

THE QUEER ROUTE

COMMUNITY-VERIFIED CITY GUIDE



DALLAS

TEXAS

Loud and proud on Cedar Springs — and deliberately pointed toward the Black, brown, and trans-led spaces that hold this community together.

40

VERIFIED VENUES

200

ACTIVE COMMUNITY USERS

4

NEIGHBORHOODS MAPPED

queerroute.app

Dallas, Texas

NOW LIVE · TEXAS

Dallas wears its queerness loud and proud along Cedar Springs Road in Oak Lawn — the neon-lit "Gayborhood" that has anchored LGBTQ+ life here for decades. But the fuller, truer story of queer Dallas lives well beyond that strip. This guide is built to help you move through the city with joy and with care — and to point you, deliberately, toward the Black, brown, and trans-led spaces that hold this community together.

Neighborhoods

Oak Lawn / Cedar Springs

HISTORIC GAYBORHOOD

The historic hub and generally the safest late-night footprint, with visible community presence. Be aware it has historically skewed white and cis; newcomers of color sometimes find it less warm than advertised.

South Dallas

BLACK-LED INSTITUTIONS

Home to Black-led institutions doing life-saving work — center these when you want spaces that reflect and protect Black queer life.

Deep Ellum

ARTSY & MIXED NIGHTLIFE

Artsy, mixed, queer-friendly nightlife with a younger, more diverse crowd — live music venues and bars that welcome everyone.

Bishop Arts

WALKABLE & QUEER-FRIENDLY

Independent shops, patios, and queer-friendly restaurants on the Oak Cliff side — a softer, daytime-into-evening alternative to the strip.

Community Picks

Abounding Prosperity Inc.

BLACK-LED NONPROFIT — SOUTH DALLAS

Black-led, Black-centered nonprofit providing HIV/PrEP care, housing, food, and affirming case management for Black gay, bi, and trans people. The heartbeat of Black queer wellness in Dallas.

Resource Center Dallas

COMMUNITY CENTER — OAK LAWN

One of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ centers, with dedicated trans-affirming healthcare, name/gender-marker legal clinics, youth programs, and a food pantry.

Harlem Nights

BLACK-OWNED NIGHTLIFE — SOUTH DALLAS

Black-owned nightlife with hip-hop and R&B, drag, and a crowd that reflects Black queer Dallas.

Kaleidoscope & Mahogany

QTPOC DANCE PARTIES — ROVING

Roving QTPOC dance parties spotlighting Black and brown DJs, ballroom and kiki culture, and trans joy on the floor as an intentional alternative to the mainstream strip.

Round-Up Saloon

COUNTRY & LINE-DANCING — CEDAR SPRINGS

The country-western institution: two-stepping, line-dancing lessons, and one of the friendliest rooms on the strip.

Station 4 (S4)

DANCE CLUB — CEDAR SPRINGS

The big Cedar Springs dance floor and the Rose Room drag stage — a Dallas classic and still the biggest show in town.

Sue Ellen's

LESBIAN ANCHOR — CEDAR SPRINGS

The lesbian anchor of the strip, with live music, a patio, and a multi-generational crowd.

JR's & TMC

NEIGHBORHOOD BARS — CEDAR SPRINGS

Beloved Cedar Springs institutions for a lower-key, conversation-friendly night out.

Hunky's & Union Coffee House

EAT & DRINK — OAK LAWN

Grab a bite at Hunky's and coffee at queer-owned Union Coffee House — the sober-friendly daytime side of the gayborhood.

Safety Notes

- Texas is a complicated place to be queer and trans right now. Legislative attacks on trans healthcare and drag have made vigilance a real part of the calculus — especially for our trans siblings and for Black and brown folks who navigate both racism and homophobia at once.
- Dallas's queer community responds with fierce mutual aid and organizing — Resource Center and Abounding Prosperity are the two doors to knock on first.
- Oak Lawn / Cedar Springs is the historic hub and generally the safest late-night footprint, with visible community presence.
- Trust your gut, travel with people when you can, and use the app's Follow Me and Who's Out tools after dark.
- South Dallas Black-led institutions center Black queer life — support them with your time and your dollars, not just your nightlife budget.

Best Time To Visit

June for Dallas Pride at Fair Park, or Labor Day-season Dallas Southern Pride if you want the Black LGBTQ+ celebration at its fullest. Any weekend works: Friday on Cedar Springs, Saturday at a QTPOC party or Harlem Nights, Sunday drag brunch and Bishop Arts patios.

Getting Around

Dallas is car-dependent; rideshare is the norm for a night out. DART light rail serves Oak Lawn — Cedar Springs is a short walk from the Cityplace/Uptown station.

Events To Know

- Dallas Pride (June, Fair Park) — the parade and festival are the city's biggest queer gathering
- Black Pride / Dallas Southern Pride — the essential celebration centering Black LGBTQ+ community
- Black Tie Dinner — one of the largest LGBTQ+ fundraising dinners in the country, benefiting local orgs
- Razzle Dazzle Dallas and various drag brunches year-round

Get the live map

Every venue in this guide is community-verified and kept current in the app. Download The Queer Route to see the full Dallas map, save venues, and build your itinerary.

queerroute.app/cities/dallas