

## **Arlington General**

Named in honor of the house that Robert E. Lee called home for 30 years, Arlington claims a colorful and varied heritage, beginning with Native Americans and continuing through the explorations of the first Europeans and the earliest days of the Texas Republic.

Twenty-two other US cities and towns are names Arlington, but Arlington, TX is the largest in size and population, so it's true about everything being bigger in Texas!

Arlington was famous for its healing mineral waters in the 1800's.

The 1880 census shows a population of 275 people. Arlington consisted of 8 general merchants, a hotel keeper, a saloon operator and two doctors. In 1960, Arlington's population was 45,000. It is now almost 380,000 and is the 50th largest city in the United States, by population.

The City of Arlington is home to more than 375,000 residents. Making it the seventh largest city in the state, the third largest city in the Metroplex OR fifteenth largest in the USA.

Arlington, Texas rests squarely on the divide of two distinct geological strata, a vast "grand prairie" called the 'Eagle Ford,' and an oaks-dominated woodland of gently rolling hills called the 'Eastern Cross Timbers.'

Before Las Vegas, it was Arlington! Arlington was the largest gambling destination in the country in the '30s and '40s. An illegal casino drawing in guests such as Al Capone, Bonnie & Clyde, Clark Gable and Mae West was operated in Arlington as "Top O' Hill Terrace." It is now Arlington Baptist College. Tours are available by reservation.

Horse racing was a favorite pastime at Arlington Downs, which opened in 1929. Even though pari-mutuel wagering wasn't legalized in Texas until 1933, pari-mutuel laws were repealed after the 1937 racing season, so the racetrack was retooled for rodeos and other events until it was razed in 1958. A Texas Historical Landmark marks the site of the old racetrack.

Within a 12-month time frame, the City of Arlington hosted NFL Super Bowl XLV, an NBA All-Star Game, and MLB World Series.

## **Local Industry**

Tourism is the number one industry in Arlington, Texas. Approximately 10 million people visit each year.

The General Motors Assembly Plant opened in Arlington in 1954, producing the Pontiac Starchief, Buick Roadmaster and Oldsmobile. Wages were \$1.78 per hour.

The GM plant produces Cadillac Escalades, GMC Yukons, and Chevy Suburbans and Tahoes. Approximately 1,140 vehicles are produced daily and GM pays \$1 Million in wages every day at the Arlington Assembly plant.

The Arlington General Motors Plant is the only plant in the world making Suburbans, Tahoes, Escalades and Yukons.

GM announced this past summer a \$1.3 billion expansion project that will add 1.2-millions-square-foot to the existing plant.

### **University of Texas at Arlington**

In 1895, Arlington College was established, eventually becoming a military academy and ultimately part of the University of Texas system, now the University of Texas at Arlington.

UTA's College Park Center was named on Billboard.com's Top 10 new or renovated venues of 2012. The center was designed by HKS, architect of the new home of the Dallas Cowboys, AT&T Stadium, also in Arlington.

UTA's alum include astronaut Kalpana Chawla (1961-2003), the mission specialist on the space shuttle Columbia. U.S. Army General Tommy Franks is also a distinguished UTA alum. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, famous for his portrayal of Ritchie Valens in La Bamba, received his Bachelor's in Drama at UTA as well.

With a 60-ft diameter dome and state-of-the-art Digistar 4 DLP Projection System, the Planetarium at UT-Arlington is one of the largest & most sophisticated systems in the entire Southwest.

### **Food**

Sprouts Spring Roll & Pho Restaurant, located in the Lincoln Park Shopping Center, was featured on the popular television show "Man vs. Food." TV host Adam Richman took Sprouts' "Souper Bowl Challenge," eating five pounds of Pho in just 8 ½ minutes.

Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" has featured several Arlington restaurants on their show. The always popular Chop House Burgers, Taste of Europe, Jamaica Gates Caribbean Cuisine and Prince Lebanese Grill.

J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill invented the original Irish Nachos and was featured on The Food Network and the Travel Channel.

### **AT&T Stadium**

AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys NFL team, houses the world's largest sliding glass doors and the world's largest HDTV video board that stretches from 20 yard line to 20 yard line and consists of 30 million LED lights. The roof is supported by the world's two longest arches. Each arch truss spans nearly a quarter of a mile making this the longest clear span structure in the world. They are TWICE as long as the arch in St. Louis. The playing field is 50 feet below ground level.

The cost to build the center-hung HDTV monitor at AT&T Stadium (\$40+ million) was more than the entire construction cost of the old Texas Stadium.

Not to brag, but everything really is BIGGER IN TEXAS! The entire Statue of Liberty can fit inside AT&T Stadium with a few feet to spare. It is 320 feet from the blue star at midfield all the way up to the closure of the retractable roof. New York's Statue of Liberty is only 305 feet in height.

The first event at AT&T Stadium (June 2009) was not a sporting event. The stadium kicked off with a concert featuring country music superstars George Strait and Reba McEntire, with opening acts Blake Shelton and Lee Ann Womack.

About 105,121 fans attended the first Dallas Cowboys regular season game at AT&T Stadium (September 21, 2009 versus the NY Giants), setting an NFL record for the highest attendance at a regular season game.

When the Mexican National team hosted five-time world champion Brazil at AT&T Stadium in June 2012, the sold-out crowd set an all-time soccer attendance record for both Cowboys Stadium and the State of Texas with 84,516 people. The large crowd also broke a Guinness World Record for the “longest Mexican wave.”

108,713 basketball fans attended the NBA All-Star Game on February, 2010 at AT&T Stadium. That’s an all-time record for the highest-attended basketball game in history, setting a new Guinness World Record.

## **Six Flags**

Six Flags Over Texas, the first regional theme park in the country, is named for the six different nations that have governed Texas including: Spain, France, Mexico, the Confederacy, the Republic of Texas, and the United States. The park’s grand opening was August 1, 1961 and admission was \$2.75. Over 550,000 visitors came to the park in its first season.

The first theme park to feature Broadway-style shows, Six Flags Over Texas, started the career of many young and talented entertainers including Broadway star Betty Buckley and the first American Idol winner, Kelly Clarkson.

John Denver, who lived a short time as a youth in Ft. Worth, also worked at Six Flags. Urban legend is that Denver was told by park entertainment that his sound didn’t fit the shows, so Denver worked the flume ride.

Hurricane Harbor has 3 million gallons of water and 47 acres of cool family fun. There are 25 rides, ranging from a gentle float down the Lazy River to the 70-foot free fall of Dive Bomber.

“JUSTICE LEAGUE: Battle for Metropolis” is the newest ride open at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, Texas, in 2015.

The Texas SkyScreamer at Six Flags Over Texas is officially the World's Tallest Swing Carousel ride, according to Guinness World Records.

## **Ripley’s**

The Louis Tussaud’s Palace of Wax and Ripley’s Believe it or Not! has been in this market for about 42 years. The unique building is a duplicate of King George the IV Pavillion in England.

## **Texas Rangers**

Ballpark nachos, now a favorite snack at stadiums around the country, were invented at the Arlington Stadium, former home of the Texas Rangers.

The “dot race” also originated at Arlington Stadium! Like the nachos, the dot race spread to other venues around the country, morphing into such races as the Hot Dog Race, the Sausage Race and the Brat Race.

Globe Life Park opened as the Ballpark at Arlington in 1994.

Two-feet long and weighing over a pound, Texas Ranger fans at Rangers Ballpark will never go hungry thanks to the \$26 “Boomstick” All-Beef Hot Dog. This massive meal can feed a family of 4!

## **Fun in Arlington**

The Mecca of international bowling? Arlington, Texas! With the relocation of the U.S. Bowling Congress, the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, the International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame and the Bowling International Training & Research Center, Arlington is the world’s headquarters for one of the most popular participatory sports on the planet!

The Bowling ITRC (International Training & Research Center) is equipped with 14 dedicated training lanes, ITRC uses state-of-the-art robotics and engineering to improve your game, including biomechanical motion tracking, video analysis from robotic cameras, plus foot & grip pressure mapping. As the only potential U.S. Olympic Bowling Training facility, a set of Olympic Rings can be found on the International Bowling Hall of Fame campus in Arlington, TX.

Lake Arlington, a recreational destination for fishing and boating, was dubbed the “Miracle Lake” soon after its completion in 1957. Arlington’s fast growth in the 1950s created a demand for water supply. A dam was constructed on Village Creek and estimates were that it would take 2 years to fill the lake. Heavy rains filled the reservoir to capacity in an amazing 26 days!

Along the River Legacy Paddling Trail, you can enjoy a paddling trip of up to 8 miles along the West Fork of the Trinity River. There’s also a paddling trail at Lake Arlington, which is 10.8 miles in length and was the first lake paddling trail in the Metroplex.

The excavation of the Arlington Archosaur Site began in the spring of 2008 when a new land owner, the Huffines Group, granted land access to UTA. The excavation of the site continues and to date, more dinosaur fossils have been recovered from the Arlington Archosaur Site than from any other site in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex.

Arlington is the headquarters of American Mensa, the largest and oldest “High IQ Society” in the world. To be a Mensa member, your intelligence score must be in the 98th percentile or higher.

Entrepreneur Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS shoes, was born and raised in Arlington. For every pair of TOMS bought, the company gives a pair of shoes to a child in need of shoes. TOMS has given over 600,000 pairs of new shoes to children in need through giving partners around the world.