



convention & visitors bureau

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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, Texas, 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 2008 EDS Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival was a feast for the eyes, as 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. Next year's festival – the 30<sup>th</sup> annual – is scheduled for September 18 – 20, 2009.

#### **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,” relive some memorable moments from the television series “Dallas” at Southfork Ranch, the homestead of 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 feature a wide-rang of upscale shopping from clothing and jewelry to home furnishings and specialty items. The Angelika Film Center & Café is a stylish five-screen boutique cinema devoted to independent specialty film. The center is home to some of Dallas' best restaurants, including Bob's Steak & Chop House and Jasper's, whose proprietor and executive chef is none other than super-chef 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. The sculptures 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> Street  
(972) 941-2117

[www.plano.gov/Departments/ParksandRecreation/Parks\\_Facilities/interurban.htm](http://www.plano.gov/Departments/ParksandRecreation/Parks_Facilities/interurban.htm)

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 Rd

(972) 307- 1906

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

Park hours are 5am - 11pm.

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 (approx. 4.4 miles) - [click here for map](#)
- Natural unpaved trails for pedestrians only
- Designated off-road cycling trail (approx. 2 miles) - [click here for map](#)
- 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> Street

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

(972) 881-0140

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

This four-acre museum preserves a way of life during the height of farm prosperity in the early 1900's. The beautiful Victorian home, and 12 outbuildings, was 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 Rd.

(972) 422-2500

[www.fairview-farms.com](http://www.fairview-farms.com)

Fairview Farms Marketplace is a unique development created to take you 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 Farmer's Market and experience the great taste of daily farm-fresh produce.

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

1 Nature Place

5 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> Street

15<sup>th</sup> Street at Avenue K

(972) 423-7809

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

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 located within walking distance of the downtown area. A visual guide of the tour can be printed off on your computer from the City of Plano's web site under "Attractions."

For more information on the City of Plano, visit the Plano Convention & Visitors Bureau Web site at [www.planocvb.com](http://www.planocvb.com). Photography is available at (214) 252-0900.

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