







visit Plano

Fact Sheet

HOLIDAY 2026

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visitPlano

Plano, Texas is truly the land of plenty. Blending historic charm with modern luxury, the city brims with attractions and amenities and offers a wide variety of hotels and restaurants. With world-class shopping, a lively arts and nightlife scene, abundant natural beauty, and four walkable districts, Plano is the perfect city for a leisurely family weekend trip, a romantic getaway, or for corporate travel. Plano's close proximity to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport makes it easily accessible from most of the country.

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.



Accolades

2026

No. 5 on Livability's 2026 Top 100 Best Places to Live

No. 1 in Texas and No. 13 in the U.S. on Trust for the Public Land's annual ParkScore Index

2025

Third Best City to Raise a Family by WalletHub

First Happiest Big City in America by SmartAsset

2024

Top 20 Best Cities for Outdoor Recreation by activelyplay.com

One of the 12 Best Places to Live in Texas in 2024 by WorldAtlas

Ninth Best City to Find a Job by WalletHub

2023

Among the Best Places to Live in the U.S. by MSN.com

Happiest City in Texas and 29th Happiest City in the U.S. by WalletHub

2022

Top 100 (No. 29 in the U.S.; No. 2 in Texas) Best Places to Live by Livability

Fourth Best Place to Raise a Family in the U.S. by WalletHub

2021

Safest City in Texas by WalletHub

20th Most Pet-Friendly City by WalletHub



Transportation

Air: Plano offers convenient access to two major airports – DFW International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport. Several major airlines service these airports with daily nonstop flights, including American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

DART Rail: Visitors to Plano can travel throughout Dallas-Fort Worth via the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System (DART) Rail Line from two locations in Plano: Parker Road Station and Downtown Plano Station. The new Silver Line Regional Rail features two stations in Plano and travels to DFW Airport.

Bus: Local bus service is also provided by DART. For schedules, visit dart.org or call 214-979-1111.

Ground: Plano is easily accessible from any location in DFW. 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.

Climate

Plano enjoys a temperate climate with mild winters and hot summers. On average, January is the coldest month and July and August are the hottest months.

Timezone

Central Standard Time

Population

Nearly 300,000

Ninth in Texas

One of the fastest growing cities in the U.S.

Miles to Plano

ARKANSAS

Little Rock	283

LOUISIANA

Shreveport	199
Baton Rouge	376
New Orleans	533

NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe	634
Albuquerque	674

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City	202
Tulsa	240

TEXAS

Fort Worth	50
Tyler	100
Texarkana	180
Abilene	197
Austin	215
Houston	257
San Antonio	293
San Angelo	296
Galveston	307
Beaumont	340
Amarillo	362
Lubbock	363
Odessa	370
Laredo	449
Brownsville	564
El Paso	652

Accomodations

With 60 hotels and 7,555 hotel rooms available, Plano has everything from approachable family options to the ultimate in luxury accommodations. Visit Plano's website includes a complete list of hotel options. A few of the most notable options include:



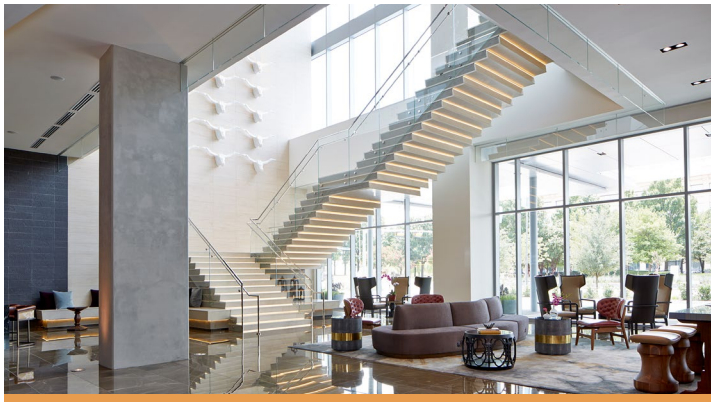
CAMBRIA HOTEL PLANO-FRISCO



HILTON DALLAS/PLANO GRANITE PARK



MARRIOTT DALLAS/PLANO AT LEGACY TOWN CENTER



RENAISSANCE DALLAS AT PLANO LEGACY WEST HOTEL



SANDMAN SIGNATURE PLANO-FRISCO HOTEL



THE CLARA HOTEL PLANO, TAPESTRY COLLECTION BY HILTON

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: 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 boutiques selling everything from handmade jewelry to home décor and pottery. Catch a show/performance at Courtyard Theater, Cox Building Playhouse or McCall Plaza.

HERITAGE FARMSTEAD MUSEUM: Set on four acres, visitors at this living history museum will 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: 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.

LEGACY HALL: In this one-of-a-kind artisanal food hall at Legacy West, visitors can explore over 20 stalls and bars and sample everything from lobster rolls and sushi to old-fashioned hamburgers and duck fat fried chicken. There is also an on-site brewery and an outdoor live entertainment stage.

LEGACY WEST: This "city within a city" is the perfect place to play, shop, dine and stay. In addition to serving as office space for several high profile-companies, the 255-acre development boasts 415,000 dynamic square feet of open-air retail and restaurant space, adding to Plano's already vibrant dining scene.

SOUTHFORK RANCH: Revisit some memorable scenes from the TV 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 show. Horseback trail rides are also available.

THE BOARDWALK AT GRANITE PARK: Situated across from the luxurious patio of the Hilton at Granite Park, this 30,000-square-foot expanse features a variety of restaurants with patios serving burgers, southern California boardwalk-style cuisine, brew pub fare and more. Beachy deck chairs provide a great view of the park's inviting water feature and live music stage.











Arts and Entertainment

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

DOWNTOWN PLANO ARTS DISTRICT: With the addition of 10 public art pieces including several eye-popping murals in the Downtown Plano Arts District, this area is a vibrant, lively destination to explore.

ARTCENTRE OF PLANO: The ArtCentre of Plano showcases the work of local and national artists and is located in the renovated Saigling House, a nationally recognized historic downtown Plano landmark.

COURTYARD THEATER: Plano's beautiful Courtyard Theater is a 321-seat facility with a proscenium stage. The space was originally the gym for Plano's Cox High School, a historic building constructed as a 1938 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project.

COX BUILDING PLAYHOUSE: Also located in the Heritage Park Historic District, the playhouse is a blackbox theater hosting various theater companies and events.

DOUGLASS COMMUNITY ART WALL: Located near the Plano African American Museum in the cultural hub that is Douglass Community, "Tracks of Our Past and Future" is a mural depicting the rich history of this neighborhood. The mural consists of Italian tiles featuring many of the people and places that have elevated this community and Plano.

LEGACY HALL BOX GARDEN: Adjacent to Legacy Hall, this is the ultimate outdoor beer garden and entertainment spot with a 600-square-foot stage that is home to frequent live music.

RED TAIL PAVILION AT OAK POINT PARK: 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.











Festivals

Plano offers an eclectic mix of events throughout the year. Annual highlights include:

PLANO BALLOON FESTIVAL: Known as the "Hot Air Balloon Capital of Texas," Plano's acclaimed balloon festival attracts more than 90,000 people each year. The skies over Plano are filled with colorful, whimsically shaped orbs, and visitors enjoy breathtaking nightly "balloon glows," fireworks, live music and more. Tethered balloon rides can also be booked, weather permitting.

PLANO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Plano invites visitors to experience the convergence of many world cultures at the Plano International Festival. The free, family-friendly event at Haggard Park features art, music, food and fashion from around the world.

ASIA FEST: Held every May in Haggard Park, this free family-friendly event showcases the rich cultures of Asia with numerous cultural demonstrations, performances and vendors.

PLANO FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL: Held at Legacy West every fall, the festival features over 100 award-winning wines, food from delicious local restaurants, culinary demonstrations from local chefs, and many local boutiques and shops.

TEXAS FOREVER FEST: Celebrate the food, art and people of the Lone Star State at Texas Forever Fest. This free event is a party as big as Texas held in Haggard Park every March.

REST IN PLANO FEST: Rest in Plano Fest, held in late October, is free to attend and includes live performers, curated vendors and plenty of photo ops.

Dining

Plano offers almost 1,000 dining options and a vast, diverse range of cuisine for visitors to enjoy.

International Cuisine

Basera Indian Cuisine

Bavarian Grill

Bulla Gastrobar

Darna Mediterranean Eatery

EBESU Robata and Sushi

Euro Delicatessen Too

E.B. Latin Bistro

Fogo de Chão

Jorg's Café Vienna

Kauboi Japanese BBQ & Izakaya

Lulu's Modern Chinese

McNeal's Tavern & Eatery

Mexican Sugar

Mignon

Mitsuwa Marketplace

Taste of Poland

Taverna

The Fillmore Pub

Toulouse

Turan Uyghur Kitchen

Uchiko

Regional Cuisine

Lockhart Smokehouse

Bob's Steak & Chop House

Capital Grille

Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse

Earls Kitchen and Bar

Eddie V's Prime Seafood

Fleming's

Haywire

Love and War in Texas

Sixty Vines

Suburban Yacht Club

Taverna Rossa

The Fish Shack

True Food Kitchen

Twisted Root Burger Co.

Urban Crust

Urban Rio

Urban Seafood

Vickery Park

Ye Ole Butcher Shop

Union Bear

Whiskey Cake









Leisure

Salons & Day Spas

Plano is home to several elevated beauty and wellness experiences, including:

Bam Beauty Bar

Drybar, The Shops at Legacy

Hiatus Spa & Retreat

OVME

Spa Habitat Legacy

The Boardroom Salon for Men

The Woodhouse Day Spa

U Med Spa

Shopping

Plano has more than 27 million square feet of retail space spanning numerous boutiques, specialty stores, antique stores and galleries. Some of Plano's most notable shopping venues include:

DOWNTOWN PLANO ARTS DISTRICT: Along authentic brick-lined streets, shoppers will discover an extensive collection of independent boutiques selling everything from handmade jewelry to home décor to antiques and pottery.

LAKESIDE MARKET: A decorator's dream with several home furnishing and décor stores all in one place.

LEGACY WEST: 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 electric cars. Luxury shopping options include stores like CHANEL Fragrance & Beauty, Golden Goose, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., and Tory Burch.

PRESTON PARK VILLAGE: A walkable expanse of 60-plus specialty shops with a movie theater and more than 15 restaurants.

THE SHOPS AT LEGACY: This district is part of a 168-acre mixed use 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.





Sports & Recreation

Family Fun

Plano offers notable venues for children and families, such as:

PINSTACK: 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 with private VIP lanes, 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 TEXAS POOL: Swim across Texas at the historic Texas Pool, a 168,000-gallon saltwater pool shaped like the Lone Star State. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the famous pool is open Memorial Day to Labor Day and features a diving board, two water slides, and an island with a shallow "South Texas" wading area.

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. Standout locations include:

ARBOR HILLS NATURE PRESERVE: Located on the western border of Plano, Arbor Hills Nature Preserve is a 200-acre park featuring vast areas of natural beauty for outdoor activities. Amenities include a playground, restrooms, approx. 2.3 miles of paved recreational trails, approx. two miles designated as an off-road cycling trail, an observation tower and three pavilions.

OAK POINT PARK & NATURE PRESERVE: Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve, Plano's largest park, is 800 acres and boasts nearly eight miles of concrete trails and five miles of soft surface trails located along Rowlett Creek.

Golf

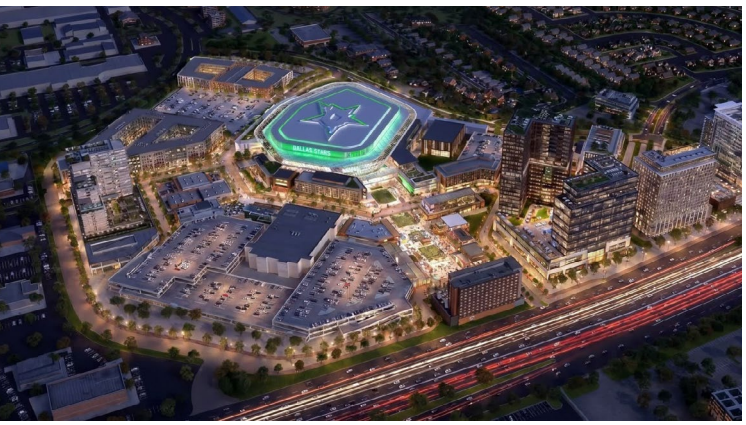
Plano has three top-notch public golf courses:

The Courses at Watters Creek

Pecan Hollow Golf Course

Ridgeview Ranch









News

The Shops at Willow Bend:

The Plano City Council approved several actions during its June 8, 2026 meeting marking the beginning of a deliberate and transparent process to consider a potential sports and entertainment district at The Shops at Willow Bend, anchored by the development and construction of a new multipurpose arena that will serve as the future home ice for the Dallas Stars. The Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) will include a sports and entertainment district at The Shops at Willow Bend, featuring the arena, other sports and entertainment venues, retail, restaurants, residential development, public spaces and related infrastructure improvements designed to create a destination where residents can gather, connect and enjoy new community amenities close to home.

The Miyako Hybrid Hotel:

A new full-service boutique hotel, Miyako Hybrid Hotel Plano, will make its debut in late 2027. The 217-room hotel will introduce a modern, flexible meeting destination designed for corporate events, social gatherings and community celebrations. It will feature approximately 7,000 square feet of versatile meeting and event space, along with multiple food and beverage venues including a signature restaurant, lobby bar, rooftop bar and Japanese bakery.

The Henry Plano Grand Opening:

The Henry, the self-proclaimed “greatest neighborhood restaurant” that has thrived in Uptown Dallas, opened its second DFW location this fall in Plano’s Legacy West. The Henry Plano spans roughly 12,976 square feet and features both indoor and outdoor dining, a full-service coffee bar, an open kitchen, a central bar and a private dining room. The space will showcase the brand’s signature mix of industrial and classic design, paired with the lively atmosphere and warm hospitality guests have come to expect, while famously serving an extensive menu of breakfast, lunch and dinner options.



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For high resolution images, please visit visitplano.com/media-library.