

Destination Dallas

By Barbara Gooding



Dallas, here we come! The club's Conference Committee is busy planning a fabulous gathering on October 25-27, 2024 just outside Dallas for the Annual Business Meeting and conference. You won't want to miss this one in the state of Texas. Everything in Texas is big including the size of the City of Dallas at 386 square miles. It's the 3rd largest city in the state. In decades past, Dallas had a reputation for being glitzy and glamorous. This impression was no doubt influenced by the television program *Dallas* that ran from 1978 to 1991. Today, Dallas is known for cowboy culture, delicious Tex-Mex cuisine, and a thriving arts scene.

A Brief Background

The city was founded in 1841 by John Neely Bryan on the east bank of the Trinity River near a natural ford. Bryan was unaware that he had settled on land granted by the Republic of Texas to the Texan Land and Emigration Company of St. Louis. Bryant legalized his claim after a few years. The origin of the name Dallas is unknown. Candidates include George Mifflin Dallas, Vice President of the U.S. from 1841 to 1849; his brother, Navy Commodore Alexander J. Dallas; and Joseph Dallas, who settled near the new town in 1843. Although Texas was admitted as a state in 1845, Dallas citizens voted in 1861 to secede from the Union and sided with the Confederate states.

Dallas suffered its most traumatic event in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza, only yards from the site where John Neely Bryan had settled in 1841. After twenty-five years of debate about how the city should commemorate the tragedy,

The Sixth Floor Museum opened in the former Texas School Book Depository. In 1993, Dealey Plaza was declared a National Historic Landmark District.

Dallas Today

The population of the city in 2023 stood at 1.3 million. It's the home of the famous Dallas Cowboy football team. The downtown features a contemporary profile of buildings designed by nationally prominent architects. Although there is a modern feel, the city did not neglect its history. The West End Historic District was established in the 1980s to preserve a group of brick warehouses constructed in the late 1800s. These now house restaurants and shops. Buildings in Deep Ellum, dating to the 1920s are preserved and feature clubs and restaurants. The city's Landmark Commission has designated many other buildings and neighborhoods as landmarks, including Swiss Avenue, Munger Place, South Boulevard-Park Row, and State-Thomas. Fair Park is the largest Art Deco art and architecture district in the world.

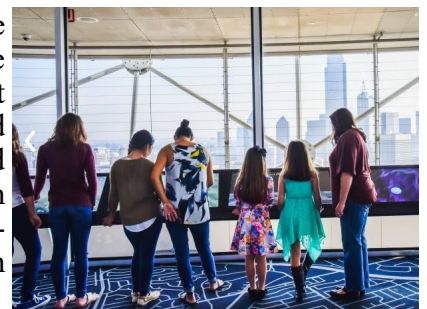
What to See and Do



Reunion Tower

For a bird's eye view of the city, visit the **GeO-Deck of Reunion Tower**. This indoor/outdoor observation deck sits 470 feet above ground to take in sweeping views of Dallas and surrounding communities. Ticket prices depend on the time of day (\$19 to \$40 for adults and \$16 to \$35 for seniors). The tower offers a double entry ticket for those who want both a day-

time and nighttime viewing. Double entry tickets start at \$24 for adults and \$19 for seniors and can be purchased in advance online. Address: 300 Reunion Boulevard East.



Interior of Reunion Tower

Sights to See in Dallas



Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

The **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden** occupies 66 acres with 11 gardens. If you get hungry, you can choose from five restaurants including the DeGolyer Tea Room (open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) serving a seasonal three-course tea menu. Reserve at teas@dallasarboretum.org. The rose garden has 200 hybrid tea roses of 16 varieties. It is one of the most beautiful and aromatic gardens in the Arboretum. Best visited in October when the roses are in full bloom. The 6.5-acre Margaret Elizabeth Jonsson Color Garden is planted with more than 2,000 varieties of azaleas, plus daffodils, tulips, and pansies. The arboretum grounds are filled with seasonal florals displays year-round. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$14 for seniors. Parking is \$15, but only \$10 if you purchase online. Address: 8525 Garland Road.



DeGolyer Tea Room



Botanical Garden

The **Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza** chronicles the life, death, and legacy of President John F. Kennedy. The Museum is in the former Texas School Book Depository building. Highlights include a sniper's perch, the FBI model used by the

Warren Commission, an original teletype machine that first transmitted news of the president's death, Oswald's wedding ring, historic film footage, photos, and more. Open Wed-Sun 10 a.m.



to 5 p.m. Address: 411 Elm Street. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors.

Dallas Museum of Art rotates displays of more than 25,000 works of art that span the past 5,000 years. You will find modern art, ancient art, sculpture, Asian, and African art. Artists range from locals to internationally recognized masters, such as Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, and Vincent Van Gogh. Check their website for hours as they vary by month. General admission is free, but visitors must reserve tickets either in person or online at <https://dma.org/visit>. Tickets are typically released on the third Monday of every month for the upcoming month. Address: 1717 North Harwood.

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Dallas Museum of Art

Deep Ellum is an historic warehouse district converted into a funky nightlife and shopping area. The district dates to 1873 when it was one of the city's first residential and commercial districts for African-Americans. You'll find over 20 historically recognized buildings. In 1888, Robert S. Munger built his first cotton gin factory in

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Deep Ellum

More Dallas Sites

warehouses along Elm Street and Trunk Avenue. The business grew into the largest manufacturer of cotton-processing equipment in the U.S. Henry Ford selected 2700 Canton Street for an assembly plant making the Model T automobile. Other landmarks include The Palace Blacksmith Shop at 2814 Main Street (c. 1913), Parks Brothers Warehouse at 2639 Elm Street (c. 1923), and The Boyd Hotel at 2934 Main Street (c. 1911). An artist community is active and has produced over 100 building wall murals within the district. Music venues, shops and restaurants abound.

The **Dallas World Aquarium** is home to ocean and land animals. Some describe it as not a true



Dallas World Aquarium

aquarium, but a jungle-style animal and reptile center. You can visit a rainforest on the third floor to see exotic birds and two species of sloths. The aquarium houses more than just

aquatic animals like sharks and manatees. It has fauna from around the world, including moneys, flamingoes, owls, bats, reptiles and seadragons. The Mundo Maya area houses euphonias, tanagers, hummingbirds, reptiles, and amphibians. Food is available in 3 dining areas. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors. Address: 1801 N Griffin St.

Try **Tex-Mex cuisine** on a 2-hour tasting tour by ExperienceFirst. The tour is limited to 15 people. The walking tour travels a total of ½ mile and tastes in the historic west end district. Meet the guide at

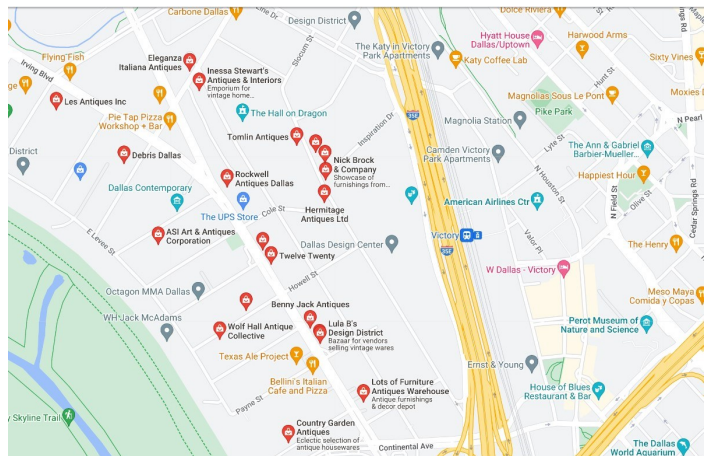


Tex-Mex food tour

Wild Bill's Western Store, 311 N Market St. and end at Y.O. Ranch Steakhouse, 702 Ross Ave. The cost of the tour and guide is \$39 payable online and another \$35 in cash

paid to the guide for food and tips. Guides share the history and culture of the area. The website advertises food portions are Texas sized.

If you need a high-end shopping experience, check out **The Shops of Highland Park**, 4200 - 4270 Oaklawn Ave. Most shops are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also explore **Galleria Dallas**, 13350 Dallas Pkwy with department stores, boutiques, and restaurants. Usual hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. If it's antique stores you want, there are many clustered within the **Design District**. See red flags on the map. Benny Jacks Antiques shop is composed of a group of vendors at 1026 N. Riverfront Blvd. Open Sun-Mon 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tues to Sat 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Curiosities Antiques at 8920 Garland Road is run by 7 dealers who offer an eclectic collection.



Antiques Shops in Design District

Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

These are just some of the highlights that Dallas offers. There is something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

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