksburg is a vibrant city bursting with beauty, charm and a rich history, and is at the heart of Texas Hill Country.

Hike through the lush wilderness, sip your favourite drop at one of the many wineries or craft breweries, shop for trinkets and treasures, brush up on your American history at one of the city's museums, or sit down and enjoy some good old authentic Texan fare.

**📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES**

Enjoy a different side to Texas and wander through the eclectic cultural hub of the **Main Street District**; hike to the summit of the pink granite dome rising above Central Texas at the **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**; immerse yourself in the artifacts and interactive lifelike exhibits at the **National Museum of the Pacific War**; or visit **Old Tunnel State Park** between May and October and see up to 3 million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge each night. Pop by the **Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm** and take part in sheep shearing and soap making demonstrations, or let your hair down at **Fat Ass Ranch & Winery!**

**🍴 WHERE TO EAT**

**Cabernet Grill**  
Offers an upscale authentic Texas dining experience.

**Airport Diner**  
Watch aircraft take-off and land at this classic 1940's-style eatery.

**Otto's German Bistro**  
Chic eatery serving dishes with fresh, local, organic ingredients.

**🏠 WHERE TO STAY**

**Barons CreekSide**  
316 Goehmann Lane, 78624  
★★★★★



**📍 TEXAS DRIVE TIMES**

Dallas to Fort Worth: **35 minutes**

Dallas to Austin: **3 hours**

Dallas to Houston: **3.5 hours**

Dallas to Fredericksburg: **4.5 hours**

Houston to San Antonio: **3 hours**

Houston to Austin: **2.5 hours**

Houston to Galveston: **1 hour**

Houston to Port Aransas: **4 hours**

# ACCOMMODATION



Hotel Indigo Dallas Downtown

★★★★★ Dallas, TX



Stockyards Hotel

★★★★★ Fort Worth, TX



Four Seasons Houston

★★★★★ Houston, TX



Omni La Mansion Del Rio

★★★★★ San Antonio, TX



InterContinental Stephen F. Austin

★★★★★ Austin, TX



Best Western Plus Fredericksburg

★★★★★ Fredericksburg, TX



Hilton Galveston Island Resort

★★★★★ Galveston, TX



Plantation Suites and Conference Center

★★★★★ Port Aransas, TX

