

DALLAS + TRAVEL + THINGS TO DO

16 Perfect Summer Road Trips for When You Need to Escape Dallas

Get away without the trip through TSA.

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Ruidoso, New Mexico

With the cost of flights at record highs, flying the friendly(ish) skies may be out of the question for many Texans this summer. Sure, gas prices have skyrocketed higher than a Virgin Galactic space adventure, but for a fraction of the price of standard air travel (especially if you load your car full of friends to share the cost at the pump) you can escape Dallas-Fort Worth for a week, long weekend, or even a day trip if your PTO is limited. (Between vacations, there's [plenty to do in your own figurative backyard](#), too.)

In normal times, a road trip would ideally be less than four hours away, but because of our current situation, we're including some more far-flung places where you can be sipping a cocktail by 2 pm if you're an early bird and hit the road pre-dawn. (Seeing the sunrise over the open road should make up for the annoying alarm, hopefully.) We've gathered a list of places you can cool off among the pine trees, hit a casino or two, get a leg workout on a gorgeous hike, or simply drink your way through nearby wineries, breweries, and distilleries.

Summer's only just begun, so read on for 16 places that will get you into vacation mode faster and cheaper than you ever thought possible. Better still, many of these places are easy to cluster together for a multi-destination road trip that'll be one for the ol' scrapbook.



Grand Galvez

[Galveston Island, Texas](#)

Distance from Dallas: 294 miles, 4.5-hour drive

By the time you drive to the airport, arrive an hour before your flight, etc., etc., it could take you eight hours or more to reach the beaches of California. Fortunately, you can dip your toes into the surf in less than five hours by heading south to Galveston Island. Explore 32 miles of coastline, dine at scenic waterfront restaurants, and admire the (sometimes spooky) [Victorian architecture](#). And speaking of old (but fabulous) buildings, book a stay at the "Queen of the Gulf," the [Grand Galvez](#), which welcomed its first guests back in 1911. Under new ownership, the hotel is being restored to its extravagant early 20th-century glory, so make sure to request one of the newly renovated rooms when booking. And between visits to the sand and sea (only steps away), set aside some time at the incredible [Grand Galvez Spa](#). And for the freshest fish served in a welcome casual environment worthy of a beach town at [BLVD Seafood](#), an easy-to-miss spot on the Seawall.