

Historic ENNIS



Named after Houston railroad tycoon, Cornelius Ennis, the City of Ennis officially became a city in 1872. Since then, Ennis has made history in its own right. Starting out as a railroad town, Ennis was a popular stop for as many as 10 passenger trains a day, and during its "wild west" era, was also home to 13 saloons.

Cornelius Ennis, for whom the city is named, was mayor of Houston, Texas, and his daughter married media mogul, A.H. Belo.

Its roster of citizens has included Clyde Barrow of Bonnie and Clyde fame, musician Ernest Tubb, author Katie Daffin, who was the first woman to run for Texas governor, filmmaker Bob Banner and retired Dallas weatherman Troy Dungan. In addition, Ennis raised World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Jack Lummus and buried 72 Confederate soldiers, whose lives are commemorated at Ennis' Myrtle Cemetery.

Glimpse the city's illustrious past and quaint downtown as you stroll or drive through the city's historic district.



Ennis, a proud Texas Main Street City, provides unique shopping and dining opportunities in the downtown historic district. For a taste of something different, try a treat from the Ennis Farmers Market on Saturdays from April-October or fresh pastries at one of our local cafes. We recommend visiting our website at www.visitennis.org for the latest information on where to eat, shop and stay in Ennis.

Culture & CUISINE

Ennis is very proud of its multicultural heritage and the events that celebrate its diversity! There is one special weekend that celebrates Ennis' Czech heritage to the hilt. Each Memorial Day weekend, people come from far and wide to take in the sights, sounds, tastes and smells served up three days straight at the National Polka Festival. Enjoy Czech tradition at its best from polka dancing downtown and at the three dance halls to music, polka mass, kolaches, and crafts. A colorful parade highlights the festivities. Every Christmas season, the festive "Lights of Ennis" adorn the downtown district. Holiday activities include the Christmas Parade of Lights and Block Party!



The colorful National Polka Festival parade is a crowd favorite each May.



Nature TRAILS

Some of the most beautiful sights in this great country are right here in Ennis. Just a 30-minute drive south of Dallas, there's a 40-mile stretch of bluebonnet-covered land that is so remarkable it has been designated the "Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail" by the Texas Legislature. Don't forget the camera. Precious photo opportunities abound.



Ennis welcomes more than 100,000 visitors each year to our 40 miles of Bluebonnet Trails sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club.

Beautiful bluebonnets are just part of the picture in Ennis. When it comes to exploring nature's best, you can sail, ski and fish on beautiful Lake Bardwell, or picnic or camp in one of the lake's parks. While in town, stroll along Kachina Prairie, one of Texas' preserved blackland prairies. Discover native plants that have remained since Texas' early settlers traveled across these untouched grasslands. Another great place to enjoy the breathtaking rolling hills of Ellis County is at the Sugar Ridge Winery! The winery, located just northeast of Ennis, is the perfect place to sip a glass of wine while enjoying the beautiful countryside.



Enjoy recreational opportunities at Ennis' area lakes.

Bluebonnet Trails are in April only.



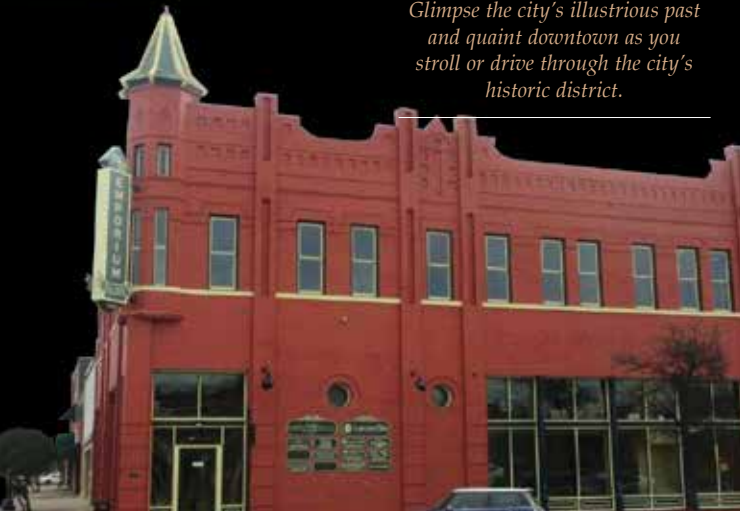
Sports & ATTRACTIONS

When you want to "rev it up," Ennis is also the place for some of the most exciting drag racing in the nation. More than a half a million visitors pour through the gates of Ennis' Texas Motorplex each year to take in the action-packed auto racing events, which include the AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals, Fast Friday events, and more! Speed records are broken here each year as some of the world's fastest drivers compete.

The Texas Motorplex is home to some of the world's fastest drivers – topping speeds of 330 mph.

Each April, the Ennis Garden Club sponsors the Bluebonnet Trails Festival, which highlights wildflowers and extends festivities into the city's historic downtown, where booths feature local arts and crafts, bluebonnet souvenirs, food and more. While in town, visit the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, which showcases Ennis' rich railroad history and culture. Other attractions in Ennis include the Ennis Disc Golf Course, Bluebonnet Park, Ennis Veterans Memorial Park, Lions Park, and numerous other parks and lakes, 144 nationally registered historic landmarks, historic driving tours and memorials. Take a trip down memory lane at the nearby Drive-in Theatre, north of Ennis, or catch a live play at Ennis' two public theatres. Recreational opportunities include tennis, nature trails, bowling, and much more.

Enjoy exhibits of the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum.



Ennis EVENTS

JULY

Ennis Freedom Fest
(BBQ Cook-Off, Fireworks Show,
Red, White & Bike Parade)

Racing Events at Texas Motorplex

Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)

AUGUST

Texas Motorplex Racing

Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)

SEPTEMBER

Taste of Ennis

Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)

OCTOBER

AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals
at Texas Motorplex

Autumn Days in Ennis Fall
Festival (3rd Sat.)

Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)

Monster Mash 5K Dash

NOVEMBER

Community-wide Thanksgiving
Service

DECEMBER

Christmas Parade of Lights
Lights of Ennis and Block Party



A heartbeat away from major metroplex sports and attractions, Ennis is just a 30-minute drive south of downtown Dallas on I-45. But there's so much to do, you won't want to rush. Make your getaway special at one of Ennis' fine hotels or quaint bed and breakfast inns. For more information on Ennis lodging, please go to www.visitennis.org or call 972-878-4748.

B & B INNS

*Greenlee Acres,
Moore-Ventura House,
Preston Street Inn,
Thomas Carriage House,
Winding Ridge*

HOTELS

*Comfort Suites,
Days Inn,
Holiday Inn Express & Suites,
La Quinta Inn & Suites,
Motel 6,
Quality Inn*

RV/CAMPSITES

Lake Bardwell Parks



Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau
002 East Ennis Avenue • Ennis, TX 75119

972.878.4748

e-mail: ennis4u@swbell.net

www.visitennis.org



ENNIS Visitors Guide



Ennis EVENTS

YEAR-ROUND SITES AND EVENTS

Polka Music, Country Concerts,
Nature Trails, Antiques, Disc Golf
Course, Shopping, and the
Texas Motorplex racing season
(Feb.-Oct.), Movies at the Drive-in
Theatre, and Live Theatre



JANUARY

Unity in the Community Event

FEBRUARY

Texas Motorplex Racing
Season Begins
Ennis Czech Music Festival



MARCH

Family Fun at Lake Bardwell

APRIL

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails
(April 1-30th)
Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival
Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)



MAY

National Polka Festival
(Memorial Day Weekend)
Polkafest Run
Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)



JUNE

Unity1 Summer Music Festival
Ennis Farmers Market
(Saturdays, April - October)

