

## Explore McKinney's Downtown Square To Learn Its Secrets and Stories



We've put together some clues to help you discover some hidden and not so hidden secrets of our historic downtown. If you get stuck on one of the clues, don't hesitate to ask a shop owner or stop by the visitor's center for some help. When you take photos while hunting, make sure to tag us on social media - #visitmckinneytx.

- 1) **Two Bits a Stay:** The original McKinney bed & breakfast, this red house welcomed travelers who stepped off the train and spent the night. (Hint: Try Chestnut Square.)
- 2) **A Doozie of a Store:** There's so much to see in this huge store and all its cubbies. Take a picture in front of their window or under one of the chandeliers.
- 3) **A Whimsical Bug in a Rug:** This little sandwich and coffee spot is a comfy place to curl up on a couch or to chat with friends.
- 4) **At Home with the Faires Family:** –Find the oldest home in the county snuggled into a square with other historic homes.
- 5) **Big Game Hunting:** No guns required (or allowed) to capture a shot of your favorite safari animal in this international shop.
- 6) **Candy's Ax:** The last case tried here was of the gruesome ax murder of Betty Gore by Candy Montgomery. It packed the house back in 1980.
- 7) **Chocoholics' Nirvana:** The oldest operating business on the square closed in 2008 but its name still exists on the building. Take a photo of the treats the shop makes now. What's YOUR favorite
- 8) **Crazy Eyes:** These goofy goats outside this sweet spot were almost lost when the shop got a new "face" a few years ago. But happy day! They remain and just as googly-eyed as ever.
- 9) **Roller Girl:** This pretty girl on roller skates greets customers to this special treat store. Pose with her or capture another fun shot in this downtown square most-stop!
- 10) **Fido's Favorite:** The downtown square is just as friendly to four-legged visitors as it is to the two-legged variety. Take a photo with your pet anywhere in downtown McKinney.

- 11) **Floyd's in Mayberry:** Find something that really takes you back in time and take a picture with it. Is it a barber's pole, an old gas pump, maybe a vinyl album from your favorite 60s or 70s band! Don't forget to take a picture posing with or in front of your favorite throw-back piece of nostalgia.
- 12) **Gotta DASH!** Take a ride on the DASH. Don't forget to snap a picture of you and your family and friends with the driver!
- 13) **The March King:** John Philip Sousa brought his famous band to McKinney in the 1920s. Do you know where they played? (Hint: It was called the McKinney Opera House back then.) Take a photo on the patio or in the lobby ... and if you get the chance, take a walk inside to see some of their great old photos of the square from that era!
- 14) **Garden Gazebo:** There are three gazebos located throughout downtown. Can you find them? And which is your favorite?
- 15) **Gimme a Hug:** Have you gotten a hug yet from one of the terrific, friendly team members at one of the most special eateries downtown. (Hint: If you haven't tried their wedding cake cookies, treat yourself!)
- 16) **Go, Team, Go!** Stop monkeying around and find your favorite team's merchandise! Or if you're a collector of Funko Pop, you'll love the huge number they have. And if you see owner Jim, tell him we said "hi". He may even pose with you!
- 17) **High-Tech at the Museum:** Visit the museum that uses iPads to make history come to life. Soak up the great stories here while you explore this wonderful old building. (Tip – They're open Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- 18) **Lights, Camera, Action!** Once a movie house, you can now enjoy a glass of wine and live music here, and also buy some pretty flowers, shoes or even have your hair and nails done. Explore this neat old building and find a neat spot to take a picture there.
- 19) **Moppy Mutt:** A cool local artist is often seen walking the square with Abby (his sweet dog). He is a regular in downtown and has even installed three statues on/around the square. Can you find the protective pup, white buffalo, or majestic owl?
- 20) **Nailed Numbers:** Check out the floor in this former hardware store, now a spot for comfort food and pie. Look for the nails hammered into the floor between the front door and the counter. What do you think they were used for? If you don't know, ask owner Cleo to tell you about it.
- 21) **Pretty Ponies:** Can you find our majestic police horses around the square? If so, the officers are so friendly, so enjoy a little chat while posing with the ponies.
- 22) **Pretty Painter:** Check out the art collection at the old courthouse, most of which were done by local artists. What's your favorite?

- 23) **Reading is Fundamental:** There are a couple pieces of public art that depict enjoying a good book. Where are they? Can you find them? What are they reading?
- 24) **Spiraling Up:** People visiting downtown love taking pictures with green stairs that climb in a spiral pattern toward the heavens
- 25) **Steak & No Potatoes:** It's not Green Acres but you can sit on a similar vehicle in front of this fantastic organic meat market. They've got some great stuff in the store. Stop in and say "hi" to Matt and his crew.
- 26) **The Hang Out:** Do you know where the last execution took place in McKinney? See what you can learn about it.
- 27) **Visitor Sweet Home:** Stop by the visitors center, sign the guest book and put a pin in your hometown. Tell you're doing one of our scavenger hunts and we just have a little gift for you!
- 28) **Record Breaker:** Did you know we have a world's largest collection of something in our historic district? Can you find it? (Hint: It has to do with ice cream and is pretty cool to explore.)