



## PLANO, TEXAS

### FACT SHEET

**Overview:** When travelers choose Plano as home base, they are choosing easy access to most major cultural, sporting, adventure and entertainment venues through the Dallas-Fort Worth area. But this dynamic city is also a destination in its own right, blending the charm of a historic downtown with the luxury of a world class dining and shopping scene. Visitors will find a variety of museums and attractions, a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities and a full calendar of signature events, including the colorful Plano Balloon Festival, which the city has hosted since 1979.

**Honors:** Plano has received numerous honors, including:

#### 2019

- Happiest City in America by WalletHub.
- Fourth Best City for Foodies by Yelp.
- Fifth Best City to Live in America by Niche.

#### 2018

- Best Place to Live by AreaVibes
- Third Safest City in America by WalletHub
- Eighth Best Texas City for Families by WalletHub
- Top 20 for Best Park System in America by the Trust for Public Land

#### 2017

- Seventh Best City to Live by Niche
- Named “Hottest Suburb” on the *Dallas Morning News* “Hot List”
- Safest Big City in the U.S. by Reward Expert

#### 2016

- 8<sup>th</sup> Best Downtown in America by Livability.com
- Plano parks named best in Texas by Trust for Public Land
- Fourteenth Safest City in America by Niche.com
- Best Place to Live in Texas and #3 Best Place to Live in America by *Money*
- Third Best City for Families by WalletHub

#### 2015

- One of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Livability.com

#### 2014

- America’s Safest City by *Forbes* magazine

➤ Fifth Best City for Kids by *Livability.com*

**Population:** Plano has been one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, especially over the last two decades. Currently, the city’s population is over 271,000.

**Time Zone:** Central Standard Time

<b>Miles to Plano:</b>	Abilene, TX	197
	Albuquerque, NM	674
	Amarillo, TX	362
	Austin, TX	215
	Baton Rouge, LA	376
	Beaumont, TX	340
	Brownsville, TX	564
	Corpus Christi, TX	430
	El Paso, TX	652
	Fort Worth	50
	Galveston, TX	307
	Houston, TX	257
	Laredo, TX	449
	Little Rock, AR	283
	Lubbock, TX	363
	New Orleans, LA	533
	Odessa, TX	370
	Oklahoma City, OK	202
	San Angelo, TX	296
	San Antonio, TX	293
	Santa Fe, NM	634
	Shreveport, LA	199
	Texarkana, TX	180
	Tulsa, OK	240
	Tyler, TX	109

**Transportation:** **Air:** Plano has convenient access to two major airports – **Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport** ([dfwairport.com](http://dfwairport.com)) and **Dallas Love Field Airport** ([dallas-lovefield.com](http://dallas-lovefield.com)). Several major airlines service these airports with daily nonstop flights, including American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

**DART Rail** ([dart.org](http://dart.org)): Visitors to Plano can travel throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area via the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System (DART) Rail Line from two locations in Plano: Parker Road Station and Downtown Plano Station.

**Bus:** Local bus service is also provided by DART. For schedules, visit ([dart.org](http://dart.org)) or call (214) 979-1111.

**Ground:** Plano is easily accessible from any location in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Major thoroughfares heading north and south include the Dallas North Tollway, State Highway 75 and Preston Road. East and west

thoroughfares include State Highway 121, Highway 190 (President George Bush Turnpike) and Interstate 635.

**Shuttle/Taxi Service/Ride Share:** Travel to and from both airports and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area is available through several area transportation companies.

**Climate:** Located in the Sunbelt, Plano enjoys a temperate climate with mild winters and hot summers. The average year-round temperature is 66 degrees. January is the coldest month, with an average temperature of 44 degrees. July is the hottest month, with an average temperature of 86 degrees. (Source: Plano Economic Development Board)

**History:** The first settlers came to the Plano area in the 1840s. A sawmill, gristmill and a store helped the area grow. The city was officially incorporated in 1873, a year after the Houston and Texas Railroad was completed. In 1881, a fire destroyed most of the city's business district, but it was quickly rebuilt. Plano grew steadily over the years, but its population "exploded" during the 1980s. During this time, many large corporations, such as JCPenney and The Frito-Lay Company, moved their corporate headquarters to Plano. The city was recognized as an All-American City in 1994.

**New and Notable:** Visitors won't want to miss **Legacy West**. Opened in June 2017, this "city within a city" is the largest mixed use destination in North Texas and the perfect place to play, shop, dine, and stay. Besides serving as corporate headquarters for several high profile companies including Toyota North America, Fedex Office, Liberty Mutual and more, the 255-acre development boasts 415,000 dynamic square feet of open-air retail and restaurant space. Legacy West adds to Plano's already vibrant dining scene with restaurants that satisfy every craving, whether for steak or a good old-fashioned milk shake, French bistro fare or a red velvet cupcake.

For those who can't decide, **Legacy Hall** has it all. In this European-style food hall, visitors can wander from stall to stall to meet local purveyors and sample everything from lobster rolls to Philly cheesesteaks to house made ginger beer floats. There are numerous bars, and an on-site brewery called Unlawful Assembly Brewing Company and live music stage.

Legacy West's shopping offerings run the gamut from fashion to furnishings to cosmetics and even cars. (Think Tesla!) After a day of retail therapy, shoppers won't have to go very far to set down their spoils, since this urban village is anchored by the new Renaissance Dallas at Plano Legacy West Hotel (see accommodations listing below).

Also new to Plano is the **Boardwalk at Granite Park**. Situated across from the luxurious patio of the 299-room Hilton at Granite Park, this 30,000 square foot expanse features a variety of restaurants with patios serving burgers, seafood, Southern homestyle cooking, brew pub fare, specialty coffee, pastries and more. There are also beachy deck chairs that afford a great view of the water feature, and lawn games.

The newest addition to The Shops at Willow Bend is **The District at Willow Bend** transforming the mall into a shopping, dining, and entertainment destination. The District is a new restaurant area that is home to local chef-driven restaurants, second-story terraces, and a grand entrance to the property.

**Accommodations:** With 6,900 hotel rooms available, Plano has everything from economical alternatives for families on a budget to the ultimate in luxury accommodations. Visit Plano's website includes a complete list of hotel options ([VisitPlano.com](http://VisitPlano.com)). A few of the most notable options include:

**aloft Hotel** ([aloftplano.com](http://aloftplano.com)): The aloft Hotel is a much-anticipated lifestyle brand from Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide. The aloft Plano, which opened in October 2008, features 136 rooms that showcase loft-inspired design – high ceilings, oversized windows and more.

**Cambria Hotel & Suites Plano-Frisco** ([cambriasuitesplano.com](http://cambriasuitesplano.com)): Located just minutes from the popular Shops at Legacy and 11 Fortune 1000 company offices and headquarters, the 129-room Cambria Hotel & Suites Plano-Frisco offer more than 2,400 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting and conference space and as well as oversized guest rooms that have separate living, working and sleeping spaces.

**Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park** ([dallasplanogranitepark.hilton.com](http://dallasplanogranitepark.hilton.com)): Situated in the prestigious Granite Park development in Plano, the full-service 299-room Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park conference hotel features a 30,000 square foot conference center with two ballrooms, Executive Lounge, 24-hour fitness center, resort-style outdoor swimming pool, and Carso Mediterranean Grill.

**Marriott Dallas/Plano at Legacy Town Center** ([marriott.com/dalpt](http://marriott.com/dalpt)): Surrounded by scenic parks and water features, this picturesque, upscale and full-service property is located in Legacy Town Center and is within walking distance to upscale shopping, fine dining and entertainment. Complete with 404 guest rooms and 32,000 square feet of banquet/meeting space, the luxury hotel serves leisure and corporate travelers and provides an exquisite setting for weddings, events, and meetings of all sizes. Amenities include a beautiful outdoor heated pool and whirlpool, fitness center, and concierge service to arrange appointments such as spa treatments and golf outings.

**NYLO Dallas Plano Hotel, Tapestry Collection by Hilton** ([tapestrycollection3.hilton.com/tc/nylo-dallas-plano/](http://tapestrycollection3.hilton.com/tc/nylo-dallas-plano/)): A groundbreaking concept that redefines urban-style lodging with modern hospitality and high design, the NYLO Dallas Plano Hotel, Tapestry Collection by Hilton was the first NYLO hotel. Among its features are guest lofts, two lifestyle suites with a 600-square-foot terrace and 45 allergy-friendly rooms.

**Renaissance Dallas at Plano Legacy West Hotel** ([marriott.com/dalbp](http://marriott.com/dalbp)): The newest addition to Plano's vibrant hospitality scene, this luxury property serves as an anchor for the three billion dollar Legacy West urban mixed use

project. The 15 story, 304-room hotel has more than 26,000 square feet of conference and meeting space. Special features include a high energy lobby and bar, an onsite Asian fusion restaurant, a third floor amenity deck with swimming pool, a bar concierge lounge, fitness center and outdoor event space.

**Sandman Signature Plano-Frisco Hotel** ([sandmanhotels.com](http://sandmanhotels.com)): The Sandman Signature Plano-Frisco Hotel is the first Sandman property in the U.S. It boasts 233 beautifully appointed guestrooms including family, corporate and executive suites. The hotel is conveniently located near area sports venues, conference facilities, golf courses, shopping centers and restaurants. Guests will enjoy restaurants, an indoor pool and fitness room, state-of-the-art meeting and conference facilities and a business center.

**Attractions:** All across Plano, visitors will discover a rich variety of attractions:

**Baccus Plaza:** Located within The Shops at Legacy, Baccus Plaza houses a number of landmarks including **Baccus Cemetery**, which was established in 1847 and is one of the oldest cemeteries in Collin County, and the **Trails In Legacy Sculptures**, created by Texas native Robert Summers. The work depicts a cattle drive along the Shawnee Trail, one of the main Texas longhorn cattle drive routes before and after the Civil War.

**Downtown Plano Arts District** ([visitdowntownplano.com](http://visitdowntownplano.com)): Visit more than a dozen restored historic homes, the Interurban Railway Museum and walk along authentic brick streets to discover an eclectic collection of antique shops, and independent boutiques selling everything from handmade jewelry to home décor and pottery. Catch a show/performance at Courtyard Theater, Cox Building Playhouse, or McCall Plaza, or see the artists in residence. Check the performance venue calendars for schedules and show times.

**Go Ape! Treetop Adventure Course** ([goape.com/Locations/Texas/Plano](http://goape.com/Locations/Texas/Plano)): Glide over the forest canopy at Plano's new Go Ape! Zip lines, Tarzan swings and suspended obstacles bring out your inner monkey and provide a fun challenge amid 800 acres of natural beauty at Texas' only Go Ape location.

**Heritage Farmstead** ([heritagefarmstead.org](http://heritagefarmstead.org)): Set on four acres, this living history museum lets visitors step back into the late 1800s and early 1900s. The property's beautiful Victorian home and 12 outbuildings were once part of a 360-acre farm operated by colorful local resident Ammie Wilson.

**Interurban Railway Museum** ([planoconservancy.org](http://planoconservancy.org)): This museum brings Plano transportation history back to life. Once a vital part of the Texas Electric Railway that ran between Denison to Waco from 1908 to 1948, the Interurban is one of the original electric cars that ran on the tracks through Plano. Next to the station is car 360, one of the original cars that carried mail and passengers. This is the only station remaining between

Sherman and Dallas. The facility also houses exhibits on science, electricity and Plano history.

**Southfork Ranch** ([southfork.com](http://southfork.com)): Relive some memorable moments from the television series “Dallas” at Southfork Ranch in nearby Parker. The “Dallas Legends: Fact To Fantasy” exhibit features such memorabilia as the gun that shot J.R., Lucy’s wedding dress and video clips from the TV series. Trail rides are also offered.

## **Arts and Entertainment:**

Plano is the place for indoor and outdoor live music and theater, galleries, street art, independent film and more:

**Downtown Plano Art** ([visitplano.com/blog/must-see-public-art-in-plano/](http://visitplano.com/blog/must-see-public-art-in-plano/)): Plano is making a name for itself in the art community. With the recent additions of 10 public art pieces including several eye-popping murals in the Downtown Plano Arts District, Plano has a colorful new look.

**ArtCentre of Plano** ([artcentrefplano.org](http://artcentrefplano.org)): The ArtCentre of Plano showcases the work of local and national artists. The ArtCentre recently relocated to the renovated Saigling House, a historic downtown Plano landmark.

**Courtyard Theater** ([planostages.com](http://planostages.com)): Plano’s beautiful Courtyard Theater is a 321 seat facility with a proscenium stage. The space was originally the gymnasium for Plano's Cox High School, a historic building constructed as a 1938 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project.

**Cox Building Playhouse** ([planostages.com](http://planostages.com)): Also located in the Heritage Park Historic District, the playhouse is a blackbox theater and hosts various theater companies and events.

**Douglass Community Art Wall:** The Douglass Community Arts Advisory Committee’s “Tracks of Our Past and Future” is a mural depicting the rich history of this neighborhood on the east side of Plano. The mural consists of Italian tiles depicting the people and places that have made the Douglass community and the city great.

**Legacy Hall Box Garden** ([legacyfoodhall.com/box-garden/](http://legacyfoodhall.com/box-garden/)): Adjacent to Legacy hall with its artisan food stalls, this is an ultimate outdoor beer garden and entertainment spot with a 600 square foot stage that’s home to frequent live music shows.

**Red Tail Pavilion at Oak Point Park** ([plano.gov/departments/arts](http://plano.gov/departments/arts)): Visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor concerts and performances at this 1,000 seat amphitheater located on the western edge of Oak Point Park.

**Angelika Film Center** ([angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com)): Located only in New York City and Texas, Angelika Film Centers show a curated collection of independent and foreign films

**Festivals:**

**Plano Balloon Festival** ([planoballoonfest.org](http://planoballoonfest.org)): Plano is known as the “Hot Air Balloon Capital of Texas,” thanks to its balloon festival, which attracts more than 95,000 people each year. During the three day festival, the skies over Plano are filled with colorful, whimsically shaped orbs. Spectators can also take in the breathtaking nightly “balloon glows,” along with fireworks, live music concerts, and more. Tethered balloon rides can also be booked, weather permitting. The festival celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept. 20-22, 2019.

**Plano International Festival** ([planointernationalfestival.org](http://planointernationalfestival.org)): Plano invites visitors to experience the convergence of many world cultures each year at the Plano International Festival. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual event is Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Haggard Park. The free, family-friendly event features art, music, food and fashion from around the world.

**Dining:**

Plano offers almost 1,000 dining options and every type of cuisine for visitors to enjoy. For a complete list of restaurants in Plano, see [VisitPlano.com](http://VisitPlano.com).

A sampling of dining options in downtown Plano includes:

**Brix Bar & Grill** ([brixbarandgrill.com](http://brixbarandgrill.com))  
**Hub Streat** ([hub.st](http://hub.st))  
**Jorg’s Café Vienna** ([jorgscafevienna.com](http://jorgscafevienna.com))  
**Lockhart Smokehouse** ([lockhartsmokehouse.com](http://lockhartsmokehouse.com))  
**The Fillmore Pub** ([thefillmorepub.com](http://thefillmorepub.com))  
**Urban Crust** ([urbancrust.com](http://urbancrust.com))  
**Urban Rio** ([urbanrio.com](http://urbanrio.com))  
**Vickery Park** ([vickeryparkbar.com](http://vickeryparkbar.com))  
**Ye Ole Butcher Shop** ([yeolebutchershop.com](http://yeolebutchershop.com))  
**XO Coffee Company** ([xocoffeeco.com](http://xocoffeeco.com))

A sampling of dining options throughout Plano includes:

**Bulla Gastrobar** ([bullagastrobar.com](http://bullagastrobar.com))  
**Bob’s Steak & Chop House** ([bobs-steakandchop.com](http://bobs-steakandchop.com))  
**Café Intermezzo** ([cafeintermezzo.com](http://cafeintermezzo.com))  
**Capital Grille** ([capitalgrille.com](http://capitalgrille.com))  
**Cru Food & Wine Bar** ([cruawinebar.com](http://cruawinebar.com))  
**Del Frisco’s Double Eagle Steakhouse** ([delfriscosgrille.com/plano](http://delfriscosgrille.com/plano))  
**Earl’s Kitchen and Bar** ([earls.ca/locations/leg-west](http://earls.ca/locations/leg-west))  
**Fleming’s** ([flemingssteakhouse.com](http://flemingssteakhouse.com))  
**Haywire** ([haywirerestaurant.com](http://haywirerestaurant.com))  
**Kenny’s Smokehouse** ([kennyssmoke.com](http://kennyssmoke.com))  
**Legacy Hall** ([legacyfoodhall.com](http://legacyfoodhall.com))  
**Love and War in Texas** ([loveandwarintexas.com](http://loveandwarintexas.com))  
**Mexican Sugar** ([mexicansugarcocina.com](http://mexicansugarcocina.com))  
**Mignon** ([mignonplano.com](http://mignonplano.com))  
**North Italia** ([northitalia.com](http://northitalia.com))

**Seasons 52** (seasons52.com)  
**Sixty Vines** (sixtyvines.com)  
**Steve Fields' Steak & Lobster Lounge** (stevefieldsrestaurant.com)  
**Taverna** (tavernabylombardi.com)  
**Taverna Rossa** (tavernarossa.com)  
**The Keeper** (thekeeperplano.com)  
**Toulouse** (toulousecafeandbar.com)  
**True Food Kitchen** (truefoodkitchen.com/plano)  
**Union Bear** (unionbear.com)  
**Whiskey Cake** (whiskey-cake.com)

**Salons/Day Spas**

Plano is home to several salons and day spas including:

**Drybar, The Shops at Legacy** (drybar.com)  
**Elizabeth Arden Red Door** (thereddoor.com)  
**Hiatus Spa & Retreat** (hiatusspa.com)  
**Skin Care International Spa** (skincareinternational.com)  
**Spa Habitat Legacy** (spahabitat.com)  
**The Boardroom Salon for Men** (theboardroomsalon.com)  
**The Woodhouse Day Spa** (plano.woodhousespas.coms.com)

**Shopping**

Plano boasts a sophisticated and eclectic mix of indoor and outdoor malls, specialty stores and independent boutiques, catering to shoppers' every whim:

**Downtown Plano Arts District** (visitdowntownplano.com): Along authentic brick streets, shoppers will discover an eclectic collection of antique shops, independent boutiques and galleries.

**Lakeside Market** (shoplakesidemarket.com): A decorator's dream with 14 home furnishing and décor stores all in one place.

**Legacy West** (legacywest.com): a signature outdoor shopping destination offering top name brands of men's and women's clothing, jewelry, eyewear, home furnishings, gifts, specialty confections and even luxury cars (think Tesla.)

**Preston Park Village:** A walkable expanse of 60-plus specialty shops with a movie theater and more than 15 restaurants.

**The Shops at Legacy** (shopsatlegacy.com): are part of a 168-acre master planned development of boutique retail, and best-in-class restaurants. Shoppers will discover an expansive selection of upscale stores, independent boutiques and high profile brands in an inviting outdoor setting at The Shops at Legacy.

**The Shops at Willow Bend** (shopwillowbend.com): This picturesque and upscale shopping center features more than 150 stores, anchored by Neiman Marcus and Macy's.



**Family Fun:** Beyond the usual attractions that children and their families enjoy, Plano offers some notable venues that are well worth a visit:

**The Crayola Experience**, which opened in 2018, is one of only four such destinations in the US. With 60,000 square feet of attractions, Crayola Experience is Texas' most colorful family destination for interactive, creative play. Families typically spend 3-4 hours exploring the 22 hands-on attractions. Kids of all ages can embark on a wonderful, whimsical adventure with such unique experiences as starring in their very own coloring pages, naming and wrapping their very own Crayola crayon, learning how crayons are made in a live manufacturing show and so much more.

**PINSTACK** ([www.pinstackbowl.com](http://www.pinstackbowl.com)): Plano is home to North Texas' first state-of-the-art bowling and active entertainment destination. PINSTACK is a 50,000 square foot venue featuring a 28-lane bowling experience, ropes course suspended 20 feet above the gaming center, two-story laser tag, bumper cars, LED lit six-lane rock climbing walls, hundreds of interactive games and simulator technology. The facility also has a full-service restaurant, outside bar area, covered patio with fire pits, big screen TVs and ample seating. PINSTACK also offers a luxury VIP bowling area for private parties.

**Outdoor:  
Recreation:** Plano features more than 4,337 acres of public parks, offering more than 82 miles of recreation trails, six recreation centers, 133 public tennis courts including a 21-court tennis center, nine public swimming pools and more. One standout location is:

**Arbor Hills Nature Preserve** ([plano.gov](http://plano.gov)): 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, orienteering and other outdoor activity. Amenities include a playground, restrooms, approximately 2.3 miles of paved recreational trails, approximately two miles designated as an off-road cycling trail, an observation tower and three pavilions.

**Golf:** Plano has three top-notch public golf courses:

**The Courses at Watters Creek** ([watterscreekgolf.com](http://watterscreekgolf.com))  
**Pecan Hollow Golf Course** ([pecanhollowgc.com](http://pecanhollowgc.com))  
**Ridgeview Ranch** ([ridgeviewgc.com](http://ridgeviewgc.com))

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