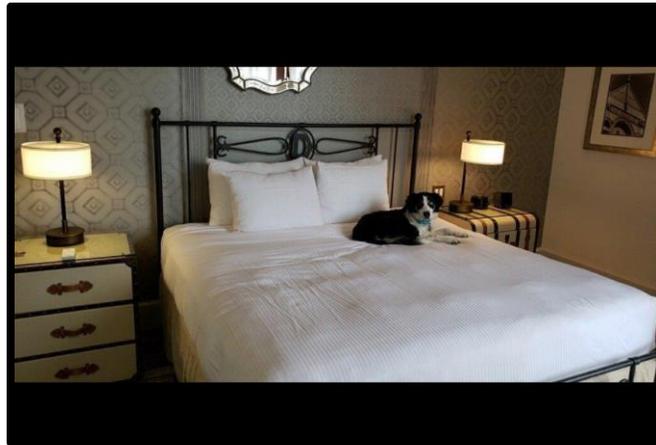




Furry friends welcome: 5 dog-friendly hotels perfect for your next Austin staycation

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It's no secret that Austinites love their pets.

From Lady Bird Lake's hike-and-bike trail to the packed sidewalks of South Congress Avenue, spotting a pampered pooch is about as easy as hailing a pedicab on Sixth Street on a Saturday night. Just last year, the city was ranked in the top 10 most dog-friendly cities in United States by Thrillist, and Austin continues to offer Southern hospitality to its most loyal residents as more and more call the Texas capital home.

In addition to the many restaurants, shops and outdoor locales that are dog-friendly, there are also a multitude of hotels that welcome Fido. From the historic Driskill Hotel to the boutique Hotel Ella, dogs are treated with just as much care as their human owners. Here are five to consider next time you're looking for a four-leg-friendly staycation.

Hyatt Regency Austin

The Hyatt Regency, overlooking the blue-green waters of Lady Bird Lake and right across from the heart of downtown, is a perfect staycation spot for pet parents looking to get away for a night.

At the Hyatt Regency, pets are treated to plush dog beds, food and water bowls and treats upon arrival. For the adventurous pup, it's easy to cruise down to the trails for some playtime or even go window shopping in the Second Street District.

Info: hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/texas/hyatt-regency-austin/ausra

The Driskill

Completed in 1886 for \$400,000, the Driskill has continued to uphold its upscale reputation for more than 125 years. From hosting former President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, who coincidentally met at the Driskill Grill and frequently stayed in room 434, to former President Bill Clinton and Jenna Bush Hager, the Driskill has had its fair share of noteworthy guests. Now, Austin's furry residents are able to have their very own president-worthy stay at the famous hotel.

Doggy guests at the Driskill can look forward to luxe accommodations, plenty of treats and downtown views, and those lucky enough to get a room with a private balcony will get to enjoy plenty of people-watching. The hotel staff members are very friendly and love getting to know each new dog by name.

Info: driskillhotel.com

Lone Star Court

Pets can enjoy a retro stay at the Domain's Lone Star Court, which was inspired by the 1950s and 1960s. Guest rooms are decorated with funky furnishings and colorful details, and each room has a breezeway with rocking chairs for ultimate lounging. In addition to the hotel's cozy accommodations, there are fire pits on the property for warming up on brisk winter nights, live music, a swimming hole and an on-site restaurant.

Because Austin is known for being such a pet-friendly city, Lone Star Court offers a pet package that includes a collapsible bowl, a pup snack box full of healthy treats and a late checkout time of 2 p.m. And due to its location, pets and their human owners can look forward to plenty of window-shopping, an array of dining options and the chance to mingle with other pet parents.

Info: lonestarcourt.com

Hotel Ella

The Goodall Wooten House, known today as Hotel Ella, has 47 grand guest rooms, a cabana-style pool and Texas-modernist works of art throughout the grounds. Located near the University of Texas and the Capitol, Hotel Ella offers a boutique staycation experience with historic vibes, plus it's dog-friendly.

"We ask that guests let us know when they're arriving and we will have their room prepared with bedding and bowls, as well as a plush toy and bandanna, so your pet feels just as welcome as you. At check-in, dogs are greeted with a healthy treat," says general manager Jason Brannan.

Downtown Austin is notoriously dog-friendly, so staying at Hotel Ella makes it simple for those wishing to travel with their pets. Tour the UT campus, catch some rays on the grass near the Capitol or head south to enjoy the Sustainable Food Center's Farmers Market.

Info: hotelella.com

The Line Hotel

The Line hotel is one of Austin's newest dog-friendly hotels. Not only is the hotel aesthetically beautiful with oversize rooms, lakeside views and interiors by Los Angeles-based designer Sean Knibb, but there is plenty to do right outside the hotel for people traveling with their furry best friend. At the Line, all dogs (the hotel even welcomes other animals such as cats and birds) stay for free and are provided with water bowls and housemade peanut butter and bacon treat. (Insider tip: Dean's One Trick Pony, the restaurant's fast-casual burger restaurant, is also dog-friendly.)

"All of our hotels welcome dogs," says Isadora McKeon, vice president of creative and culture at Sydell Group, owners of the Line Austin and its sister properties. "There's probably no place where dogs are more central to life than here. If Fido isn't laying at your feet while you eat on the patio, you probably aren't in Austin."

Info: thelinehotel.com/austin