

48 Romantic Hours in Dallas

We all want to be the best parents we can be; sometimes the most important lesson we give our children is to model a healthy loving relationship. Perhaps, it's time to find a babysitter and steal 48 delicious hours together, just the two of you.

You might not think of Dallas as the place to plan a weekend getaway but the city offers an eclectic mix of modern, small trendy spots and of course, cowboy hats. With a population of over six million in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area, there is plenty to do for a romantic weekend getaway.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Public transport in the metro area is surprisingly easy and the drivers are friendly and helpful. The light rail (DART) will bring you from either airport to downtown Dallas in just 45 minutes for less than \$5, depending on time of travel and which pass you choose (From Love Field, you catch a bus to the DART.) A taxi will run you \$60.

After dropping your bags and catching your breath at the historic Adolphus hotel, put on your walking shoes and head out to wander around Dealey Plaza. November 22nd, 1963 is a date that defined a generation; anyone over the age of 65 can still tell you what they were doing when they heard the news of JFK's assassination. History buffs, conspiracy theorists and tourists enjoy wandering the nondescript Grassy Knoll and tourists are guaranteed a personal tour from one of the many experts waiting to spin their tales of deceit and treachery. These intrepid guides work for tips only and each one has a different focus, though many relish the many conspiracy theories that still circulate. It's well worth the \$10-\$20 tip.

One of the most interesting and unpredictable ways to get the feel for an area is simply to wander; it allows for a richer experience and better insight into the personality of the place and those who live there. A short one mile walk from Dealey Plaza is a hip little bar called Full Circle, offering a small but delicious menu, great drinks and fabulously friendly staff. With an outside patio you can choose between stools at the bar or fresh air. Time it right and you will enjoy Happy Hour (until 7pm each day); Friday's specials are \$4 beer, fireballs and more.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Like any large city, there is plenty to do in downtown Dallas, depending on your interests and the time of year you visit – classical music, comedy, cooking or painting classes, gigs and more. Check out www.visitdallas.com for information on all sorts of options. Enjoy a cab ride back through downtown to enjoy the evening lights and drop into the hotel's Rodeo Bar for a nightcap. (Bar closes at midnight)

SATURDAY 9am

Downtown Dallas is quiet on a Saturday morning, you could enjoy the one mile walk to breakfast or catch the green line from Akard to Deep Ellum and pop into Café Brazil. The range of coffees available would rival any Seattle coffeehouse and the food is delicious. Take time to explore this eclectic neighborhood; you will find vintage shops (with killer 70s cowboy boots!), art galleries and stores as well as boutiques and specialty shops (don't we all wish we had never sold our vinyls?).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING

When you've had your fill of browsing, buy a regional day pass, \$10 (if you haven't earlier) and head to Fort Worth. Ride public transport is great for meeting locals, hearing their stories, what they recommend in their hometown and what's not worth it. Unless there are special events, avoid FW Stockyards and instead, visit the National Cowgirl Museum (\$10/adult). Filled with tales of resilience and strength, the museum tells the history of the west from the perspective of the women who helped to write it; the ranchers and visionaries, the artists and bronc-riders, they all have stories to tell or songs to sing.

Close by and well worth a quick visit if you have time is the Amon Carter museum (Free; hours till 5pm summer/4pm winter). You won't find such a collection of American West art anywhere else; Remington and Russell, Deas and O'Keeffe come together to evoke the often tumultuous history of this part of the world.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Watch the times of the trains back into Dallas, (they run every 1-2 hours on weekends) and return to the hotel for your reservation in The French Room, one of Dallas's premier restaurants (From \$80-\$120 pp for 3-course meal. Dress code). The food is well worth dressing up for and be sure to enjoy one of the after dinner selections of brandy or port before wandering upstairs to your comfortably luxurious room.

SUNDAY MORNING

Leave your bags with the bellman, and grab a quick bite at the bar in the hotel lobby before visiting the JFK Sixth Floor Museum (\$16/adult), just around the corner from the hotel. This is a timed-entry museum so consider buying your tickets ahead of time to guarantee 10am entry and enjoy your visit; the entry includes an audio tour. The museum covers not only US history during the JFK years, it does a great job of painting a picture of the 1960s in general. If you love museums and read most of the info and want to see all the exhibits, this museum will take 2+ hours.

If you love art and have extra time, take the DART from West End to St Paul to visit the [Dallas Art Museum](#) (Free) and enjoy a collection that moves from Texas to Asia to Africa, and includes works from every era going back to 3000 BC with names like Arbus, Monet, the Kushan empire and Rembrandt. Watch the time because Sunday brunch finishes at 3.

You will find [Meso Maya](#) north of the Dallas Art Museum, just across the Will Rodgers Fwy. Sit on the patio and rest assured that the next 1-2 hours will be among the highlights of your visit to Dallas. They have drink specials, including the house Sangria, Mimosas or Bloody Mary for only \$2, and a small but strong brunch menu. Wash it all down with their house special Café de la Olla to go and take a slow walk back to the Adolphus to pick up your bags. With a yummy coffee, full belly and slow walk, you will want to make these romantic weekends a regular part of your life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[TRE](#) and [DART](#) public transport

[Full Circle](#) Tavern

[Hotel Adolphus](#)

[Café Brazil](#)

[Meso Maya](#) Restaurant

[Cowgirl Museum](#)

[Amon Carter Museum](#)

[Dallas Museum of Art](#)

[Sixth Floor Museum](#)