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## 10 WAYS TO ENJOY THE BEST OF PLANO, TEXAS

### **From Art, Historic Walking Tours and Museums to Upscale Shopping, Dining and Cinema, Plano Offers the Perfect Diversions for Visitors**

#### **1) Plano Balloon Festival**

Oak Point Park  
2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway  
(972) 867-7566  
[www.planoballoonfest.org](http://www.planoballoonfest.org)

If you're in Plano in September, the Plano Balloon Festival is not to be missed. The 2010 EDS Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival was a feast for the eyes, as approximately 100 magnificent hot-air balloons filled the skies over Plano at sunrise and sunset during this three-day event. The festival also features sky divers, fireworks, concerts, food and more. The 2011 festival – the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual – will be held Sept. 16-18.

#### **2) Southfork Ranch**

3700 Hogge Road  
Parker, Texas 75002  
(972) 442-7800  
[www.southfork.com](http://www.southfork.com)

Known as the “world’s most famous ranch,” Southfork Ranch is best known from the television series “Dallas,” offering visitors the opportunity to relive memorable moments from the fictional Ewing clan. The “Dallas Legends: Fact to Fantasy” exhibit features the gun

that shot J.R., Lucy's wedding dress, video clips from the series and other memorabilia.

Located in nearby Parker, Southfork has attracted millions of visitors and is open daily year-round for guided tours, private parties, special events, shopping and more.

**3) Legacy Town Center/The Shops at Legacy**

[www.legacyinplano.com](http://www.legacyinplano.com)

[www.shopsatlegacy.com](http://www.shopsatlegacy.com)

Legacy Town Center is a mélange of urban style homes, businesses, retail establishments, hotels, restaurants and open spaces in a community setting. The lead architect and planner of this 150-acre center is world-renowned new urbanist Andre Duany. The Shops at Legacy features a wide variety of upscale shopping from clothing and jewelry to home furnishings and specialty items. The center is also home to the Angelika Film Center & Café, a stylish five-screen boutique cinema devoted to independent specialty film, as well as some of Dallas' best restaurants, including Bob's Steak & Chop House and Jasper's, whose proprietor and executive chef is none other than superchef Kent Rathbun. The Marriott Dallas/Plano at Legacy Town Center is the center's premier hotel property. Baccus Plaza is one of the newer additions to this development. The Plaza includes the Trails in Legacy Sculptures, which were created by Texas native Robert Summers and depict a cattle drive along the Shawnee Trail, a principal route on which Texas longhorn cattle were driven before and just after the Civil War.

**4) Interurban Railway Museum**

Downtown Plano

901 East 15<sup>th</sup> St.

(972) 941-2117

[www.planocvb.com](http://www.planocvb.com)

North Texas transportation history is brought back to life with this interesting exhibit. Once a vital part of the Texas Electric Railway that stretched from Denison to Waco, the Interurban is one of the original electric cars that ran on the tracks through Plano. Also on site is car 360, which carried mail as well as passengers.

**5) Arbor Hills Nature Preserve**

6701 W Parker Road

(972) 307- 1906

[www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov)

Park hours are 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Gates are closed when park is closed.

Located on the western border of Plano, Arbor Hills Nature Preserve is a 200-acre park featuring vast areas of natural beauty for walking, jogging, hiking, orienteering and other outdoor activity. Amenities include:

- Playground
- Restrooms
- Paved recreational trail (approximately 2.3 miles)
- Natural unpaved trails for pedestrians only
- Designated off-road cycling trail (approximately two miles)
- A natural biofilter for cleaning surface run-off from the parking lot before it reenters the ground water tables
- Observation tower
- Three pavilions (see reservation information on the Burr Oak pavilion)

**6) Heritage Farmstead**

1900 West 15<sup>th</sup> St.

15<sup>th</sup> Street at Pitman Drive

(972) 881-0140

[www.heritagefarmstead.org](http://www.heritagefarmstead.org)

This four-acre museum preserves a way of life during the height of farm prosperity in the early 1900s. The beautiful Victorian home and 12 outbuildings were the hub of a 360-acre farm operated by a colorful local resident, Ammie Wilson. The museum is open to the public,

and guided tours are available.

**7) Fairview Farms**

3316 N. Central Expressway  
Exit 30, U.S. 75, north of Parker Road  
(972) 422-2500  
[www.fairview-farms.com](http://www.fairview-farms.com)

Fairview Farms Marketplace is a unique development created to take visitors back to simple days of farm life years ago. Visit the Fairview Corral Barn, a country-style party facility that can be rented out for a special event. Barnyard Buddies has pony rides, petting zoos, games and much more. Stroll through the farmers market and experience the great taste of daily farm-fresh produce.

**8) Heard Natural Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary**

1 Nature Place  
Five miles north of Plano in McKinney  
(972) 562-5566  
[www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is a 289-acre outdoor preserve and nature museum. Guests encounter various ecosystems along with species of birds, insects and animals that have found refuge within the rapidly developing Collin County area. The museum features “The Living Lab,” an interactive hands-on science laboratory; “Venomous Snakes of Texas” exhibit and rotating nature art exhibits.

**9) ArtCentre of Plano**

1039 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
15<sup>th</sup> Street at Avenue K  
(972) 423-7809  
[www.artcentreofplano.org](http://www.artcentreofplano.org)

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A “home for the arts” in Plano, this renovated historic downtown building offers something for everyone. Catch a play or enjoy a vocal performance in the ArtCentre Theatre or browse through the art galleries for displays of local artists, as well as national shows.

**10) Walking Tour of Historic Plano**

City of Plano

(972) 941-7000

[www.planocvb.com](http://www.planocvb.com)

Visit more than a dozen restored historic homes, the Interurban Museum and the charming downtown area with its brick streets and unique shops. Most of the properties designated as local historic landmarks are within walking distance of the downtown area. A visual guide of the tour can be found on the City of Plano’s website under “Attractions.”

For more information on the City of Plano, visit the Plano Convention & Visitors Bureau website at [www.planocvb.com](http://www.planocvb.com), or contact Brian Briscoe of Tucker & Associates at (214) 252-0900, ext. 27, or [brian@tuckerpr.com](mailto:brian@tuckerpr.com). Photography is also available at (214) 252-0900.

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