

TEXAS HIGHWAYS/MCKINNEY/WHEN.../MALLORY

McKinney is 30 miles north of Dallas on US 75.

For free guides to shopping, dining, and historic districts, write to or drop by the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, 1801 W. Louisiana, Box 621, McKinney 75070-0621 (214/542-0163 or Dallas metro 214/238-6488). The shopping guide lists more than 60 specialty stores, antique shops, galleries, and eateries. The historic district brochure details a two-mile walking/driving tour.

The area code is 214.

Experience the heritage of Collin County at **Chestnut Square**, a collection of historic structures at 311 S. Chestnut, a short walk from the courthouse square. Hours: Tue 1-4, March through June and Sept through Nov, or by prior arrangement. Will provide wheelchair accessibility with advance notice. Admission: \$3, \$2 seniors and students, \$1 ages 12 and under. Write to Chestnut Square, 311 S. Chestnut, McKinney 75069 (542-9674).

The **Old Post Office Museum**, 105 N. Chestnut, retells the county's early history. Housed in a 1911 former post office, the museum is free. Hours: Tue 1-5 and the first Sat of the month 1-3, or by appointment. Write to 105 N. Chestnut, McKinney 75069; 542-9457. Not wheelchair accessible.

History buff **Jim Runge** dons period costumes and portrays local historical figures on entertaining downtown tours. Contact McKinney Historic Productions, Box 45, McKinney 75069; 542-2805. Minimum 15 in a group, with two weeks' advance notice.

The **Farm Museum** is at the Collin County Youth Park and features displays on early agriculture. Take US 75 to US 380, go west two and one-half miles to Farm Road 1461, turn right and go three miles to County Road 166, then turn right and go one-half

mile to the park and museum. Wheelchair accessible. Public camping available.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5. Admission: free. Write to Rt. 4, Box 149-C, McKinney 75070; 548-4793.

Experience North Texas natural history at the **Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary**. Take US 75 Exit 38, go east, and follow the signs to the museum. Hours: Tue-Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5. Free admission. Features well-stocked gift shop. Wheelchair accessible. Hike trails with a guide Sat 11:30 and Sun every half hour 1:30-3:30. Fee: \$1 per person. Take a self-guided trail (brochure included) Tue-Sat 9-4 and Sun 1-4. Fee: \$2, \$1 under 18. Guided group trail tours available by reservation for \$1 per person. One trail is wheelchair accessible. Write to One Nature Place, McKinney 75069-9244 (562-5566 or fax 548-9119).

Find other outdoor activities at McKinney's **Towne Lake Park**, which has a 22-acre fishing and paddleboating lake, picnicking, playground, and a paved hiking trail. Admission: free. The park is across the street from McKinney High School on Wilson Creek Parkway, just east of US 75. Wheelchair accessible.

Visit Dry Bones, a replica Old West town, at **Storybook**. Mainly a venue for corporate parties, conferences, and weddings, Storybook opens to the public for group and drop-in tours (no minimum) daily, except Sunday, by reservation. Fee: \$5 per person (under 5 free) for hayride and tour. Storybook's lodge opens for public dining, entertainment, and a hayride tour Thu 6 pm-10 pm (\$14.95 per person). Storybook also offers bus or van tours of McKinney's historic districts. Fee: \$5 per person (under 5 free). Family Day, May 5, 1996, noon-6 features children's entertainment and food at Dry Bones. Fee: \$5 per person (under 5 free), food extra. Wheelchair accessible. Take US 75 to Exit 38, go west on Texas 121 (toward Grapevine) to Farm Road 2478 (Custer Road), then turn right and go two and one-half miles to Storybook. Write to Storybook, 3701 Custer Road, McKinney 75070; 562-8308.

Shopping Downtown

On the courthouse square, visit **The Ritz Building** (103 E. Virginia), an old movie theatre converted into shops like **Dolls Just for You** (562-6544) and **Angels Unlimited** (562-4555). On the same street, find ethnic clothing and gifts at the **Little Red Hen** (105 E. Virginia; 542-0429), die cast model cars and trucks at **Ifitzgot Wheels** (104 W. Virginia; 548-9550), rocks and gems at **Austin & Daughters** (115 W. Virginia; 542-4939), and locally-produced art at **Eclectic** (120 W. Virginia; 542-2789).

Check out the award-winning interior of **Portfolio,,** an apparel store (104 N. Tennessee; 562-4478), as well as the cowboy duds at **Painted Horse** (120 W. Louisiana; 562-1311). Quilters' heaven lies at **Electric Quilters** (211 E. Louisiana; 540-1005) and **Sharon's Quilt Depot** (215 E. Louisiana; 548-2762). Down the street, find contemporary American art and handcrafts at **Burnt Offerings Gallery** (223 E. Louisiana; 542-3421), and, further down the street, drop into **Doug & Linda's Ski Shop** (227 E. Louisiana; 542-0214), an amazingly large ski shop for a small town.

Go to the birds' supplies and gifts at **Canyon Wren Nature's Store** (109 S. Tennessee; 562-8552), and don't miss the wild-and-woolly weaving and spinning at **Woolenworks** (119 S. Tennessee; 562-YARN).

For a complete list of downtown specialty stores, as well as myriad antique shops, get a shoppers guide from the chamber of commerce (address/ phone above). Most downtown shops are wheelchair accessible.

Restaurants

Downtown, find highly-rated British baked goodies at the **British Baker** (107 S. Chestnut; 542-1289). Hours: Mon-Thu 8:30-6, Fri 8:30-7, Sat 9-5. You'll think you're in the big city with gourmet coffees, sandwiches, and desserts at the **Backstage Coffee Company** (in the Ritz Building, 103 E. Virginia; 542-2929); hours posted. For blue plate specials, head to the **Pantry Restaurant** (214 E. Louisiana; 542-2411). Hours: Mon-Sat 11-2:30. For homemade hamburgers, try **Lynn's Kitchen** (206 E. Louisiana; 542-7292). Hours: Mon-Sat 7-4:30. The **Market Cafe** (129 S. Tennessee; 562-CAFE) offers breakfast

and lunch menus filled with fresh items from an on-site bakery. Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-2:30, Sat 7:30-3:30. Evening dining in its Orleans Room Tue-Thu 5:30-8:30. The **Opera House Restaurant** (107 N. Kentucky; 562-3818) serves tearoom and Southern cuisine in an antique setting. Hours: Mon-Sat 10:30-3, Fri 5:30 pm-9 pm.

Most downtown restaurants are wheelchair accessible.

Outside downtown, don't miss two ethnic eateries. The **San Miguel Grill** (506 University; 548-2345) features authentic dishes from Mexico's central highland, as well as Tex-Mex. Hours: Mon-Thu 11-9, Fri-Sat 11-10. Wheelchair accessible. Enjoy homemade German food at the **Rhineland Haus** (1330 N. McDonald in a shopping center at US 380 and Texas 5; 562-0124). Hours: 10-10 daily, except Mon 10-4. Live German music Fri-Sat. Wheelchair accessible.

Lodging

Storybook (address/ phone listed above) offers a bed and breakfast in a combination Victorian cottage-railroad caboose which sleeps four, with extra rollaways available. Rates: \$225 double (includes dinner, breakfast, and beverages), plus an additional food charge for more than double occupancy. Not wheelchair accessible.

Surround yourself with antiques at the elegant 1870 **Dowell House Bed and Breakfast**. Rates: \$85 double (full breakfast included). Not wheelchair accessible. Write to 1104 S. Tennessee (McKinney 75069, phone 800/373-0551 or metro 562-2456).

Events

MayFair on the Square, May 4, 1996, features antiques & crafts, food, live entertainment, and offbeat events like bed races and lawnmower art contests. A similar downtown festival, **HarvestFest on the Square**, takes place September 21, 1996. Write to Downtown McKinney Association, Box 394, McKinney 75070; 562-2174.

Summer Sounds Concerts, May through August, feature free outdoor live music at Towne Lake Park. The **Forever Free Celebration**, June 29, 1996, features public

events like a classic car show and chili cook-off downtown and at Towne Lake Park, plus fireworks and live music at Stonebridge Ranch. For details, contact the chamber of commerce (address/phone above).

The Family Fun Fest, September 14, 1996, features a range of kids activities, live music, and birds of prey at the Heard Natural Science Museum (phone/address above).

The Farm Museum holds its **Fall Festival and BBQ Cook-Off** September don't know date yet, 1996, which features an antique farm show, bull riding, music, and storytelling. It also holds the (Dallas Cowboy) **Randy White Barbecue Cook-Off** March. Write or call the museum for details (address/phone above).

Dickens of a Christmas, November 29-30, 1996, features holiday entertainment, carriage rides, and merchants dressed in Victorian clothing. Contact the Downtown McKinney Association (address/phone above).

The Heritage Guild of Collin County presents **The Christmas Candlelight Tour of Chestnut Square**, December 6, 1996, followed by the December 7-8 **Holiday Historic Homes Tour** of Chestnut Square and four other notable McKinney residences. Write to Chestnut Square, address/phone listed above.

Barn to Yarn, January 25, 1997, features fiber arts demonstrations and animal petting. Free admission. Woolenworks also hosts the April "W.W. 500," a lively race of cars made from weaving shuttles. Contact Woolenworks, address/phone above.