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Why Fort Worth, Texas Should Be On Your Travel Radar



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Travel

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The recently opened Hotel Drover, an Autograph Collection hotel, sits at the center of the Fort ... [+] HOTEL DROVER

Now that the world is opening up, travelers have many choices of where to go. Fort Worth, Texas is getting a lot of buzz and for good reason. The famous Fort Worth Stockyards have undergone a major facelift and this

historic area has been completely revitalized and rebuilt, while still paying homage to its storied past.

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At the center of this region's revitalization is the [Hotel Drover](#), an Autograph Collection hotel that opened in March of this year. The property is a destination in and of itself. The location is hard to beat: It sits at the center of the Fort Worth Stockyards' National Historic District and steps away from the newly created and award-winning Mule Alley. Only 30 minutes from the DFW (Dallas Fort Worth) airport the destination is easily accessible from pretty much anywhere in the country.

The property, which is the first Autograph Collection in Fort Worth, was designed to pay homage to the history of the Stockyards and it does so in all the thoughtful details found both inside and outside the hotel.





The lobby, like the rest of the property, combines rustic cowboy details with a luxury, high-end ... [+]
HOTEL DROVER

Its very name—Drover—was given in honor of the drovers who were the original ranch hands in the Stockyards over 100 years ago. The drovers herded the Texas longhorn cattle hundreds of miles, with Fort Worth serving as a major stop along the trail. In fact, the drovers and the Stockyards are responsible for not only putting Fort Worth on the map, but ensuring it was a major commercial and cultural hub from the start.

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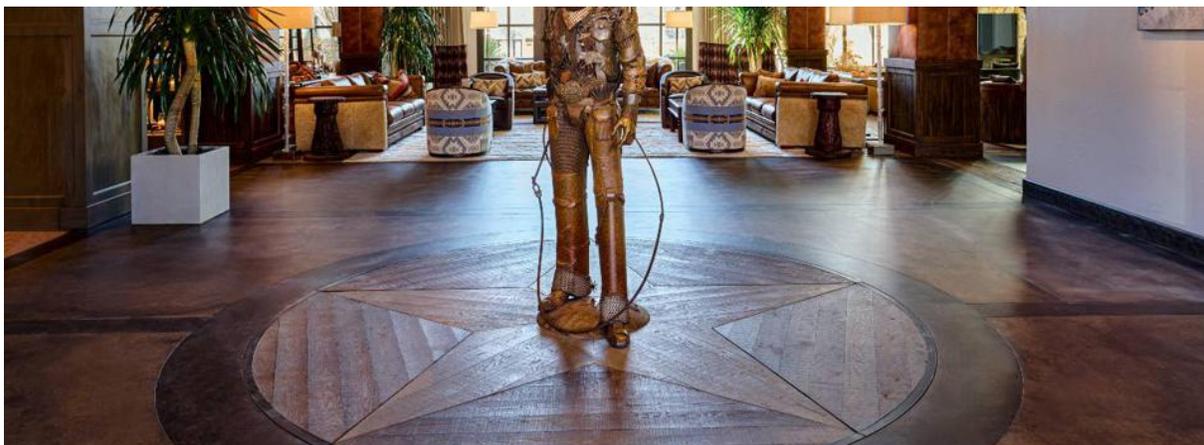
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The property feels like a modern hacienda and combines both rustic cowboy details with a luxury, high-end vibe. Think cowboy chic. Two signature art pieces are the neon cowboy installation by Austin's famed Evan Voyles and the bronze and steel drover created by the John Lopez Studios.





The bronze drover greets guests at check-in. HOTEL DROVER

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The property pays homage to both global and local artists—with paintings, sculptures and other works of art found in common areas, guest rooms and outdoors areas. Giving the hotel a very artsy and fun vibe.

From the Hotel Drover-branded leather check-in booths, a two-story lobby library filled with Texas-inspired books, antler and handcrafted blackened steel chandeliers, and cowhide lounge chairs, the property really incorporates so many design elements of the Stockyards, cowboys (and cowgirls) and Texas as a state. Further attention to detail can be found in

both the rooms and common areas. For example, the Barn has 30-foot-tall vaulted ceilings, custom Italian crystal chandeliers and exposed 150-year-old reclaimed timber.



The Backyard fire pits HOTEL DROVER

One of the nice parts of the hotel is the spacious and well-designed outdoor space, landscaped in such a way that combines a Texas feel with a tranquil energy. The Backyard, an area behind the hotel, will make you feel like you're in an oasis. The towering oak, cypress, maple, and pine trees mixed with agave plants, and saguaro cacti, combined with string lights, custom Adirondack chairs, fire pits and live music make it feel like you're partaking in a backyard fiesta. The live music and s'mores add to the welcoming atmosphere.



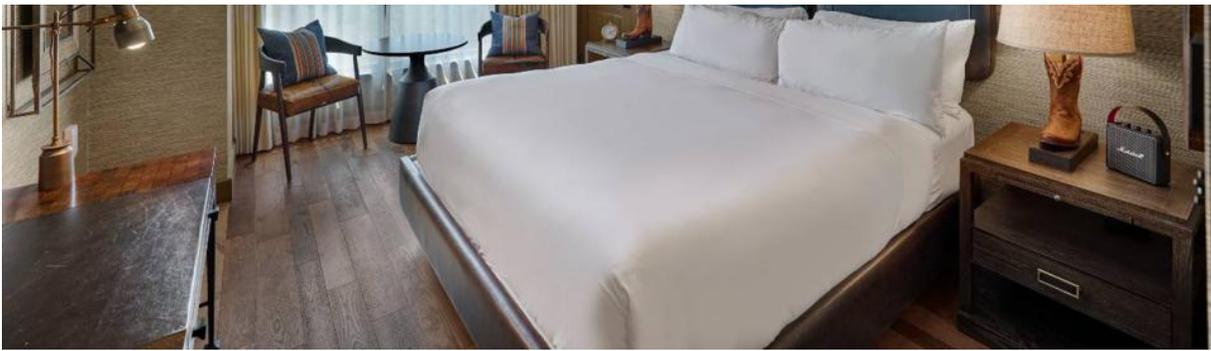


The pool area is quiet and soothing. HOTEL DROVER

The beautiful ranch-style heated pool and hot tub, along with the chic cabana with custom chandeliers, are a great way to spend an afternoon. The Backyard is a great spot for a drink and to enjoy lawn games (like cornhole).

The Hotel Drover was designed so that once in the rooms, travelers will know exactly where they are (in Texas) and it shows in all the little details. None of the 200 rooms are alike at the property. An ideal room for families is The Bunkhouse—it's designed with customized textiles, western art, handmade furniture and accessories, plus it features a king bed with a double overhead bunk for flexible sleeping arrangements. Each bunk has its own reading light and charging station. Kids are treated like little cowboys and cowgirls with the Lil Ropers Kids Club program—they will receive either a child's lasso, Aurora Horse Plush Doll, or a custom printed bandana upon arrival, and can expect to find children's robes, slippers and step stools within their rooms.





The Lucchese room HOTEL DROVER

The Lucchese guest rooms are also quite popular. They were designed and curated in partnership with Lucchese Custom Collection, these rooms feature the finest handmade western and contemporary design. Inspired by the spirit of the American West, guests can expect an innovative design that celebrates the brand's Italian roots but with a Texas twist.



The meat and cheese board is a fan favorite at 97 West Kitchen & Bar/ HOTEL DROVER

Hotel Drover is home to 97 West Kitchen & Bar helmed by Executive Chef Grant Morgan. The signature eatery is a nice combination of Texas fare, southern comfort food and ranch classics—options include NY strip; chicken fried steak; and BBQ ribs. In addition to the main dining room, the

restaurant has three private dining rooms, including an indoor Chef's Table adjacent to the open-air kitchen, and an outdoor Chef's Table situated underneath a pergola alongside lush landscaping and overlooking Marine Creek.



The Backyard showcases local art work and often features live music. HOTEL DROVER

Southern hospitality is on full display, whether in the 97 West Kitchen & Bar restaurant, at the pool or in one of the common areas.

What to Do in Fort Worth





Texas longhorns being herded at the Fort Worth Stockyards. GETTY

What's really nice about the hotel and the Stockyard area in general, is that there is plenty that is within walking distance. From concerts to rodeos to other crowd-pleasing shows, there's plenty of live entertainment at the Fort Worth Stockyards. A short walk from the hotel is the Cowtown Cattle Pen Maze, Stockyards Station shops, eateries, and entertainment, The Cowtown Coliseum — the world's only year-round rodeo — the John Wayne Museum and the Texas Cowgirl Hall of Fame. The Cowtown Coliseum hosts the weekly Stockyards Championship Rodeo, the world's only year-round rodeo.

Where to Eat and Drink in Fort Worth

The Biscuit Bar in Mule Alley has affordable sandwiches and salads and of course, some of the best biscuits in the area. Husband and wife owners Jake and Janie Burkett opened their first restaurant in 2018 and have since expanded to five locations (which goes to show just how well-loved those biscuits are). They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The Sidesaddle Saloon opened on April 1 of this year and has been drawing crowds ever since. It's an upscale cocktail bar that pays homage to the cowgirls of Texas. It's a great spot to grab a drink and talk to some locals.

Provender Hall offers a nice mix of American comfort food with local favorites. Menu items include oysters on the half-shell, chicken gumbo, trout, steak frites and buffalo tenderloin. The expansive space, measuring nearly 5,000-square-foot is two stories with the bar on the first level and the dining room on the second. High ceilings and rehabbed wood-and-brick decor make this a great place for dinner.

Check out my [website](#).



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