



FEARLESS

RICKEY THOMPSON AND THE NEW QUEER BLACK MALE

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TEN PLACES TO GO IN 2019

FROM EMERGING ARTS
SCENES AND UNLIKELY
BEACHES TO MUST-TRY
FOODIE SPOTS, THESE
ARE THE DESTINATIONS
INSPIRING US TO BOOK
OUR NEXT PLANE TICKET.

BY BRANDON PRESSER



Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston

2. Texas

Capital city Austin is the Lone Star's poster child for "blue dot/red state," earning the lion's share of hipster traffic in the entirety of the American South. This is anchored by the "Keep Austin Weird" slogan, the pronounced live music scene, the college-town vibe, and the SXSW arts-festival-cum-conference. And, yes, the city makes good on its alt, small-batch coolness, with not just one token neighborhood but a checkerboard of decidedly uncorporate streets and blocks. Texas's other major hubs, however, have long been more than longhorns. Even lesbian hotelier Liz Lambert is branching out from her Austin roots, opening accommodations in San Antonio, Marfa, and beyond.

Houston—which is poised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing—has the largest creative community in the entire state. There's the Washington Avenue Arts District, and the Montrose area, which is a great entry point for newcomers with its protracted indie history (during the '80s, it was a hub of LGBTQ activity). Dallas's dining scene is unexpectedly diverse and multiplying by the minute, and San Antonio (fresh off the 300th anniversary of its founding) recently registered the region's sharpest population growth among college-educated Millennials seeking a more affordable lifestyle in the home of the Alamo.

3. Germany

We love a good excuse to throw a party, and Germany has two—the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the centenary of the Bauhaus—both synonymous with a strong, progressive spirit. The Bauhaus opened after the First World War as an interdisciplinary art school, and although it lasted for just a little over a decade, its radical vision of design and architecture had a ripple effect around the globe. An array of exhibitions have been created in honor of the anniversary. Check out *Bauhaus100.de* for inspirational tourist trails of the movement's living monuments, which cross the entire country from Hamburg to Stuttgart. Of course, there are plenty of stark, modernist structures in Berlin as well—it's a city so celebrated for fostering a good time that even nightclubs can get tax rebates for worthy cultural output.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATOR

