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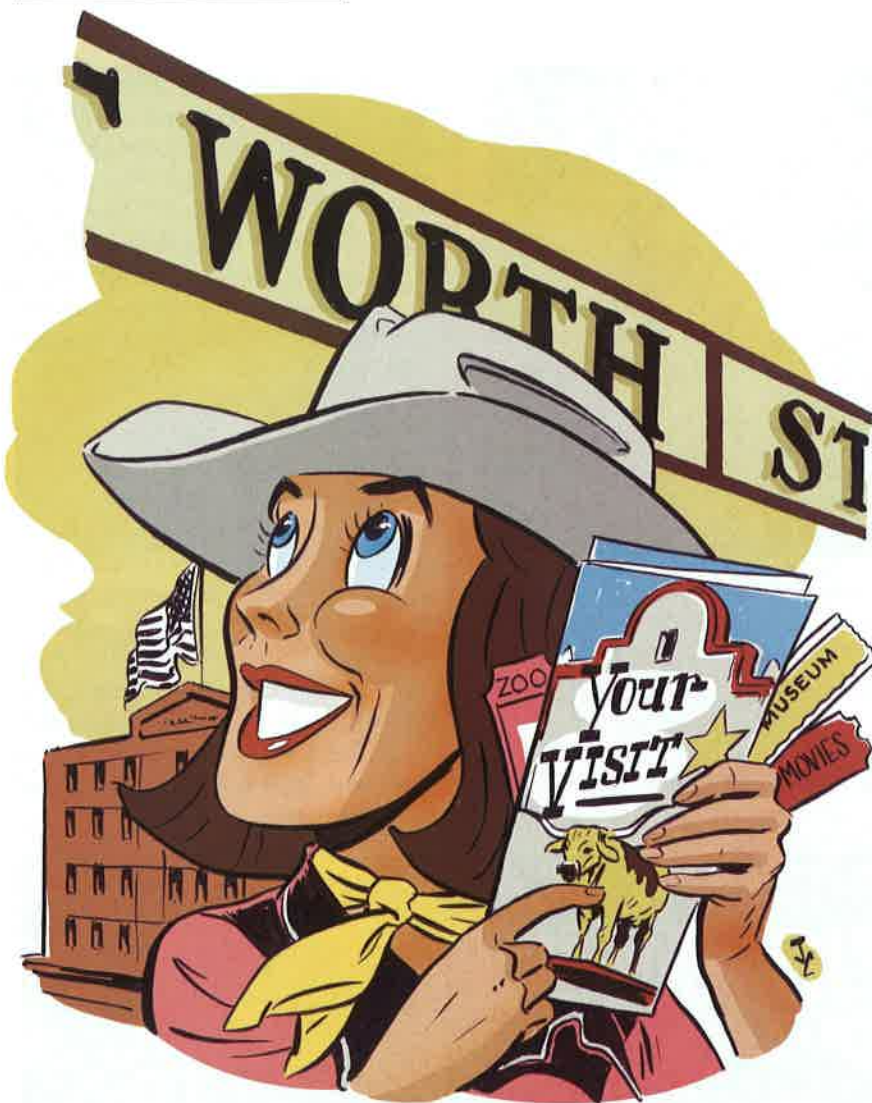
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## Ten for \$10 (or Less)

### FORT WORTH ON A BUDGET

text by Barbara Rodriguez illustration by Jonathan Carlson

**W**HO DOESN'T LOVE A free weekend? By that I mean a weekend free of chores, meetings, errands, and to-do-list drudgery. If one could take all that leisure time and invest it in a weekend full of low-cost fun, the payoff would be the ultimate budget traveler's dream. And when it comes to memorable travel, the unexpected freebie or surprisingly inexpensive indulgence often makes for the

best experience. I decided to take a look around my hometown for diversions that are priceless without being pricey. The result is this roundup of 10 Fort Worth activities that don't require deep pockets—each can be had for no more than \$10 per person.

#### 1 Spend Calories

The 40 miles of Trinity Trails are a cost-free way to work off breakfast, meander away an afternoon, or salute the sunset. The trails connect numerous parks and destinations along the Trinity River and its tributaries. With sections of paved and natural surfaces, the trails are popular with joggers, bicyclists, and skaters. [www.trwd.com/trinityriver](http://www.trwd.com/trinityriver).

#### 2 Hop the Train

On the east side of the Trinity River on Colonial Parkway, the Forest Park Miniature Railroad has been chugging through Forest Park and Trinity Park since 1959. The five-mile, open-air journey costs \$4 for adults and \$3.50 for kids. Hours vary seasonally. [www.fpmt.us](http://www.fpmt.us).

#### 3 Animal Instincts

Are jogging trails too timid when your crowd wants to run with the wolves? The next best thing may be getting up close and personal with the animals of the Fort Worth Zoo, where 64 acres of exhibits include an interactive aviary where parakeets and cockatiels zoom in to visit beak-to-nose. Most days, adult tickets for the zoo wouldn't make our cost cut-off, but there is half-price admission on Wednesdays: \$6 for adults and \$4.50 for kids. [www.fortworthzoo.org](http://www.fortworthzoo.org).

#### 4 Smell the Roses

Once you've fawned over the fauna, move on to stop and smell the flora, including hundreds of roses, at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. The 110-acre living museum grows more than 2,500 species of native and exotic plants. Shaded benches invite

you to breathe deeply, and sack lunches are allowed. Entrance to the Botanic Garden is free. [www.fwbgo.org](http://www.fwbgo.org).

#### I decided to take a look around my hometown of Fort Worth for diversions that are priceless without being pricey.

#### 5 Take a Hike

Looking for a natural encounter that's a bit rougher around the edges? Late afternoon is a good time to make the drive to the 3,621-acre Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, just northwest of the city on Lake Worth. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Hike to your heart's content on more than 20 miles of trails; canoeing is allowed on the river and lake. [www.fwnaturecenter.org](http://www.fwnaturecenter.org).

#### 6 Brew up a Plan

If the weather isn't cooperating for outdoor fun, consider one of the Wednesday-evening or Saturday-afternoon tours of Rahr & Sons Brewing Company, the city's pioneering microbrewery. You can bring your own food, and all ages are welcome; admission is \$10 for visitors age 18 and up. The event includes a tour, a pint glass, and up to three beer samples for those of legal age. [www.rahrbrewing.com](http://www.rahrbrewing.com).

#### 7 Museum Marvels

Brain food abounds along Fort Worth's world-famous museum row, and both The Kimbell Art Museum and Amon Carter Museum of American Art offer free general admission. The neighboring Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth charges \$10 for those 13 and over, but is free on the first Sunday of every month and half-price on Wednesdays. All three museums are famous not only for their art collections, but also for their world-renowned architecture.

# TRAVEL THE TEXAS INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

**HAVE FUN**

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**Bastrop**  
Yesterfest 2014  
April 25-27 in historic Bastrop TX  
Still the home of pioneers!  
512-303-0904 [BastropDBA.org](http://BastropDBA.org)

**Seguin**  
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800-580-7322  
[VisitSeguin.com](http://VisitSeguin.com)

**Texas Quilt Museum**  
Southwest's only quilt museum  
4 changing exhibits a year, store, period garden & mural. 979-968-3104  
[TexasQuiltMuseum.org](http://TexasQuiltMuseum.org)

**Brazosport**  
Family Fun on the Texas Gulf Coast  
Clute / Freeport / Lake Jackson / Surfside Beach  
979-285-2501 [VisitBrazosport.com](http://VisitBrazosport.com)

**Columbus**  
Columbus Folk Fest  
November 7-8, 2014  
Texas Revolutionary era re-enactors  
Pioneer camps, music, tours 979-732-8385  
[ColumbusFolkFest.com](http://ColumbusFolkFest.com)

**Presidio La Bahia**  
29th Annual Goliad Massacre  
Reenactment & Ft. Defiance Living History  
Program March 29-30  
361-645-3752 [PresidioLaBahia.org](http://PresidioLaBahia.org)

**San Jacinto**  
San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site  
San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment  
April 26, 10 am-6 pm. Music, games  
and fun set amidst living history.  
281-479-2421 [SanJacinto-Museum.org](http://SanJacinto-Museum.org)

**Luling**  
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Come Discover our River  
512-227-1724 - [ZedlerMill.com](http://ZedlerMill.com)  
830-875-3214x1 - [LulingCC.org](http://LulingCC.org)

**Brenham / Washington County**  
Texas Independence Day Celebration  
March 1-2 Washington-on-the-Brazos  
888-BREHAM (273-6426)  
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# What's New (and Old) in Fort Worth?



WITH THE REVITALIZATION  
OF SUNDANCE SQUARE  
AND A NEW BUILDING AT  
THE KIMBELL ART MUSEUM,  
**FORT WORTH** MELTS  
MODERN WITH HISTORIC



Text by

MARGARET SHAKESPEARE

Photographs by ROBERT HART



ALL THIS SPLASHY  
NEWNESS BLENDS  
EVER SO GENTLY WITH  
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#### RENEW AND REPURPOSE

*The 1928  
Montgomery Ward  
building now houses  
restaurants, shops,  
and condominiums.  
Red Goose Saloon,  
once a children's  
shoe store, now  
offers live music  
and cold drinks.*



artists who depicted the American West when it was wild. Sundance Square Plaza—now wired for sound, lighting, and live performance of many kinds—has a permanent stage attached to the new Art Deco-style Westbrook office building, but it's so cleverly tucked into the streetscape you'd swear it had been here all along. With no singers, dancers, or actors on the immediate entertainment schedule, I note Scat Jazz Lounge, down a nearby alley, as a late-night possibility. For now, the visual aesthetics have my attention: Four giant umbrellas, technologically weather-sensitive and adjustable in both color and position to protect against sun or rain, also function as public sculpture. Opposite, a water feature with more than 200 vertical jets can be programmed for various patterns and lighting schemes, a welcome run-through on hot days.

All this splashy newness blends ever so gently with previous-era pedestrian-scaled storefronts—some reborn with total makeovers and a few carrying on as they have in decades past. Pleased that Fort Worth is both a little different and a model of sorts, Campbell says, "Other urban planners come here and are surprised to see what we've done."

And haven't done: Low-rise buildings characterized the streetscape in the 1800s, and still do today. How refreshing that what goes around, comes back around (if slyly sometimes)—such as the Red Goose Saloon, once the home of Red Goose children's shoes, still sporting a neon "Juvenile Shoe Store" sign out front. The turrets and fancy brickwork adorning the 1901 Knights of Pythias Castle Hall, now home to Haltom's Jewelers, gleam like they did more than a century ago. (A tip: Look for the armored knight peering from the fourth-floor attic window.) And then

**MAKING A SPLASH**  
*A Loughhorn mural  
pays homage to  
the Chisholm  
Trail at Sundance  
Square Plaza.  
Several water  
features here cre-  
ate visual texture  
and a place to  
cool off during  
warm weather.*



some businesses haven't changed at all—notably Peters Bros. Hats, where the fifth-generation owners will fit you with a custom-made, beaver-fur cowboy hat.

Nearby, Montgomery Ward's 1928 Mission Revival-style building—once the largest building in Texas—now anchors the West 7th District, a shopping, dining, and residential corridor between downtown and the Cultural District. With a name change to Montgomery Plaza, the building's transformation sparked a parade of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues, and condos.

The street verve of the compact West 7th District invites walking and biking (and there's a new Bike Share program

for the latter), though on this day I drive the half-mile or so to the Cultural District, where I spend the day museum hopping.

Critics and art-lovers tend to admire Fort Worth's three major art museums as much for their architecture, all by high-profile architects, as for the artworks they house. Philip Johnson designed the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, calling it the building of his career; Tadao Ando, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (one of his few designs in the United States); and Louis Kahn, the Kimbell Art Museum (generally considered to have the finest light of any museum anywhere for viewing art).

Before Renzo Piano's new building at the Kimbell, the





## IN FORT WORTH, SAVVY PLANNERS,

designers, engineers, and others have stitched together new development, reinvented neighborhoods, and a refurbished city core into an architectural fabric that stretches back more than a century.

Indeed, I recently visited Fort Worth to experience the new—particularly the revitalized Sundance Square Plaza and the highly anticipated Renzo Piano Pavilion at the Kimbell Art Museum—but ended up discovering so much more. Fortified with lunch (short ribs and a glass of Pedernales Cellars viognier from Stonewall) at the snazzy new Little Red Wasp, I set out on foot for Sundance Square, a loosely defined, 35-square-block area smack in the middle of downtown.

### HIP TO BE SQUARE

*In downtown Fort Worth's spiffed-up Sundance Square, shops, restaurants, and sightseeing destinations abound, and the new Sundance Square Plaza offers an outdoors vantage point for taking it all in.*

"We are not interested in drawing a border for Sundance Square," Johnny Campbell, president of Sundance Square, told me later. "But we are interested in being a catalyst for downtown." I asked him about the name Sundance Square, and that was a bit easier to nail down. Turns out that the Sundance Kid (legendary outlaw Harry Alonzo Longabaugh) is said to have hung out in the saloons that enlivened these city streets during the late 19th Century. He allegedly got himself arrested here, although Campbell and everyone I ask stumble over exactly where, and for which of his many crimes. Today, the Sundance Kid might be surprised that his brand of Western lifestyle has been supplanted by shopping, concert-going, dining, and Saturday strolling for young families. He might dine at some of the restaurants here offering lusty menu choices for meat-eaters (Del Frisco's Grille, Mercury Chop House, and Risky's Barbecue are within earshot of each other), but I'm doubtful he would belly up to the sleek bar at GRACE and order from the craft cocktail list. As for me, I put that tempting notion on ice until later.

My afternoon agenda starts in the spacious, brick-lined Sundance Square Plaza, where I'm greeted by a larger-than-life Longhorn mural painted a few decades ago by New York artist Richard Haas. The mural, which decorates one side of the 1902

TODAY, THE SUNDANCE KID MIGHT BE SURPRISED THAT HIS BRAND OF WESTERN LIFESTYLE HAS BEEN SUPPLANTED BY SHOPPING, CONCERT-GOING, DINING, AND SATURDAY STROLLING FOR YOUNG FAMILIES.

Jett Building, pays homage to the historic Chisholm Trail; in the 1870s cowboys drove herds along this route from Texas to railroads in Kansas. They stopped in Fort Worth to load up on provisions and, with the herds corralled in the stockyards north of downtown, spent part of their pay on booze and brothels. Looking around, I find more reminders of their legacy in the Jett Building's neon cowboy sign for radio station 95.9-FM The Ranch; at Leddy's Ranch at Sundance, where wannabe cowboys can gear up with boots and other Western wear; and at the compact Sid Richardson Museum, which features works by Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, and other



**GOTTA HAVE A HAT**  
At this Fort Worth location since 1933, Peters Bros. Hats has outfitted presidents, celebrities, and regular folks alike.





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FORT WORTH'S THREE  
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AS MUCH FOR THEIR  
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THEY HOUSE.



#### UPCOMING FORT WORTH ART EXHIBITS

at [texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).

museum had run out of space to show much of its permanent collection while hosting special exhibitions. Piano's new building provides that needed space and more. Altogether, the Piano Pavilion's three spacious galleries provide more than 16,000 square feet of additional space for viewing art, plus classrooms, meeting spaces, and a concert hall with almost 300 bright red seats.

Everyone involved in the process—from the Kimbell's board and staff to Renzo Piano and his team of designers, engineers, and builders—had extraordinary reverence and respect for the original Kahn building. What they made together—65 feet opposite the Kahn, across a great, green lawn—is a building that converses with it. The Piano Pavilion orients—or reorients—visitors to the front entrance of the Kahn. For years, because of proximity to parking, the back door had become the main entrance, and many visitors never saw the reflecting pools, heard the soothing cascade of water, or walked through the grove of trees at the front as Kahn intended. Now that visitors can park underground, staircases lead directly to the midst of all that.

#### KIMBELL'S PIANO PAVILION

*Architect Renzo Piano's new building at the Kimbell Art Museum allows the museum to display its permanent collection while hosting touring shows.*



In fact, on opening day this past November, Piano said plainly, "The Kahn Building is one of the buildings I like most in my life."

Off I go to see the results of this collaboration with Onur Teke, a member of the Piano team who was on site as the smooth, blue-gray concrete walls were poured, the 100-foot Douglas fir ceiling beams installed, and the oak floor laid. We walk through the Asian collection—mostly sculpture and precious pottery—installed in its new home. We pause at the four 18th-Century paintings depicting Roman mythology by François Boucher, now hung side-by-side, an orientation not possible previously due to space constraints. As I look around in wonder, Teke doesn't need to point out the advantageous use of glass throughout: Transparent walls and roof panels allow filtered natural light to illuminate the art and the building itself but also tie them to the outdoors. And a sidewalk in front of the low-slung building invitingly connects to streets on either side of the campus.

Later, I walk to the Modern Art Museum and loop through a traveling exhibit of works from Mexico City before a fabulous quick lunch at the museum's Cafe Modern, which overlooks the museum's reflecting pond. Then it's up the hill to the Amon Carter. Before going in to view a show of 1930s Texas Regionalism (here through April), I turn to face a vista of downtown Fort Worth. And I think about the words of architect Renzo Piano himself: "Art makes people better people. A building for art makes a city a better place to live." ★

*Writer Margaret Shakespeare lives in New York and travels often to report on design and culture, food and wine, wildlife, and wild places. Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Robert Hart owns a custom Peters Bros. hat that he calls his "pride and joy."*

#### SIDE-BY-SIDE

*The Kimbell's four paintings by François Boucher's (left) now hang side-by-side.*



#### ESSENTIALS FORT WORTH

For general information about Fort Worth, including accommodations, restaurants, attractions, and neighborhoods such as the West 7th District, the Fort Worth Cultural District, and the Stockyards National Historic District, visit the website of the **Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau**, [www.fortworth.com](http://www.fortworth.com), or call 800/433-5747.

Find details about **Sundance Square** at [www.sundancesquare.com](http://www.sundancesquare.com).

The **Kimbell Art Museum** debuted its new Renzo Piano Pavilion in November. See [www.kimbellart.org](http://www.kimbellart.org), or call 817/332-8451.

