

Eight Second Thrills in the Lone Star State

When it comes to sports, Texas is known for its love of Friday night lights, but sometimes those lights shine on the rodeo arena rather than the football field. From barrel racing to bull riding, fans travel from far and wide to watch those competing for the prized belt buckle and champion title. With everything from carnivals to concerts adding to the entertainment, Texas rodeos offer far more than an eight second ride.

Over 2.5 million visitors and locals fill the Lone Star State's largest city to witness the signature event, [Rodeo Houston](#). With festivities including a kickoff parade, carnival and concerts, Rodeo Houston has something for everyone. More than 65,000 fans fill NRG stadium to watch skilled cowboys and cowgirls perform amazing feats every night, and when you're at the largest international entertainment and livestock exhibition, you can be sure the caliber of the athletes is world-class.

A few hours west is the [San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo](#) which is affiliated with the world's oldest and largest rodeo-sanctioning body, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo has grown to be one of the largest, most prestigious single events in the city of San Antonio, and over one million visitors attend each year. The event offers a family-friendly carnival and fair, interactive and educational exhibits with a wildlife area, plus more than 650 vendors for shopping, horse and livestock shows, auctions, high impact PRCA Rodeo action and live concert entertainment following each Rodeo performance. Ticketholders can expect to see the best of the best at this rodeo, as the winners of the weekend qualify for the big dance, otherwise known as the National Finals Rodeo.

In November cowboys and cowgirls will find a different kind of competition at the [WRCA World Championship Rodeo](#) in Amarillo. Unlike other rodeos, riders compete throughout the weekend in events that are similar to occurrences in traditional ranch work, including ranch-style bronc riding, team pinning, stray gathering and team branding. The event will host top competitors from around the country, as all teams competing in the championship have qualified by winning in sanctioned rodeo events around the country.

The oldest continuously running livestock show and rodeo is the legendary [Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo](#). The 23-day extravaganza at the Will Rogers Memorial Center offers a unique atmosphere rich in tradition and history. In addition to the various livestock shows and professional rodeo thrills, stock show patrons can enjoy the [All Western Parade](#) in downtown Fort Worth, [Cowboys of Color Rodeo](#), unique shopping opportunities, scrumptious food, live music and an exciting carnival. For those that can't make it to Fort Worth in time to catch the larger-than-life professional rodeo, don't fret! Fort Worth hosts amateur rodeos year-round at the [Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District](#).

Over the years in the state's capital city, [Rodeo Austin](#) has grown from a stock show featuring 16 animals into one of Austin's premier events, featuring a top 10 ProRodeo, daily concerts, world-class livestock show, a carnival and more. The two-week experience takes place in March and has been around since 1938. As one of America's top 10 ProRodeos, you can bet your spurs and boots that Rodeo Austin draws top-ranked athletes across all events competing for champion status. Fans cheer on their favorites in extreme competitions that include bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding and barrel racing. If you're not into cowboys or bull riding, the live music roster is reason enough to make a day of it.

Whether it's an 8-second thrill on a bucking bull or nail-biting barrel racing finish, rodeos in the Lone Star State keep everyone on the edge of their seat. Head on down to get a taste of the action for yourself!