

## New #TexasToDo's Spring 2016

Newly opened hotels, highly anticipated restaurants, and perfect Spring days. Here are just a few reasons why the Lone Star State is an exciting place to be this season. Add these top activities to your #TexasToDo list and Spring into Summer!

### NEW FLIGHTS

In summer 2016, Condor Airlines will be flying between Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) and Frankfurt International Airport (FRA.) The seasonal flights are scheduled to operate on Mondays and Thursdays from June 27 through September 1. Austin is the third addition to Condor's network in the United States within one year after launching nonstop service between Providence (PVD) and Portland (PDX) to Frankfurt, Germany this summer.



### NEW CRUISES

In 2016, Galveston will become [home to the newest ship](#) in the Carnival Cruise Lines fleet when *Carnival Breeze* is repositioned to the Port of Galveston on May 8. The ship will offer year-round

cruises, departing every Sunday on three different seven-day itineraries. In March 2016, the *Carnival Liberty* will also be repositioned to Galveston, joining the *Carnival Freedom* that began sailing from Galveston in February 2015.



### NEW HOTELS

The newly-opened [St. George Hotel](#) is Marfa's first full-service hotel which includes a fine-dining restaurant, a private dining room, bar and lounge, and pool. The hotel offers the kind of amenities travelers have come to expect in most cities, room

service, terry-cloth robes, extra-large flat-screen TVs, but certainly not in a tiny town situated in the Chihuahuan Desert scrub-tree territory between Big Bend National Park and the Davis Mountains. A street-style taco stand keeps it real.

The bar at Hotel Saint George is now open daily at 4pm, with a vast selection of beer, wine and spirits, as well as food. Steak frites, calamari, pickled eggs - just a few things you'll find on the menu. During the day, a barista will be on-hand and ready to serve you specialty coffee drinks. Not to mention, the [Marfa Book Company](#) has reopened in its original location, which also happens to be in the lobby. Stop by any time.

## [NEW EATS](#)

Brace yourselves, brunch lovers, [Snooze](#) will be opening in Austin and Houston this summer. The chain only has eyes for brunch, with a seasonal menu including various types of eggs benedict, breakfast pot pie and pancakes. For brunch cocktails, try fish sauce Bloody Marys and mimosas made with hometown-import Infinite Monkey Theorem's sparkling wine.



A New York City favorite will be arriving as the [Halal Guys](#) bring a brick-and-mortar location of their popular New York City food cart to Dallas this summer. Why the hype? For starters, this spot is legendary in NYC – lines form early and wrap around Midtown blocks for some of the best street food around. As far as the menu is concerned, the options are few – choose from chicken, falafel, beef or a combo over rice – but the quality is strong. As is Halal Guys' famous red sauce, a spicy red pepper blend that you'll want to grab plenty of.



Legendary Dallas Chef, Stephan Pyles' new restaurant, Flora Street Cafe will open in late April. The founding father of southwestern cuisine is still working out the menu, but he calls the food "elevated Texas cuisine," an evolution of his southwestern and modern Texas styles. He'll have a grinder in-house to make corn tortillas, and he also wants to continue making ceviche.

No trip to Galveston is complete without treating yourself to the island's signature cuisine: fresh Gulf seafood. Luckily, the island's culinary landscape continues to see exciting additions, including

[BLVD. Seafood.](#) The open-kitchen concept is the fifth establishment from the owners of the popular [Yaga's Café,](#) offering fresh, locally sourced seafood under the direction of



executive chef Chris Lopez. Located at 28th and Seawall Boulevard, Blvd, the restaurant provides an upscale, modern dining experience with window views of the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, award-winning Chef Randy Evans, known for his commitment to fresh gulf seafood and local/farm-to-table cuisine has consulted with managing partner, Bryan Davis, for the opening of [Ocean Grille & Beach Bar](#)

### **NEW TEXAS-SIZE THRILLS**

[Six Flags](#) is bringing ground-breaking experiences to its two Texas parks in San Antonio and Arlington — North America's first Virtual Reality (VR) Roller Coasters, using Samsung Gear VR powered by Oculus. Enjoy thrills like never before, as some of the most popular coasters will be equipped to allow visitors to wear Samsung Gear VR headsets and feel the heart-pumping adrenaline of steep drops, inverted loops and powerful twists and turns as gyros, accelerometers

and proximity sensors synchronize all of the action in an incredibly realistic 360-degree virtual world.



Whether you're soaring through Metropolis on the Superman Virtual Reality Coasters or co-piloting a fighter jet on The New Revolution, this remarkable technology is a definite game-changer. The headsets allow guests 13 and older to enter a virtual world with high-resolution imagery and 360-degree views that synchronize to the action of the coaster in a totally new, one-of-a-kind experience.



Not to mention, [Six Flags Over Texas](#) in Arlington is expanding the Gotham City section of the park with attractions themed after popular DC Universe Super-Villains. Opening this summer, The Riddler Revenge will send you on a swinging adventure atop a giant swaying

pendulum. The round disk will swing back and forth up to 147 feet in the air while rotating counterclockwise. You'll rise up higher and higher on each swing with an unbelievable feeling of weightlessness at the highest point. On Catwoman Whip, you'll spin and tilt in a circular motion,



building up speed as the ride whips around. Additionally, Harley Quinn Spinsanity will twist and whirl



around and around this classic family ride experience.

At [Six Flags Fiesta Texas](#) in San Antonio, a new ride called Fireball will feature an astonishing 72-foot loop and deliver unanticipated weightlessness. On this new adventure, you'll sit face-to-face with other riders and rocket back and forth up each side of the loop, then flip completely upside down during a series of 360-degree inversions. At any surprising moment, your train will suddenly change directions and send you back around full-speed in reverse.



This summer will also introduce Hurricane Force 5, an innovative spinning attraction that's the first-of-its-kind in the state. With unique outward-facing seats, this giant hurricane-shaped disc will rotate around while moving side to side along a five-story half-pipe track. Additionally, Spinsanity will whirl and twirl you around all the other spinning riders.

### **[BRAVE THE WORLD'S TALLEST WATERCOASTER](#)**

Galveston will become home to the world's tallest watercoaster in 2016. [Schlitterbahn Galveston](#)

[Island Waterpark](#) will open the new ride by June, offering thrill seekers a daring water ride standing more than 11 stories tall. Unlike a waterslide, the MASSIV watercoaster is designed to send riders on multiple uphill sections.

The 926-foot long record-breaking coaster will propel 1-2 riders per tube up MASSIV's steep inclines and drops all before an epic triple-down landing pool ending. The water park has been voted the world's best indoor waterpark every year since 2007, only a year after it opened.

### **TYPHOON TEXAS**

Speaking of waterparks, dreading the return of Houston heat this summer? Relief is on the way. A brand new waterpark in Katy called [Typhoon Texas](#) is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. The park covers 45 acres and features 16 rides including miles of water slides, a children's play area, a 25,000-square-foot wave pool, and of course -- a relaxing lazy river.



### **CATCH A WAVE...IN AUSTIN?**



[NLand Surf Park](#) in Austin will be the only inland surfing destination in North America for surfers and wave sport enthusiasts from novices to world-class competitors. The lagoon will feature 11 surfing areas with four levels. The waves will create one, four and six foot waves every 60 seconds with a lengthy surfing experience of 35 seconds per wave. Created in conjunction with the Spanish engineering firm Wavegarden, which is widely regarded as a leader in wave technology, both companies are

dedicated to environmental stewardship in lockstep with ocean surfing. Even in the most challenging drought conditions, the lagoon will be self-sustaining and utilize rainwater. The Park is scheduled to open this summer.



## [SEVEN MILES OF NEW BEACHES IN GALVESTON](#)

Galveston will soon unveil seven miles of brand new and expanded beaches. The last of three recent beach nourishment projects will be completed just in time for summer in 2016. The first project expanded the beach at Dellanera Park on Galveston's west end and was completed in March 2015. In October 2015, 20 blocks of beaches were created between 61st and 81st Streets along Seawall Blvd. The last phase of the project will begin in January 2016 and will expand beaches between 6th and 61st

Streets. The combined \$48 million projects will place more than 1.8 million cubic yards of new sand along Galveston's beaches for leisure and recreational enjoyment.

## [RE-EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF TEXAS](#)

One of the most pivotal battles in American history is coming to life through "[Battle for Texas: The Experience](#)," a 22,000-square-foot attraction in San Antonio's Rivercenter Mall that features some of the world's most important Alamo artifacts and heart-racing multimedia re-enactments of the 13-day battle. "Battle for Texas: The Experience" is set to open in February 2016 and will be a permanent attraction.



For the first time, visitors to San Antonio will have the opportunity to experience what it was like to be at the Battle of the Alamo from the perspectives of the mission's defenders and the Mexican army. Never-before-seen artifacts will be brought to life through the use of state-of-the-art displays and innovative multimedia. Guests will take a journey into history as they experience the daily lives of early Texas settlers, the tensions leading up to the Texas Revolution and the climactic battle told from the point of view of both the mission's defenders and the Mexican army.

## 2016 COOPA AMERICA SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP



in 1994.

The [Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football](#) (CONCACAF) announced that the 2016 Copa America soccer championship will be held in Houston and nine other U.S. cities in June 2016. This marks the first time the event has been staged outside South America and will be the most prestigious soccer tournament hosted in the U.S. since the World Cup

Houston's [NRG Stadium](#) will be one of 10 U.S. venues which have been selected to host matches during the historic Copa America Centenario to be played from June 3-26, 2016. 16 teams will vie for the coveted title which acts as a preface to the 2018 World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. The United States and Mexico are automatic qualifiers while Costa Rica and Jamaica qualified through their regional championships in 2014.

## EXPLORE NEW EXHIBITIONS



May also unveils [The Witte Museum's "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed"](#)

exhibit, from May 15 – September 5. "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed" is the largest exhibition about the Maya ever to be toured in the United States. Using a combination of authentic artifacts along with multimedia and interactive, hands-on activities, the exhibit will reveal our deep ties to this astonishing civilization.