

# 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.



## 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.



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](http://www.visitennis.org) for the latest information on where to eat, shop and stay in Ennis.

## 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.



Enjoy recreational opportunities at Ennis' area lakes.

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.

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.

Ennis Veterans Memorial Park has exhibits and monuments dedicated to honoring our veterans.



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.



# Ennis EVENTS

## AUGUST

Texas Motorplex Racing

Ennis Farmers Market  
(Saturdays, April - October)

## SEPTEMBER

Taste of Ennis

Ennis Farmers Market  
(Saturdays, April - October)

## OCTOBER

Pre-Stage Fan Fest

AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals  
at Texas Motorplex

Autumn Daze Fall Festival

Jazz Under the Stars

Ennis Farmers Market  
(Saturdays, April - October)

Monster Mash 5K Dash

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Community-wide Thanksgiving  
Service

Lights of Ennis Christmas Parade  
and Block Party  
(held Thursday following Thanksgiving)

## 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



Minnie McDowal Park, located in downtown Ennis, is truly a gift to visitors, guests and residents alike. It is a beautiful gathering place featuring a hand crafted "art wall sculpture" and "performance gazebo". Enjoy visiting with family and friends in this unique park. The possibilities are endless.

## B & B INNS

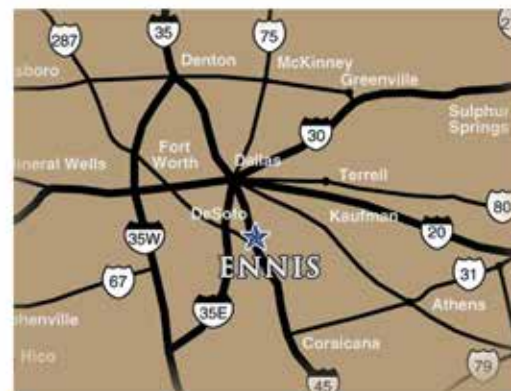
Greenlee Acres,  
Moore-Ventura  
Bed & Breakfast,  
Thomas Carriage House,  
Winding Ridge

## HOTELS

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

## RV/CAMPSITES

Bardwell Lake Parks



## ENNIS VISITOR CENTER

204 W. Knox St • Ennis, TX 75119

972.878.4748

www.visitennis.org



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ENNIS Y'ALL MOBILE APP



# ENNIS TEXAS

## Visitors Guide



The bluebonnet spirit of Texas

# Ennis EVENTS

## 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

Blues on Main  
(2nd Saturday of June)

Ennis Farmers Market  
(Saturdays, April - October)

Ennis Freedom Fest  
(An Independence Day Celebration)  
Red, White and Bike Parade  
and Fireworks Show  
(last Saturday before July 4)

## JULY

Texas Motorplex Racing

Ennis Farmers Market  
(Saturdays, April - October)

