



# Reunion Tower Mosaic

Make your mosaic to celebrate your trip to the TOP!

## What is a mosaic?

Mosaic is the art of decorating a surface with pictures and patterns made of little pieces of stone, glass or tiles of different colors. Mosaics can be used indoors on walls, floors and ceilings. Mosaics are sometimes used outdoors on pavement.



Examples of modern day mosaics.

## Making mosaics

Mosaics are made by setting colored pieces into “mortar” (cement) which sets hard and holds the pieces in place. Most mosaics are made of small, flat, roughly square, pieces of stone. Other mosaics are made of round pebbles or marble. Many mosaics, particularly in Italy, are made of terracotta tiles. (Terracotta is “fired” clay that has been baked in an oven.) Terracotta tiles come in many colours and can be used for colorful pictures as well as patterns.

## History

The history in mosaic has a foundation in the early cultures of Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Byzantine. Each of these empires developed a unique and distinctive style to their mosaics. Mosaics often last for a very long time. Mosaics were a popular way to decorate churches in Italy in the Medieval period. The most famous church with its interior decorated with mosaics is St. Mark's Basilica, Venice. At Westminster Cathedral in London, the mosaic decoration which was started more than 100 years ago is still continuing, bit by bit.

Nowadays mosaics are still used in all sorts of ways. Mosaics are most often used to brighten up public places in cities. Modern mosaics are made of all sorts of materials: mosaic tiles, bathroom tiles, broken glass, broken roof tiles, broken dishes, broken mirrors, bits of metal, old bricks, sea shells, beads, and even odd items like doll parts, pearls, or photographs.

## Mosaics in Dallas

Mosaics can be found around Dallas, particularly at the Dallas Museum of Art and Ferris Plaza located across the Union Station.

Dallasites Peter and Waldo Stewart commissioned artist Miguel Covarrubias to enliven their company's building with a glass mosaic. The piece is called *Genesis, The Gift of Life* and is now installed outside the DMA's Main Entrance, the bright colors, poetic atmosphere, and scale of the entire wall make it a treasured Dallas landmark.

In 2016, an organization called Make Art with a Purpose teamed up with Downtown Inc. and Skyline High School to decorate a bench with mosaics. The piece is called *Ignite Ferris Plaza* and represents various constellations and the four seasons a mosaic map of downtown Dallas as a centerpiece.



*Genesis, The Gift of Life* by Miguel Covarrubias at the Dallas Museum of Art.



*Ignite Ferris Plaza* at Ferris Plaza.

