



BY RONA DISTENFELD

# *Fabulous* Little Frisco

Whether world-class arts, sports or shopping, this Dallas suburb has it all, without the big-city attitude.

**At first glance, Frisco, Texas, looks like just another nice bedroom community. Don't let it fool you—little Frisco is full of pleasant surprises.**

With premium culture and entertainment, Frisco has become a town that beckons visitors from around the world. And the focus isn't solely on adult pleasures; Frisco has something for every interest and age.

### TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

America's sport is baseball, but soccer is growing fast across the country. Fans of both sports will find their hearts in Frisco.

At Pizza Hut Park, soccer teams from around the world come to compete in the 20,000-seat stadium. This state-of-the-art facility, open since 2005, has hosted matches for the U.S. Men's National Team, the USA-Brazil Challenge and the 2007 U.S. Youth

Soccer National Championship. The stadium also will host the NCAA Division I Men's College Cup in December 2008.

The park is home to the FC Dallas soccer team, formerly the Dallas Burn. This winning team captured the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title in 1997, and continues to garner loyal fans with its consistently high level of play and performance.

The soccer complex also features 17 tournament-grade fields in constant use by both youth and adult soccer leagues, so there's always something to watch—you may spot tomorrow's stars-in-the-making. The stadium regularly hosts major touring music acts, too, such as Jimmy Buffet, Kenney Chesney and Clay Aiken.

Baseball fans have their own premier park. Dr. Pepper Ballpark is home to the AA Frisco

Dr. Pepper Park (opposite) is a great place to spend a spring day and meet Frisco RoughRiders mascot, Deuce (above, left). Pizza Hut Park is home to champions FC Dallas (top). And with more than 30 climbing stations, you design your climb at Canyons of Frisco (above, right).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RONA DISTENFELD



The Texas Sculpture Garden at the Hall Office Park offers a dramatic display of works by Texas artists in a peaceful park setting.

Park and along Preston Road, Frisco's historical ties to the cattle drives are depicted in a series of large bronze sculptures that reflect 19th-century life. The longest continuous-themed bronze sculpture collection in the U.S. meanders through the Centre at Preston Ridge, and Longhorns, cowboys and a chuck wagon bring the Shawnee Trail to life. A map showing all the public sculpture is available from the Frisco Convention & Visitors Bureau, making it easy to find and identify the many beautiful pieces.

### KID-FRIENDLY FUN

Frisco is a great place for kids, from the family-friendly weekend specials at the John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotel to activities just for kids. Many kids love to climb, and they'll get their fill at Canyons of Frisco. Canyon's indoor facility was designed to offer the best in climbing to all ages and abilities, and offers programs designed just for kids. Of course, adults and experienced climbers can have a great time here, too. With more than 30 climbing stations, each offering lots of options, you create your own challenge.

If you have a little girl, treat her to her own spa day at Sweet & Sassy Spa for Kids. With professional haircuts, styles, up-dos, mini-pedicures, mini-manicures, mini-facials and even fairy dust, your little princess will feel like a queen for a day.

Big girls (and boys) have plenty of spa options in Frisco, too. Spa Botanica at the Embassy Suites offers massages for couples, aromatherapy, eye and lip treatments, and other pampering services for men and women. Frisco also has a growing number of day spas offering all types of treatments, so treating yourself (or a friend) won't be hard.

Keep the visit special with an elegant, gourmet dining experience at Randy's Steak House. This restaurant, in a lovely old house, is like dining at a friend's home with a great wine cellar and a knowledgeable host.

■ *Rona Distenfeld writes about the state she loves from her home base in Austin, Texas.*

### SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Shoppers will find high-end specialty shops and discount outlets in Frisco. Check out Stonebriar Centre, Preston Ridge, Shops at Starwood, IKEA and more for clothes, home furnishings, jewelry, gifts—you name it. If you can buy it, you can find it in Frisco.

Whatever gets your heart racing, you'll find big satisfaction in little Frisco. One visit won't be enough.

H&A

RoughRiders. The park has no bad seats; from the luxury boxes to the pool on the edge of the outfield, you can enjoy the high-action that typifies minor league baseball any way you want. Friday night games feature a fireworks show for extra excitement.

Hockey fans will enjoy the Dr. Pepper StarCenter. This is where the Dallas Stars practice, and the ice is also home to the three-time junior league national champions Texas Tornados.

Frisco is also home to Olympic-caliber gymnastics training and track cycling, and golfers will find several top-level courses to test their skills, including Tom Fazio-designed courses at the Westin Resort and Stonebriar Country Golf Club.

### ART IN THE OPEN

Frisco is home to the largest public collection of Texas artists, and seeing it all is easy. The Texas Sculpture Garden at the Hall Office Park presents

works by 41 prominent Texas artists, most placed along smooth paths that wind past lush vegetation and lovely water features. The rest adorn the ground floor of the office building, and you're welcome to visit and view them.

In City Park, Central

## When You Go

- **Canyons of Frisco:** (214) 387-0906  
[www.canyonsclimbing.com](http://www.canyonsclimbing.com)
- **Embassy Suites:** (972) 712-7200  
[www.embassysuitesfrisco.com](http://www.embassysuitesfrisco.com)
- **Frisco Convention & Visitors Bureau:** (877) GoFrisco (463-7472)  
[www.visitfrisco.com](http://www.visitfrisco.com)