



No portion of this article may be reproduced without
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group
P.O. Box 1676
Frisco, Texas 75034
Phone: 972.335.1181
Toll Free: 877.781.7067
Fax: 214.722.2313
E-mail: info@friscostyle.com
Web: www.friscostyle.com

Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306



Frisco's Downtown Gazebo

DOWNTOWN, OF COURSE.

When I moved to Frisco in 1994, downtown Frisco was the only place for shopping and eating. Ten years later, so many things have changed around town, but downtown has maintained its unique, warm charm uncommon among many of the newer establishments. Downtown Frisco still has businesses located in buildings dating back to the early 1900s with fabulous antiques, gifts, art, collectibles, and so much more. Let's take a journey through downtown Frisco to appreciate the destination – a mix of food, entertainment, shopping and history.

We start our day by parking behind The Abbey Restaurant at Main and 7th. The Abbey was built in 1904 as the First Baptist Church of Frisco. Inside you can still see the baptism area above the salad bar.

Next, go to The Plaid Veranda, an old house converted into a store filled with exquisite antiques and lovely gifts. Admire not only the antiques, but also the characteristics of the house – wooden floors that creak in places, door and window frames covered with layers of old paint and a storm cellar in the back yard. Sandy Simpson, Mayor Mike Simpson's wife and member of the Heritage Society of Frisco, believes this is one of the nicest old houses in Frisco.

Take a slight detour down 6th Street to Bella Cosa, directly across from the historic Frisco Water Tower. Bella Cosa is a beautiful home furnishing and decorative shop. The owner can help select just the right accessory, or you can browse for ideas of your own. Be sure to also check out the gourmet foods.

At the corner of Main and 3rd is The Designer Group. This is the old McIntire-Montgomery building built in 1911. The Designer Group has exquisite antiques, unique clothes, a small selection of baby items and gifts.

where should we spend our day?

by aurallie ruggiere & wendy crooks

Love You More Ceramics offers ceramic pieces to paint as a personalized gift or a treat for you.

Enjoy a rest at the gazebo and admire the old clock named in honor of Bob Warren, former mayor of Frisco. The current City Hall is just across the street housed in what was the first bank in Frisco, built in 1909. The old bank vault is still visible from the entry. The building has served as Frisco's City Hall since 1977. The Frisco Chamber of Commerce is located in what was an old tractor store next to City Hall.

After your stroll down Main stop at the Snow Cone Hut (if weather permits) or The Depot for the area's best chicken-fried steak.

Between new and antique, A & Z Collectibles offers a variety of fire fighting supplies, along with Barbie, Hot Wheels and other collectibles. Nearby Consign on a Dime is an elegant store with



Gaylord Texas Resort Atrium and Riverwalk photo by Wendy Crooks

consigned furniture and decorative items. Chances are you will find just the piece you need at an affordable price. Relax and browse at various art pieces in the Southern Star Gallery. You don't have to go to an art museum to view great art. Sister's Italian Charm is filled with unique gift items, so many different ones it is hard to describe them all.

At this point, look for adventures for your next trip downtown--one trip just isn't enough! Perhaps the next destination is the old Curtsinger house, which Art-A-Rama now uses for art classes.

After your day of treasure finding, time can easily slip away. Many find an elegant dinner at Randy's Steakhouse to be a wonderful way to enjoy the evening and remember the sights of the day. It is located in the former T.J. Campbell house. This particular house was built in Lebanon, Texas in 1869 and moved to Frisco in 1902 to be located on the railroad and mail line.

If a more casual dinner is in order, select Manny's Restaurant, The Abbey, or Randy White's BBQ. Make sure to save room for dessert at the Double Dip Frozen Custard. They provide a wide selection of frozen dessert choices mixed with a fun 50s atmosphere.

Above all, part of the fun of exploring is taking the time to visit what interests you. Take some time to explore downtown Frisco.



Gaylord Texan Resort Signature Lone Star Atrium photo by Wendy Crooks

WHAT ABOUT A RESORT GETAWAY CLOSE TO HOME?

"Ah, now THIS is paradise!" I remember hearing my friend's son gasp last spring as we checked out the Gaylord Texan for the first time. The little six-year old was so right that I had to

Gaylord Texan Resort Presidential Suite Living and Dining Areas
 photos by Wendy Crooks



come back and explore the resort further.

This time, however, I was looking for a romantic getaway with my husband and wasn't disappointed. The Gaylord Texan, which is located on beautiful Lake Grapevine, was the perfect place for rest, relaxation and romance.

The room accommodations were incredible. Each of the 1511 rooms, including 141 luxury suites, is decorated in true Texas fashion and very comfortable. Our room had an oversized leather chair and ottoman, king size bed with plush bedding, his and her sinks with granite counters and all the comforts of home. It also had a balcony that overlooked the atrium and river walk.

Shortly after our arrival, we enjoyed a few moments of relaxation, and then decided it was time to head to dinner. We took in only a portion of the 4 1/2 acres of greenery and flowers as we meandered toward the restaurant. The Ama Lur is an elegant dining concept by Chef Stephan Pyles featuring Nuevo Latino foods from countries in Central and South America and Spain. We entered the Ama Lur and were promptly seated at the Tapas Bar. The "tapas" concept is defined as small portions of multiple items that are designed for tasting. We tried several tapas and were delighted with each sampling. We had a lovely baked queso and fresh flour tortillas, beautiful large shrimp, a mouth-watering pear salad with baby greens, blue cheese and caramelized pecans, a lobster salad, tasty salmon and barbecue beef tenderloin. The atmosphere was fun and festive yet we never felt rushed. One of the managers came to check on our evening and explained that they have plans to incorporate a sushi bar into the concept as well. It was all so fabulous!

After dinner Kyle from Guest Relations took us around the property for a full tour. From the lush gardens, babbling river walk and vineyard, to the enormous glass atrium topped with a Lone Star, the convention areas, boutiques and pools – it was all so big and beautiful!

We toured the 25,000 sq. ft. spa, Relache, which is fully equipped with 12 spa service treatment rooms with two designed exclusively for couples, a salon, fitness center, boutique and indoor pool. The relaxing sounds of waves were piped in for those guests enjoying the indoor pool.

We also saw the other restaurants that are all part of the grandiose hotel: The Texan Station, a restaurant/sports bar; The Java Coast, the perfect place to check out the fountain show by the Lone Star Tower; the Riverwalk Café, offering a wide variety of international fare; and the Old Hickory Steakhouse which offers, among other things, certified Black Angus beef and over 200 selections of wine.

Then we came upon what I had hoped would be my final stop. Kyle opened the door to one of the Presidential suites. As I took in the breathtaking dining room, kitchen, living area, master suite and bath, I wondered out loud why my bags weren't already waiting for me. After all, I was relatively sure that George W. wasn't coming for a visit just then! Well, it's fun to dream! Our final stop was our own room, and although it wasn't the Presidential suite, it too, was "paradise!"

Aurallie Ruggiere is a freelance writer living in Corinth.

Wendy Crooks is a freelance writer living in Plano.