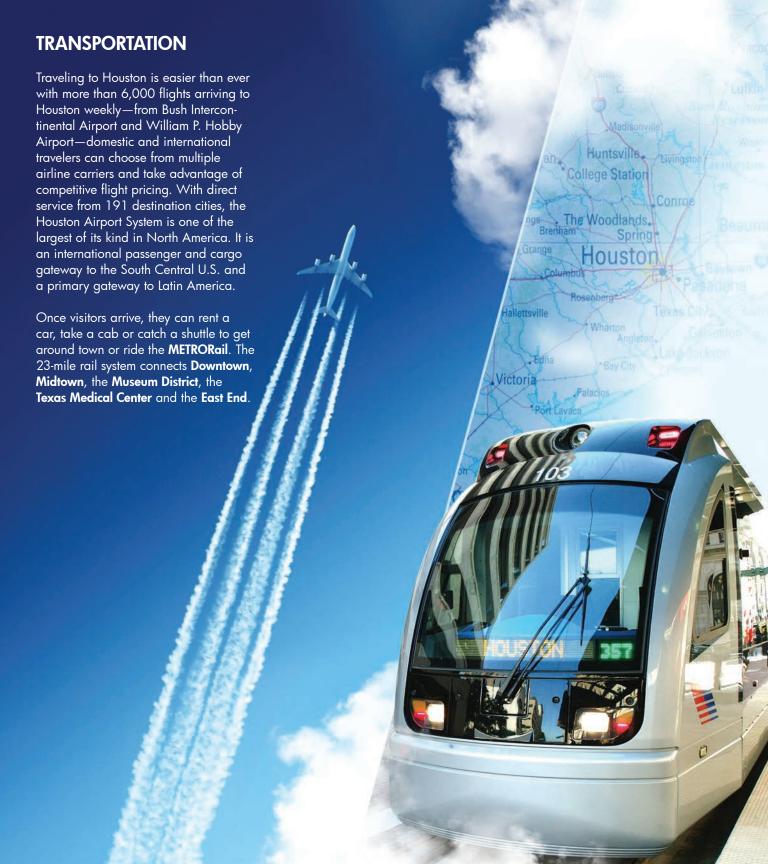
# HOUSTON



The Official Pocket Guide





### **SHOPPING**

Houston remains a fashion superstar on the nation's retail scene. At The Galleria—Texas' largest shopping complex—more than 400 fine stores and restaurants come together in a multi-level, eye-catching center. For designer deals, don't miss the 145 shops at the Houston Premium Outlets, or local shopping at Rice Village home to Project Runway winner Chloe Dao's namesake boutique. South of Houston, the single-level, open-air **Tanger Outlets** features over 80 outlets with discounted merchandise from some of the world's largest brands in fashion. International shoppers can also take advantage of Tax-Free Shopping.



# nrg. stadium

### **SPORTS**

In Houston, loyal sports aficionados have professional teams to cheer on year-round, including the **Houston Rockets** basketball, **Houston Astros** baseball, **Houston Texans** football and the two-time Major League Soccer Cup-winning **Houston Dynamo**.

Having four stadiums located in or around Downtown enables Houston to draw major sporting events like the World Series, All-Star Games, the NCAA Final Four and the 2017 Super Bowl. All of the city's sporting events are accessible via METRORail, making transportation to games convenient for visitors.



## HOUSTON'S WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

A resurgence in the city's Central Business District is giving visitors more reasons to head Downtown. Parks, restaurants, world-class theater and professional sporting events mean that fun is only footsteps away.

Houston's **Discovery Green** park—across from the George R. Brown Convention Center—provides FREE year-round activities. Expect happy hour concerts, movies on summer nights and ice skating in the winter. Score casual comfort food at the park's **Lake House** restaurant. Or, for a see-and-be-seen vibe, there's **The Grove**—an upscale American dining option.

Nearby, GreenStreet continues to settle into the area. The House of Blues concert venue lives alongside other entertainment and retail shops including Lucky Strike Lanes, BCBGMAXAZRIA and a XXI Forever flagship.

Dining options at GreenStreet abound with nine restaurants to choose from including Guadalajara del Centro, III Forks Steakhouse and McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant.





### **NIGHTLIFE**

### **DOWNTOWN**

Pubs like the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium are popular with beer lovers, while La Carafe, Houston's oldest wine bar, is a romantic date spot. Listen to top musicians perform at the House of Blues, or relax and listen to live jazz at Sambuca.

### **MIDTOWN**

Check out nightlife spots such as Front Porch Pub, Celtic Gardens, and Christian's Tailgate. Or if you're looking for something more eclectic, have a glass of wine at 13 Celsius, housed in a classic 1920s space.

### **UPTOWN AND GALLERIA**

The Uptown Houston District near the Gallera is Houston's shining star for shopping and dining. Arcodoro, Arturo's and Uptown Sushi are all outstanding dining options. Uptown's fashionable evening scene includes RDG + Bar Annie, and The Tasting Room.

### **WASHINGTON AVE**

Only five minutes from Downtown, this area is packed with local restaurants, wine dives and great live music venues. Favorite watering holes include Taps House of Beer, Porch Swing Pub and Pearl Bar. Absolve Wine Lounge and Max's Wine Dive attract wine lovers from around the city.



### **NAVIGATING HOUSTON**

Getting around H-Town is easier than ever! A short walk will take you from the convention center to some of Houston's best downtown destinations, and with a newly expanded light rail system the fourth largest city in the US becomes a whole lot smaller.

### **METRORAIL LINES**

- Green Line / East End Line
- Purple Line / Southeast Line
- Red Line / Main Street

### DOWNTOWN HOTELS

- 1. Club Quarters
- 2. Courtyard by Marriott Downtown
- 3. Crowne Plaza Houston
  Downtown
- 4. Doubletree Hotel Houston Downtown
- 5. Embassy Suites Hotel
- 6. Four Seasons Hotel
- 7. Hilton Americas Houston
- 8. Holiday Inn Express

- P. Hotel Icon
- 10. Hyatt Regency Houston
- 11. Lancaster Hotel
- 12. JW Marriott
- 13. Magnolia Hotel
- 14. Residence Inn Houston
- 15. Sam Houston Hotel
- 16. Westin Houston
  Downtown
- 17. Marriott Marquis 2016
- 18. Springhill Suites 2015

### **HOUSTON NEIGHBORHOODS**

VisitHouston.com/Chinatown

Like many major cities, Houston's charm lies in its distinct **HOUSTON INNER LOOP** neighborhoods. Wondering where to start? Read on for **HOUSTON CITY LIMITS** a snapshot of the area's most-loved areas. **◆**TO GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL Founded in 1891, the Houston Heights unfolds AIRPORT 🚤 in a mix of historic architecture, local boutiques METRORAIL and cozy restaurants. To really appreciate The Houston's East End is a **RED LINE** Heights, visit the 19th Street shops. melting pot for the (MAIN ST.) 610 290 Mexican Americans that settled in areas near the Port of Houston. It's also Houston River Oaks, Houston's most where fans will find the Heights glamorous neighborhood, new **BBVA Compass** boasts the city's most Stadium, home of the exclusive real estate. Houston Dynamo. Multi-million dollar homes 10 - 90 and fine dining add to the area's appeal. **DOWNTOWN** CONVENTION One of six historic CENTER wards of Houston. River East 610 Third Ward is rich in 610 Oaks End culture and history. ▼TO Montrose located near the CHINATOWN Texas Medical Center. 59 the area is the center Known for its eccentricity, **Third** 59 Montrose brings tattoo of Houston's African Ward MUSEUM parlors and thrift stores American community. DISTRICT together with high-end dining and art galleries. **TEXAS MEDICAL** The pedestrian-friendly Westheimer Curve sits in the heart of the Less than an hour from neighborhood. Downtown, visitors can soak up the Gulf Coast in Bay Area Houston. With at least 80 languages spoken Located just north of by more than 250,000 residents, Galveston, the Bay Area Chinatown lies at the center of financial is home to five distinct **HOBBY** trading, heritage, cultural and religious cities—Kemah, League **AIRPORT** activities for Houston's Asian-American City, Nassau Bay, community. Seabrook and Houston. TO BAY AREA

& GALVESTON



### **DINING**

Described by *The New York Times* as a city with a "world-class food scene and a rising generation of culinary stars," Houston is a hotbed for epicurean endeavors, which explains why Houstonians dine out more often than any other city in the United States.

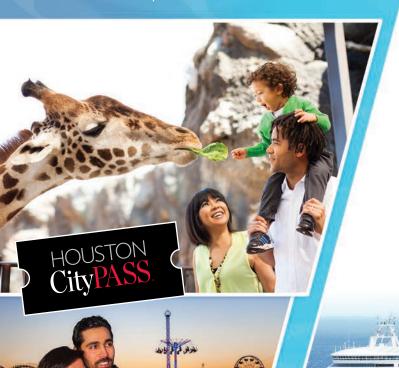
More than 10,000 restaurants, representing cuisine from more than 35 countries and American regions, ensure that the city's food scene remains as ethnically diverse as its many residents. From signature Tex-Mex and topnotch barbecue to burgers, sushi and everything in between, foodies find award-winning fine dining and local establishments with cuisines that rival some of the world's top culinary cities.



### **ATTRACTIONS**

Want to save money and still pack in the sightseeing? Pick up a Houston CityPASS. The booklet, which provides discounted access to five must-see attractions, is available online at **VisitHouston.com**.

Whether you're experiencing a space shuttle landing at **Space Center Houston** or going wild with one of the 6,000 animals at the **Houston Zoo**, Houston's attractions offer endless adventure. Witness the wonder of the underwater world at the **Downtown Aquarium** or ride the thrill rides atop the **Kemah Boardwalk**. To learn about the other CityPASS attractions, log on to VisitHouston.com/CityPass.





### **CRUISES**

Visitors looking to take a cruise from Houston have two cruise ports to choose from, both within an hour from **Downtown Houston**.

The **Bayport Cruise Terminal** offers travelers efficient and world-class service before and after their cruise. The 96,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility combines passenger convenience and accessibility to the open sea. For cruise schedule information, log on to **PortofHouston.com/Cruise**.

The **Port of Galveston** is a popular port for travelers, offering Caribbean service with several major cruise lines. Located just one block from Galveston's Historic Downtown District, many vacationers opt for **Galveston Island** excursions before or after their voyage. For cruise schedule information, log on to **GalvestonCruises.com**.

### OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Some of Houston's most-loved gems remain under-the-radar for many loyal visitors. Want to explore the city's offbeat offerings? Don't miss these standouts.

Dubbed Garage Mahal, the **Art Car Museum** is the only place you'll find a rolling cast iron bathtub or a Honda motorcycle that's been transformed into a rolling stiletto heel.

Rice Military's **Beer Can House** remains one of H-Town's most-loved folk art creations, covered in more than 50,000 flattened beer cans.

Discover more than 100 years of Texas history at the **George Ranch Historical Park**. The 480-acre living history museum gives visitors a hands-on experience working on a ranch.

At the **National Museum of Funeral History**, guests can peek inside a
1920s hearse made of six types of
wood and see a dozen brightly colored
"fantasy coffins."

It took more than 20 years for Jeff McKissack to finish his maze-like **Orange Show** monument. The 3,000-square-foot folk-art space makes room for a pond, stage, museum and gift shop.

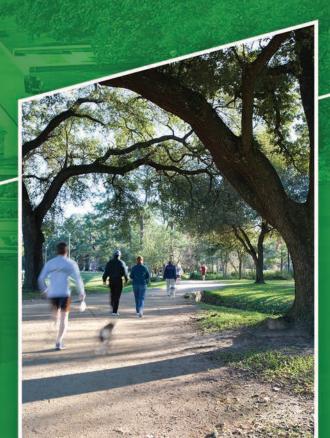
For more local sites, log on to **VisitHouston.com/CityFile**.

### **OUTDOOR**

With more than 300 miles of trails, 174 public and private golf courses and 50,632 acres of parkland, Houston offers endless opportunities to soak up the great outdoors. Thanks to the area's mild winter temperatures, it's easy to appreciate H-Town's outdoor offerings year-round, too.

Paddle Buffalo Bayou on a canoe tour, hike the Houston Arboretum, jog Memorial Park or rent a bike from Houston's B-cycle program and explore the city on two wheels. Minutes from Downtown, in Hermann Park, Miller Outdoor Theatre offers professional (and free) ballet, theater and music performances.

For more things to do, log on to **VisitHouston.com/Outdoors**.



### **GETTING STARTED**

Let the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau help you plan your trip to Houston, Texas.

In addition to providing destination marketing services and materials, the GHCVB can assist with itinerary ideas, tour reservations, ground operators, entertainment suggestions, dining options and much more.

For more information or to start planning a trip to Houston, log on to **VisitHouston.com**.

GHCVB DESTINATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT 713-437-5200







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