

Dallas, TX | [Google Map](#) | H/T Olivia Rafkin | April 2024

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Created by [Olivia Rafkin](#), April 2024



Olivia is the “Crutch for a CIO of a Dallas family office” her adopted hometown as she is originally from San Antonio. She describes herself as:

“Highly extroverted 8th generation Texan but proudly a former 10 year New Yorker, recently married, soon-to-be-mom of a baby girl.”

She describes her travel preferences as:

“I enjoy meticulously planning trips but intentionally leaving time for spontaneous and random activities that come from left field or a trip to the spa... (my husband's favorite place is a massage table.) I like a mix of formal and casual restaurants/bars. I also prefer a boutique hotel experience. I certainly love a high end hotel chain but the price and predictability leaves much to be desired.”

Favorites

- [Katy Trail Ice House](#): Truly never a bad time! Great food and drinks, TVs galore, very dog and kid friendly. When the weather is nice, I suggest getting there early to avoid the line.
- [Lucia](#): Located in a creative and funky part of town, Bishop Arts. The best meal I've had in Dallas. Only 32 seats in the restaurant... must set an alert on Resy. Also fun to explore this happening place before or after dinner.
- [Highland Park Village](#): Absolutely insane high-end shopping and dining. The Christmas lights during the holidays are magical.

Activity

- [Katy Trail](#): Located in the heart of Dallas, former railroad line now beautiful 3.5 mile walking/running trail. It reminds me of NYC's West Side Highway. You always run into a friend or a dog that you know!
- [Perot Museum of Nature and Science](#): Dallas establishment and fabulous for kids and families.
- [American Airlines Center](#): Dallasites are passionate about... Dallas sports. Loyal fans from all over come to watch the Mavericks and Stars (usually) kick butt.

Booze

- [Inwood Tavern](#): Jell-O shots anyone? Looking to get loose? Want to bust a move when the alcohol hits the system? This is your spot!
- [Time Out Tavern aka the TOT](#): Divey as can be, pool tables and very cold beers. (Pro tip... after you've had a few beers, walk over to Inwood Tavern^)
- [Monkey Bar](#): Located above Mi Cocina in Highland Park Village. Try their Mambo Taxi (swirl) frozen margarita. Yummm.

Restaurant

- [The Charles](#): Trendy and vibey restaurant located in a hot part of town. Great place to have a good meal and a cold martini then hit the town.
- [Parigi](#): Classic Dallas French bistro, consistent and always delicious. Great for parents and grandparents. Incredible dessert.
- [Café Pacific](#): I've heard people say this restaurant is "Heaven's waiting room" LOL. They aren't wrong but the food is fantastic, location is supreme and this place is great for a celebratory meal, girls dinner or when you feel like dressing up and being festive. No jeans allowed!

Institution

- [Northpark Mall/Neiman Marcus](#): Dallas has incredible shopping... can't go wrong here.
- [The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden](#): Another great one for kids and families. Beautiful and (obviously) changes with the seasons.
- [Texas State Fair](#): Occurs in the fall for about a month - celebrates all things Texas with a massive carnival, a plethora of creative food stands and plenty of rides.

Coffee

- [Merit Coffee](#): A San Antonio (my hometown) transplant. Coffee and snacks are the best! They also serve Tacodeli breakfast tacos :)
- [LDU](#): People say it is the best tasting coffee in town!
- [Drip Coffee](#): Another staple in the Dallas coffee world. My husband conducts lots of meetings here.

Plug

Back to the Katy Trail - I volunteer for this organization. Privately funded trail in the heart of Dallas. The trail welcomes over 2 million visitors per year and very few folks realize donations alone keep this trail lit, green and functioning. Want to learn more or make a donation? <https://katytraildallas.org/>

See more at Rambull.substack.com

Want to get in touch with Olivia? Email her at oboyce88@gmail.com