

Golfdom provides
its guide on how
to enjoy Dallas
'when yer not
doin' bidness'



What to do in

Big D

BY MARK LUCE
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Man, everything is bigger in Texas, including Dallas, with its metroplex area spanning more than 100 miles. So hop in that rental car, head downtown and use our handy guide to make your trip 10 gallons of fun—that is, when “yer not conductin’ bidness.”

Getting there

If you're flying into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and staying the entire week, a rental car is probably your best bet. Call early for a good rate. If you're hoofin' it, a cab from the airport to down-

town will run about \$35. There are also shuttles from the airport to downtown, such as Classic Shuttle or Super-shuttle, which cost about \$15 to \$20. Look for signs in the airport. Once at the hotel, make sure to get a good city map—you'll need it, since nothing is close.

Are you game?

Golfing isn't the only sport that should be on your mind, since hockey's Dallas Stars and basketball's Dallas Mavericks play several games at Reunion Arena the week of the big show, Feb. 11 through Feb. 18. For tickets, call 214-939-2800.

The Mavs play at home Feb. 15 against the Cleveland Cavaliers and Feb. 17 against the Washington Wizards. And, yes, they do know hockey in Dallas. The 1999 Stanley Cup champs play four times at home: Feb. 11 against the St. Louis Blues, Feb. 14 against the Los Angeles Kings, Feb. 16 against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and Feb. 18 against the Detroit Red Wings.

Vittles

The best place to get a nice meal, especially if your boss is paying, is the Mansion on

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Turtle Creek, 2821 Turtle Creek Blvd. It's Dallas' most popular restaurant and features wonderful Southwestern fare in a classy, but not-too-pretentious setting.

Another town favorite is The French Room, in the Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce. It couples beautiful décor with equally beautiful food. If you're with your significant other, you can't get more romantic than this.

Seafood lovers may want to take in the chowder at Café Pacific, 24 Highland Park Village, which is très swanky. A newer hotspot is Voltaire, 5150 Keller Springs Road, which is an exercise in stylish New American cuisine.

Texas is cattle country, so you'll want to be sure to sample some seared cow. The best of the best are, in no particular order: Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse, 5251 Spring Valley Road; Bob's Steak & Chop House, 4300 Lemmon St., which also has great lamb; Fogo de Chao, 4300 Belt Line Road, a Brazilian Steakhouse that gets raves for its generous servings; and Lawry's The Prime Rib, 14655 Dallas Parkway, known for succulent prime rib. Those who aren't as adventurous may stick with Morton's of Chicago, 501 Elm St., also a Midwestern staple.

Tex-Mex fans may want to flock to Mi

Everything is bigger in Texas, including Dallas' skyline.

Cocina in the Galleria or Matt's Rancho Martinez, 6312 La Vista, to enjoy chow and margaritas. The adventurous may want to take in Medieval Times, 2021 N. Stemmons, where patrons are treated to jousting contests. Eating with your fingers is encouraged.

Not-so-swanky-but-cheaper eats

Instead of starting a civil war, we will list the two places in Dallas to get the real-deal chili. One is Ruth's Tamales, 6412 Lemmon, which is tucked inside Smokey John's depot. It uses shoulder pork instead of beef, but the chili is hotter than all get out. The other joint is Tolbert's Texas Chili Parlor, home of the original five-alarm Texas chili, which of course means without beans.

Other places worth your time and stomach include Kuby's Sausage House, 6601 Snider Plaza, a German bonanza of meats; Highland Park Pharmacy, 3229 Knox, an old-fashioned lunch counter; and Sammy's Barbecue, 2126 Leonard, which many say is the best BBQ in town. If you're taking the family, try Bubba's, 6617 Hillcrest Road, a retro-diner that has yummy fried chicken but doesn't take plastic.

Finally, for a hearty breakfast, check out Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd., home of tasty blueberry pancakes.

Where to get a cigar

Ifs Ands Or Butts, 408 N. Bishop (just south of downtown) features a range of cigars and a leisurely environment in which to smoke them. It also features – get this – a variety of small-label sodas (think microbrew colas). Another good option is Tobacco Club Incorporated, which has a large selection of fine smokes. It's located at 4043 Trinity Mills.

Where to "git" some Western duds and where to wear them

If you have boots, wear them. If you don't, you better run to Justin Boots and Western Wear, 1505 Wycliff Ave., and get some. They have the boots, buckles and hats to make you look like a real Texan. Once duded up, you may want to visit Country 2000, 10707 Finnell; Cowboys Red River Dance Hall and Saloon, 10310 W. Technology Drive; or the classic Top Rail, 2110 West Northwest Highway. The Top Rail swings on Tuesday nights (the others are closed) and all three will teach you, for free, how to trip the light fantastic, Texas-style.

Where to hear good music and have a drink or three

If country's not your fancy, you may want to head to Deep Ellum, Dallas' most happenin' area. There you will find a ton of bars,

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clubs, restaurants, shops and people watching. A must is Blue Cat Blues, 2617 Commerce, one of the best blues venues in the country. Other hot spots include: Bar of Soap, 3615 Parry; Art Bar/Blind Lemon/Club Clearview/ Red Complex, 2803-2805 Main Street, featuring four swinging bars/clubs in one place; The Rock, 2815 Main; Copper Tank Brewery, 2600 Main, a Texas-sized brewery; and the hip Lizard Lounge, 2424 Swiss, a former strip club.

Other groovy nightlife

The new MilkBar, 2001 Greenville, is getting raves lately for its icy-cool European décor. There's often jazz at the Balcony Club, 1825 Abrams, and Strictly Tabu, 4111 Lomo Alto.

Stars flock to the upscale 8.0, 2800 Routh St. The Royal Rack, 1906 Lower Greenville, features the wonderful combination of reggae and pool.

But the two best bets might be The Dubliner, 2818 Lower Greenville, an intimate Irish bar, and Poor David's Pub, 1924 Lower Greenville, which ain't much to look at but is where blues and beers reign.

Other fun stuff

Those alive then will certainly remember where they were on Nov. 22, 1963, when they heard the news that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in an open-air limo through Dealey Plaza. The former Texas School Book Depository is located at 411 Elm and North Houston and on its 6th floor is the Sixth Floor Museum, which houses displays, documentaries and artifacts from that fateful Dallas day. The plaza also attracts swarms of visitors, from the grassy knoll to a Kennedy memorial.

Those convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald didn't act alone may want to stroll down the block to The Conspiracy Museum, 110 South Market at Commerce. The small museum isn't official, but it offers plenty of ideas of who might have killed Kennedy, along with a host of other conspiracies about other assassinations,



Be sure to check out Dallas' groovy nightlife at the West End MarketPlace.

such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy.

The Arts District, which has the Dallas Museum of Art, the Myerson Symphony Center and one of the Dallas Theater Center's facilities, is located in a small area just north of the financial district. The Museum of Art is good, but not spectacular. However, there's a wonderful sculpture garden across the street from the museum at the Trammell Crow Center.

If shopping is your bag, then you have to go to the Galleria at the LBJ Freeway and Dallas Parkway North. It's ei-

ther nirvana or hell, depending on your take. There are more than 200 shops and more than 30 eateries comprising its 1.7 million-square feet — big even by Texas standards. The Galleria covers four levels, has room to park 9,600 cars and has a place for ice skating. If you visit, be warned that traffic can be dreadful — but shopping at Macy's, Nordstrom's and Saks Fifth Avenue under one roof may make the wait worth it.

You might want to check out Southfork Ranch. J.R., Bobby and Miss Ellie won't be there, but this shrine to *the* television family of the 1980s is one of Dallas visitors' favorite sites. It's yonder in Parker, so call 800-989-7800 for directions.

Texas Tongue

If you're gonna walk the Texas walk, you better talk the Texas talk. Here's a sampling of the lingo you may encounter on the Dallas streets:

"All hat and no cattle." — Dumber than W.

"Blue Norther." — A wind from the North colder than a well-digger's lunchpail.

"Don't mess with Texas." — Originally a phrase to stop people from littering.

"If you've done it, it ain't braggin'." — Self-explanatory.

"Like a calf lookin' at a new gate." — Befuddled.

"Like a long-tailed cat in a room of rockin' chairs." — Apprehensive.

"Plumb gone." — Left the scene.

"Plumb tuckered out." — Exhausted.

"Yup." — Yes.

One last bit

The average temperatures in Dallas in February are highs of 59 degrees and lows of 38 degrees. Dress accordingly, leaving a 10-degree window on either side.

Crime does exist. Keep your money in your front pocket and know where you're going and how you are getting home before going out carousing.

People in Texas are friendly. If you have questions about a restaurant or bar or need directions, just ask someone. You'll have to listen carefully, though.

Also, mail literature back to yourself so you don't have to lug it on the plane. And don't wear your name tag on the street. It screams, "I'm visiting — so mug me!"

Happy trails — but remember not to mess with Texas. ■

The 5-Minute Guide to GCSAA 2001

Well, it's that time again and you face the daunting task of trying to figure out what the big events and issues will be at the

GCSAA Conference & Show in Dallas from Feb. 11-Feb. 18. You can spend days laboriously going through the 9 million pages of stuff the association sent you or you can invest five minutes to find out the real nitty-gritty lowdown by reading this. Got your stopwatch? Ready? Go!

By Pat Jones,
Publisher/Editorial Director

D as in dull ...

Remember last year in New Orleans? Easy to get around, lots of fun on Bourbon Street, great hotels. Get ready for a city where nothing is near anything else, cab rides cost a fortune and entertainment options are limited.

Also consider this: Dallas' No. 1 tourist attraction is Southfork Ranch, the fake location of a bad TV show that went off the air a million years ago. We love our superintendent friends in the Dallas area, but I'm afraid we already know who shot J.R.

It's the economy, stupid ...

Nobody's quite willing to use the "R" word yet, but the markets stink, money's getting tighter and it's hard to believe that it won't impact our happy little industry. A few examples:

- Marketing spending by many suppliers is being cut back. Look for more modest booths, fewer big blow-out parties and less swag around the show floor. Even if golf sales are still strong, corporate America is anticipating a downturn and getting conservative about spending lots of bucks on free booze and giveaway pens.

- Mergers driven by "economic efficiencies" continue to have a bigger impact on the chemical side of our business than FQPA or anything else. Fewer manufacturers means less investment in competitive research, and choices may

be more limited in future.

- How long will it be before some of the high-end daily fees we've been building like crazy the past few years start to suffer? Will golfers with less disposable income continue to pay \$150 per round to beat their brains out on some ridiculous 7,100-yard track? Face it, we're building too many unaffordable, hard courses that Joe Sixpack won't be playing in tough times.

Predominately Dis-Interested ...

The much-debated Professional Development Initiative will probably pass, but not by the overwhelming mandate that supporters had hoped. The political landscape is roughly divided between those who vehemently want it, those who vehemently oppose it, those who can live with it and those who simply don't care because they're too busy working, raising kids and generally having a life outside of the profession. The last is by far the largest category.

The diamond jubilee ...

It's GCSAA's 75th anniversary! In September of 1926, a handful of committed greenkeepers came together at Sylvania CC in Ohio to create an association. I'm sure those pioneers would be thrilled to find a huge, sophisticated organization with a marvelous education program.

I'm sure they'd also appreciate the historical memorabilia and other tributes that will mark the occasion. However, I'm not so sure they'd appreciate spending a huge pile of hard-earned membership dues to sponsor multi-millionaire Jim Colbert's mediocre efforts on the Senior PGA Tour. Public relations is a wonderful thing, but am I the only one who doesn't think it's right to pay a tour player to promote the industry?

On a happier note ...

This is *Golfdom's* third GCSAA show since springing back to life in 1999. Drop by and see us at booth No. 1923. ■

What's New?

While browsing on the GCSAA show floor, you might encounter these products

Greens mower ▶

The Toro Co. introduces the Toro Greensmaster Flex 21, a walking greens mower with a cutting unit that flexes forward and back and side to side around the bedknife centerline. The Flex 21 closely follows the turf without scalping, even on severe undulations, according to the company.



The greens mower features a cutting unit that allows cuts as low as 1/16 of an inch. The cutting unit also operates independently from the traction unit and can be easily removed.

For more information, contact 952-8888801, www.toro.com or **CIRCLE NO. 203**

Compact mower ▼

Ferris' 1000Z mower tackles tight places in cutting widths of 48 inches and 52 inches. It features fans that are mounted directly to the hydrostatic pumps, allowing the pumps



to run cooler and extend the life of the hydraulic system. The mower's foot-operated deck lift allows for convenient and safe hands-free operations.

For more information, contact 800-933-6175, www.ferrisindustries.com or **CIRCLE NO. 204**

Soil conditioner

Diamond Pro introduces Eagle's Choice, a line of soil conditioner, manufactured by firing raw clay material in a rotary kiln at more than 2,000 degrees, producing a stable porous ceramic granule. Eagle's Choice granules contain 66 percent pore space, 60 percent/40 percent non-capillary to capillary pore space, which improves water, air

and nutrient control within the root zone.

For more information, contact 888-867-6727, www.diamondpro.com or **CIRCLE NO. 205**

Beverage vehicle

E-Z-60 has improved the design of its Refresher, a golf course beverage and snack vehicle, by combining its design with Haulster, White Truck and WorkHorse 1200 utility vehicles. The resulting lineup — the Refresher Haulster, Refresher® White Truck and Refresher 1200 — now has storage capacities up to 810 cans, 86 pounds of consumable ice and 2.2 cubic feet of trash.

For more information, contact 800-241-5855, www.ezgo.com or **CIRCLE NO. 206**

Bunker drainage

Infiltrator Systems offers the QuickPlay bunker drainage chamber to improve bunker drainage by minimizing washouts, sand displacement, puddling and ponding after storms. The installation of QuickPlay drainage chambers allows for faster return to play and reduces costly bunker maintenance, according to the company.

For more information, contact 800-221-4436, e-mail drainit@infiltratorsystems.net or **CIRCLE NO. 207**

Syringe system

Reelcraft Industries offers its DGM Syringing System to help superintendents have a better way to syringe greens. The system is underground and enclosed in a vault next to a green with only the cover plate exposed to the eye. A simple pull on the hose to syringe and a tug when you're finished returns the hose underground.

For more information, contact 800-444-3134, www.reelcraft.com or **CIRCLE NO. 208**

Topdresser ▼

Earth & Turf Co.'s new hydraulically driven topdresser, the MultiSpread 300, spreads a variety of materials. Its capacity is 22 cubic feet, and a brush or beater spreading system can



be chosen with spread patterns from 36 inches to 72 inches. All spreading adjustments can be made easily without the use of tools.

For more information, contact 888-693-2638, www.earthandturf.com or **CIRCLE NO. 209**

Spreader

Lesco introduces the Commercial Plus Stainless Steel Spreader, which features an injection-molded polyethylene hopper to resist corrosion and a large 5:1 sealed gear set for excellent application performance. The spreader also has a positive, spring-loaded shutoff plate which opens to a pre-set calibration setting.

For more information, contact 800-321-5325, www.lesco.com or **CIRCLE NO. 210**