

New #TexasToDo's Summer 2017

Newly opened hotels, highly anticipated restaurants, and sunny summer days. Here are just a few reasons why the Lone Star State is an exciting place to be this season. Add these activities to the top of your #TexasToDo list for the next few months.

New Hotels

[Austin Motel](#) of Austin completed renovations this spring to the 41-room property, giving it a '50s nostalgia theme with colorful-tufted beds, classic push-button phones and vintage silkscreened music posters.

Just south of Austin in Wimberley, [7A Ranch](#) also recently completed renovations after the devastating Memorial Day 2015 floods, in which the resort lost 11 cabins. With new ownership, the traditional vacation spot has upgraded with a stylish new vibe.

[Hyatt Place Austin/Round Rock](#) officially opened on June 7. The first Hyatt-branded hotel in the area features 138 rooms, a "coffee to cocktails" bar and is in close proximity to Dell Diamond Park, home of the Round Rock Express.

Scheduled to open in July, the luxurious [Omni Frisco](#) property will be one of the only full service upscale hotels in the DFW area, and will serve as a cornerstone of the Star, a mixed-use development anchored by the Dallas Cowboys World Headquarters and the 12,000-seat Ford Center. The hotel will feature 300 guest rooms, meeting space and a ballroom, along with several food and beverage experiences, including a rooftop pool deck.

New Eats

Italian cuisine from the region of Emilia-Romagna, homeland to owners Andrea Matteucci, Stefania Bertozzi and Michele Ragazzini is the foundation of the newly opened [Loveria Caffè](#) in Colleyville, just outside of Dallas. Quite literally a portal to Italy, the restaurant features the latest in Italian food, art and design.

Round Rock pizzeria [PS 35](#) opened its doors in May. The menu features New York City style pizza as well as subs, salads and pasta. The modern pizzeria also features a full bar of beer, wine and cocktails.

Homegrown and exclusively Texan [FM Kitchen + Bar](#) in Houston also opened in May. The venue offers a laid-back and comfortable vibe with an expansive patio that offers yard games, picnic tables and a cushioned lounging area. FM celebrates Houston artists and provides a venue for expression and creativity. The venue has regularly scheduled live music in addition to its authentic Texan menu. Also in Houston, Evelyn's Park Conservancy recently opened a new café and lunch spot, [The Ivy & James](#) featuring sustainably sourced and fresh foods.

New Exhibitions

On May 13, the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi opened a long-awaited \$58 Million expansion: Caribbean Journey. The exhibit brings the best of the Caribbean to the coastal bend region, including a

400,000-gallon shark habitat, a 4D theater and hands-on interactive displays. Hang out with the aquarium's new aquatic residents and explore dozens of exotic, plants, flowers and trees found in Sian Ka'an.

This spring, the Big Bend National Park opened the [Fossil Discovery Exhibit](#). The park's first specialized display of information was completed as part of a "centennial challenge" to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016. The exhibit features a self-guided interpretation of the park's four historic environments: marine, coastal plain, inland floodplain and volcanic highlands.

The Dallas Museum of Art's [México 1900-1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco and the Avant-Garde](#) explores 50 years of Mexican modern art at its first and only stop in the U.S. The popular exhibit has a wait time of up to two hours during peak visiting hours and features over 200 works of painting, sculpture, photography, drawings and film. The gallery runs through July 16.

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth recently opened the [Doug Aitken: Electric Earth](#), which will run through August 20. The exhibit is the first survey to comprehensively examine Aitken's experimentations across mediums and disciplines. The unique body of work reveals a collaborative spirit of nomadic culture and cross-continental happening.

This summer, the McNay Art Museum in New Braunfels will feature seven exhibits. Most notably, local artist Juan Mora's [Culture Clash](#), a collection of intricately carved linoleum-block prints revealing the stories of the clash and mix of cultures along the Texas-Mexico border and a unique collaboration of [6 Texas Artists | 8 Summer Days | 1 Cool Museum](#) featuring a wide range of materials exploring various subject matter from San Antonio and Austin artists.

Summer Event Highlights

- [Reunion Lawn Party](#) (last Saturday June – August) – Dallas, TX
- Western Days Festival (June 19 – 24) – Elgin, TX
- [Viva Big Bend](#) (July 27-30) – Alpine, Fort Davis, Marfa and Marathon, TX
- [Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic](#) (July 4) – Austin, TX
- [Float Fest](#) (July 22-23) – San Marcos, TX
- Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration (August 24-26) – Fort Davis, TX
- [Reunion Lawn Party](#) (last Saturday June – August) – Dallas, TX
- Sandcastle Days (June 4, July 8-29, August 5) – Galveston, TX
- Harvest Grape Stomp (all weekends July and August 6-14) – Brenham, TX
- [Rockin' the River: Live on the Trinity](#) (select Saturdays June – August) – Fort Worth, TX