

The Perfect Weekend: Dallas

It takes only a few days to feel the wonders of this quintessential Texas city. Go for the vibrant arts scene, amazing architecture, and next-level food and shopping.

BY **JENNIFER MCKENZIE FRAZIER**

The outdoor garden at downtown's Nasher Sculpture Center

PHOTOGRAPH: CARY JOBE

Shopping

• Knox-Henderson

Two long streets (Knox and Henderson) right off I-75 are packed with everything from upscale antiques places (such as The Whimsey Shoppe) to a Mexican import boutique bursting with bright colors (La Mariposa).

Especially make time to visit The Gypsy Wagon, a nearby house-turned-boutique. Rooms overflow with hand-made jewelry, women's and kids' clothing, fun cowboy boots, wall art, antique furniture, and glassware—much of it made in Texas. A so-Southern pick: Found Images lampshades from Texas artist Catherine Miles, which look like old kitschy postcards (\$68 and \$90).

• Highland Park Village

This is Dallas's version of Rodeo Drive: upscale, expensive, and the best. Browse Jimmy Choo, St. John, Hermès, Escada, and more.

• Snider Plaza

This quaint shopping area right across the street from Southern Methodist University is a favorite because it's filled with locally owned, independent boutiques. Go to Nest for home decor, Cotton Island for trendy women's clothing, babybliss for newborn gear, and Bubba's Cooks Country for the best fried chicken in town.

Dining

FOR TEX-MEX: Mia's

Don't be surprised if you spot one of the Dallas Cowboys football players or local celebrity chefs. Order the tender brisket tacos topped with juice from the meat or the chile rellenos, a Tuesday night tradition. miastextmex.com or 214-526-1020

FOR CHINESE: Howard Wang's China Grill

Entrées come to the table steaming hot and perfectly customized to your palate (Added spice? No mushrooms? Tofu, not shrimp? Done). hwchinagrill.com or 214-366-1606

FOR BARBECUE: Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse

When this legendary spot sells out of meat, it closes. Arrive early (11 a.m.), go only to the original location on Inwood (the best), dress way down (it's a shack with barely any seating), and come hungry. sonnybryans.com or 214-357-7120

FOR STEAK: Pappas Bros. Steakhouse

In a state known for its beef, this place is the best. Order one of the tender, dry-aged cuts or the special Classic Filet Oscar, a play on the surf and turf (filet topped with crabmeat and béarnaise sauce). pappasbros.com or 214-366-2000



★ Dallas by The Seasons

WINTER

Enjoy old-fashioned carriage rides through Highland Park, one of the oldest and most elegant neighborhoods. threejaycarriages.com or 214-521-6717

SPRING

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden explodes in color in late March with Dallas Blooms. Expect to see nearly 500,000 tulips, daffodils, and irises in full flower. dallasarboretum.org or 214-515-6500

SUMMER

The Nasher Sculpture Center cools off the triple-digit temperatures with Summer at Nasher, a series of movies and other events in the garden. There's free admission and the Tii Midnight series featuring concerts and films on Third Fridays. nashersculpturecenter.org or 214-242-5100

FALL

The Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) Celebration at the Museum of Nature & Science tweaks Halloween with a Mexican twist at the end of October. It's loads of not-too-scary fun for kids. natureandscience.org or 214-428-5555 (TURN THE PAGE)

GETTING THERE:

It's a breeze to get to Big D and cost-effective too. Fly Southwest Airlines into Love Field (the airline's home). Or choose American Airlines into Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.



Hand-carved folk art figures from Oaxaca, Mexico, start at \$39 at La Mariposa. The shop specializes in party goods, clothing, and jewelry.

The Dallas Hotel Scene

Here's the scoop: The traditional business hotels in Big D are giving way to snazzier lodgings with personality. Stop by the trendy lobbies and bars, and check in to rooms that wow.



**THE JOULE,
A LUXURY
COLLECTION
HOTEL**
1530 Main Street
joulehotel.com
214-748-1300
Rooms start at \$229.

WHAT IS IT?

A historic 1920s landmark bank reborn as a boutique property with supreme service (scoring guests tickets to the most sought-after shows).

WHY STAY HERE?

Total extravagance; added touches such as reading lamps built into each headboard, a 10th-floor infinity-edge rooftop pool overlooking the city, delivery of your hometown newspaper (for free), and stellar artwork (a Warhol in the lobby).

WOULD THIS BOTHER YOU?

The extra fees add up. Parking runs \$27 overnight (no other option), and Internet is \$14.95 a night (although it's free in the common spaces).



W DALLAS-VICTORY
2440 Victory Park Lane
whotels.com/dallas
214-397-4100 Rooms start at \$269.

A big-city getaway where celebrities (or their followers) play the see-and-be-seen game.

So much to see and do: a modern pool, ultra-modern style throughout (dark mood lighting, minimalist furnishings, vast ceilings), Craft Restaurant, Bliss Spa, The Ghost Bar, and walking distance to Victory Plaza.

If you're not into the "who's wearing what" in Dallas and don't care what bag she's carrying, the W may not be your scene. Lots of labels and checking people out. Can be intimidating.



HOTEL INDIGO DALLAS DOWNTOWN
1933 Main Street, hotellindigo.com
214-741-7700 Rooms start at \$99.

A downtown 170-room Intercontinental Hotels Group property housed in a 1925 building.

One of the newest additions to Dallas, this place feels like a beach hotel with Adirondack chairs, nods to nature in the decor (photos of shells, blueberries, and purple irises), and a vivid color scheme.

What some find fun and lively (the vibrant colors against the stark white background), others might find arresting. It feels more Miami than Dallas. Also, walls are thin, and you can hear your neighbors as well as car traffic below.



THE STONELEIGH HOTEL & SPA
2927 Maple Avenue
stoneleighhotel.com
214-871-7111 Rooms start at \$179.

A historic landmark hotel with a sleek \$36-million renovation. The new attitude is confidently cool.

The place is impeccable from the restaurant to the rooms. Formerly: a dark-colored hotel with little lighting and lots of wood. Now: a bright, modern, and fresh feel.

While the hotel claims to be family-friendly, if you have a tot in tow, you'll probably get some disapproving stares. And there is no kids' menu. Can hear traffic below (even from high floors), and valet is a must (\$20 per night). *