Music Hall at Fair Park, Dallas Guide

Placed in the grounds of Dallas, Texas' Fair Park, Music Hall at Fair Park is one of the state's oldest operating music and performance venues. Originally designed with opera in mind, the venue is now predominantly a theater, hosting the best shows to come out of Broadway.

Music Hall at Fair Park has undergone three major renovations since it first opened in 1925, turning it into a world class live entertainment facility. Many of the USA's most famous sons and daughters have graced its stage, from Judy Garland to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Every show that you watch here has a knack of making you feel as though you are witnessing history.

It is situated to the southwest of Downtown Dallas, just east of the cultural hub that is Deep Ellum. This makes it a prime location to soak in some of the rich culture that Dallas has to offer.

In the following guide, we'll give you an insight on everything you need to know about Music Hall at Fair Park. Whether you're a first-time visitor or just intrigued about the venue, you've come to the right place. We'll dive into its history, unpick its technicalities, and explain everything you need to know about one of the jewels in Texas' crown.

About Music Hall at Fair Park

Music Hall at Fair Park is located at 909 1st Avenue in the city of Dallas, Texas. It is situated within the grounds of the historic, and ever-busy Fair Park, which hosts around 5.3 million tourists every year. Just southwest of Downtown Dallas, the Music Hall is surrounded by rich culture and a vibrant energy.

With almost 100 years' worth of shows performed at the Music Hall, it is one of Texas' oldest and most beloved music and theater venues. The venue's main attraction between its inaugural year of 1925 to1950 was its showing of operas, before transitioning into theatre in 1951.

Since 1951, it has been the home of Broadway Dallas, formerly Dallas Summer Musicals, who bring the best that Broadway has to offer to Texas. The venue has hosted Oklahoma!, West Side Story, and Gone With the Wind, among many more. With a capacity of just over 3,400, the Music Hall has made world class theater accessible to the masses in Dallas.

As it approaches its centenary year, the Music Hall at Fair Park has never been in a better place. It continues to welcome some of the top Broadway shows, musicians, and comedians onto its iconic stage.

What to expect from a performance at Music Hall at Fair Park

From entering its iconic grounds to marveling at the talent on stage, watching a performance at Music Hall at Fair Park is an unforgettable experience. With optimized acoustics and an unimpeded view from every seat, the venue is tailor-made for live entertainment. In the following sections, we'll run you through each aspect of the venue so you can plan your trip accordingly.

Entering the venue

The Music Hall at Fair Park is located southwest of Downtown Dallas. It's just past the former industrial area of Deep Ellum, which is now a vibrant, cultural entertainment district. You should have no trouble spotting the venue from the surrounding streets, with its unique, Spanish-infused architecture.

There are plenty of ways of getting to the venue, whether you wish to drive, take public transport or arrive on foot:

- **Public transport:** Fair Park is not short of public transport links, with the DART Green Line train stopping at Fair Park Station. The station is located a couple minutes' walk away from the Music Hall. Alternatively, bus routes 23 and 214 also serve Fair Park Station.

- **Driving:** The Music Hall at Fair Park is easily accessible off of Interstate 30 and Interstate 45. Please note, traffic around Dallas gets incredibly busy in the evenings, so it is recommended you allow yourself extra time when leaving for your show.

- **Walking:** As the Music Hall is located within Fair Park, there are plenty of walking routes that you can take to get to the venue. On show day, entrances and exits will be clearly visible to those on foot.

Upon entering the venue, you will be subject to various security measures, such as bag checks and metal detection. The metal detection methods used in the venue are handheld wands, or the Evolv System (metal detection gates). Security measures will cause queues to form, so it's recommended you arrive at least 30 minutes before your show is due to start.

The Music Hall's lobby opens two hours before scheduled shows, with the theater doors opening 30 minutes before the show starts.

Ticketing

Before you enter the venue, it's important that you have your tickets ready in order to speed up the entrance process. The Music Hall at Fair Park no longer accepts 'print at home' tickets, and will only accept mobile and official printed tickets.

To try and avoid ticket scams, the Music Hall strongly encourages you to buy tickets either from the venue's website, box office, or from Ticketmaster. Any tickets bought outside of these official vendors may be fraudulent and could result in refusal of entry.

The box office at Fair Park opens two hours before the show is due to start and closes one hour after it has started.

Accessibility

The Music Hall at Fair Park has a range of measures in place to ensure equal accessibility for disabled people. There are on-grade entrances, railings, elevators, and wide doorways for easy entrance into the venue.

Private ADA restrooms are located on both sides of the auditorium, on the orchestra level of the Music Hall. There are also a number of wheelchairs available for loan within the Music Hall, which are free of charge.

Venue rules

As with all popular music venues, there are rules in place to keep everyone attending a show at Music Hall at Fair Park safe. First, let's look at the general regulations that attendees must follow.

General regulations

Filming or recording audio from the shows at the Music Hall at Fair Park is strictly prohibited, and may result in you being ejected from the venue. The venue prohibits any weapons, including firearms and knives from being brought into the venue.

Music Hall at Fair Park also requires everyone to have a ticket in order to watch a show, including small children. Some shows performed at the venue may have a minimum age requirement, in which case, those who fall underneath it will be refused entry.

Prohibited items

There are many items that are prohibited within the Music Hall at Fair Park for the safety and security of visitors, performers, and staff. All visitors will be subject to bag checks and metal detection procedures, with prohibited items confiscated. The prohibited items are as follows:

- Weapons of all kinds
- Laser pointers
- Audio recording equipment
- Video recording equipment
- Flashlights
- Sirens
- Flammable devices/materials
- Backpacks
- Briefcases
- Camera cases
- Coolers
- Luggage

Parking information

General parking

There are plenty of parking options in and around the Music Hall at Fair Park, including valet options. If you are visiting to see a Broadway Dallas show, parking within the Fair Park grounds is included in your ticket price. For any other shows, parking will cost an additional $10.

There are plenty of free parking lots around the perimeter of Fair Park, as well as paid lots just off Parry Avenue and down 2nd Avenue.

It's also important to note that Gate 4 off 1st Avenue and Parry Avenue will be closed on performance day.

Valet parking

Valet parking at the Music Hall is available on the day of your show for $35 at the valet stand in the circular drive. There is no pre-paid valet service, and the number of valet spots are limited, so it's best to arrive early. For both matinee and evening shows, valet parking will open two-and-a-half hours before your show is due to start.

Valet parking is located through Gate 5 at Robert B. Cullum and Grand Ave.

Accessible parking

Music Hall at Fair Park offers several ADA parking spaces for disabled patrons. These spaces are first-come, first-served, so it's important to arrive early to reserve them.

To access ADA parking, head through Gate 5 at Robert B. Cullum and Grand Ave. and then turn left on 2nd Avenue. Take another right turn to access the upper lot.

CenterStage membership parking

As part of Broadway Dallas' CenterStage $500+ membership packages, you'll gain access to a reserved parking spot with your name attached to it. As well as a parking spot at the Music Hall at Fair Park, you'll also receive free parking for shows at the Winspear Opera House.

The parking system for CenterStage members is as follows:

- **Navy Blue Parking:** Navy Blue Parking is designated for everyone with a $500+ CenterStage membership.
- **Teal Parking:** Teal Parking is available for anyone with a $1000+ Shimmering Star membership.
- **Gold Parking:** Gold Parking becomes available if you have a $2500+ Super Star membership.
- **Keep Your Keys Parking:** Keep Your Keys Parking is an exclusive feature for those with a $10,000+ Silver Star membership.

CenterStage parking spots are accessible through Gate 5 and Gate 6 at Robert B. Cullum and Grand Ave.

Venue history

The Music Hall at Fair Park, originally known as the Fair Park Auditorium, is one of Dallas, TX's foremost music and theater venues. It's currently approaching its 100th year, having opened in 1925 with a production of Sigmund Romberg's, 'The Student Prince'.

It's as distinctive a building as it is iconic, featuring Spanish Baroque-style architecture with Moorish influences. It is located within the grounds of the historic Fair Park, home of the annual State Fair of Texas, which has taken place since 1886.

The Music Hall was used as a concert venue during the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition, a celebration of Texas gaining independence from Mexico in 1836. In the years that followed, numerous operas were held at the venue, transforming it into one of Dallas' main attractions.

Since 1950, the Music Hall has undergone three major renovations, updating the front of the building, modernizing the interiors, and adding an in-house restaurant. This, along with the work of Broadway Dallas, formerly Dallas Summer Musicals, has helped maintain the venue's relevancy and stability over the years.

The non-profit company help to bring Broadway shows to North Texas, hosting them in the Music Hall. Iconic shows such as My Fair Lady, West Side Story, and Singin' in the Rain have all been performed inside the venue since 1951. Stars such as Judy

Garland, Fred Astaire, and Ginger Rogers have also set foot upon the Music Hall's storied stage.

Broadway Dallas aren't slowing down in their mission to promote excellence in live theater, continuing to bring some of Broadway's finest shows to Texas. The company also welcomes music concerts and comedy shows to the venue, as it enters one of its healthiest periods to date.

Seating arrangements

The Music Hall at Fair Park offers different seating arrangements, which may change subject to the nature of the performance. For a fully seated show, the venue holds up to 3,420 people within its four main sections. These are the pit seats, the front orchestra, the rear orchestra, and the balcony.

Pit seats

The pit seats span the first three rows of the venue, offering the most intimate, closest views of the stage. There are 72 pit seats, and, as you can imagine, they are in high demand for every show.

Front orchestra

The front orchestra is the largest section of the Music Hall's seating arrangement, stretching back 24 rows, named A-X. For fully seated performances, this area offers 12 disability access points, with two toward the front, three in the middle and one on the back row. Visitors will also be allocated a seat and row number upon purchasing their tickets.

Rear orchestra

The next 10 rows of the venue are what is known as the rear orchestra. Once again, each visitor will receive an allocated seat, this time with the rows being named in double lettering, from AA-KK. There is an aisle separating the front orchestra from the rear orchestra, meaning those on AA will have access to a little extra legroom.

Balcony

The balcony is the uppermost section of the theatre, and is split into three tiers. The entrances to the balcony seats are situated in the second tier, with steps upwards or downwards depending on which tier you seated.

The venue has been designed so ticket holders have an unimpeded view of the stage on whichever level they are sitting.

Planning your trip to Music Hall at Fair Park

Dallas, Texas is a bustling metropolitan city that still holds its rich cultural roots close to its heart. Known for world class museums, excellent food, and welcoming locals, you'll want to explore more of the city when visiting Music Hall at Fair Park. That's why we've compiled a handful of hotels, restaurants, and local attractions for you to consider visiting during your time in Dallas.

Nearby hotels

The Adolphus

Located just a ten-minute drive away from the Music Hall at Fair Park, The Adolphus represents a perfect blend of value for money and luxury. It boasts a rooftop pool with spectacular views of Downtown Dallas, as well as several in-house restaurants. It's the ideal place to stay if you're wanting to turn your trip to the Music Hall into a full city-break.

CANVAS Hotel

This quirky, art-deco style hotel is perfect for those who want to soak up the Dallas nightlife while they're in town. With a rooftop bar that remains open until late, the CANVAS Hotel is aimed toward a younger audience. If you're not in the mood for partying, it is situated among a variety of excellent restaurants and coffee shops.

Kimpton Pittman Hotel

If you want to remain as close as possible to the Music Hall at Fair Park, the Kimpton Pittman Hotel may be your best bet. Located in the heart of Deep Ellum, the hotel is within walking distance of Fair Park, just 1.7 miles away. The hotel is largely praised for its welcoming atmosphere, accommodating both those searching for liveliness and those looking for some peace and quiet.

Nearby attractions

Texas Discovery Gardens

With 7.5 acres of horticulture to explore, the Texas Discovery Gardens, located within the grounds of Fair Park, is an idyllic peaceful retreat. It's the home of the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium, which houses free-flying butterflies from all over the world.

Children's Aquarium at Fair Park

Keep your kids entertained with the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park. Designed specifically for kids to enjoy, the aquarium is a hive of activity, with games, interactive exhibits, and eye-level fish tanks. Adults aren't ignored by the aquarium, with QR codes placed on the tanks revealing more detailed information about the creatures inside.

African American Museum

The African American Museum, located in Fair Park, is the only museum of its kind in the Southwestern region of the United States. The museum celebrates the cultural and social impact that African Americans have had on the USA. Inside, you'll find artefacts and historical documents chronicling the struggles and victories experienced by African Americans over the centuries.

Nearby restaurants

Terry Black's

There is no better place in the world to experience a real American barbecue than Texas. Terry Black's has become the favored Fair Park barbecue hotspot for locals and tourists alike, with queues for a table often stretching around the block. Famed for its brisket and celebrated for its mac and cheese, Terry Black's was voted Dallas' best barbecue by The Dallas Observer in 2023.

Pepe's and Mito's Mexican Café

Situated in the trendy neighborhood of Deep Ellum, Pepe's and Mito's Mexican Café has become a staple of the local area since opening in 1994. It's an ideal spot if you fancy a casual, reasonably priced dining experience. What it lacks in aesthetics from the outside, it makes up for with its atmosphere and charm on the inside.

Crystal Terrace

If you don't want to stray from the Music Hall at Fair Park, you can always dine in the venue's onsite restaurant, Crystal Terrace. With beautiful views of the park and a buffet menu based around the show you're about to watch, it offers a unique pre-show dining experience.

Music Hall at Fair Park FAQs

Does the venue have wheelchair access?

The Music Hall at Fair Park is inclusive of those with disabilities, offering several wheelchair accessible entrances and locations for guests. There are also complimentary wheelchairs within the venue. However, the balcony seats within the main theatre can only be accessed by climbing stairs.

Is the venue suitable for someone with hearing difficulties?

Yes, the Music Hall at Fair Park has worked alongside Hear Us Now to offer hearing assistance to those who need it. Guests with hearing difficulties can borrow sound equipment that connects directly to hearing aids, or headphones if you don't use hearing aids.

What is the venue's late seating policy?

There is no specific late seating policy set out by the venue if you turn up after your show has started. The policy is instead dictated by the show itself. It is recommended that you arrive at least 30 minutes before your show is due to start to avoid any risk of missing out.

What if I lose something at the venue?

If you lose something at the Music Hall at Fair Park, be sure to call 214.421.5678. The call operator will have access to the venue's lost and found logbook. Before you call, make sure that you have details of your visit, such as a seat number and the date and time you visited. This will allow staff to search the area in which you were sitting.

Is there a discount for students or the elderly?

There are currently no concessions prices in place at the Music Hall at Fair Park. However, promotions are often laid on by individual shows offering cheaper tickets to students and elderly people.

How can I stay updated on events at Music Hall at Fair Park?

If you're attending a performance at the Music Hall, or just want to stay updated with the latest news, follow Broadway Dallas' on social media. They are currently active on Instagram and Facebook, where they post news about shows, upcoming events, and general updates.

SEO:

Keyphrases	Google UK Searches P/M
Fair Park	100 – 1K
Dallas	10K – 100K

Title Tag: Music Hall at Fair Park Guide | Dallas, Texas

Meta Description: Music Hall at Fair Park is one of the most iconic music and performance venues in Dallas, Texas. Discover everything you need to know before visiting.

English Type: US