

Official Visitors Guide

# Houston

June • July • August 2009

## Return to Kemah

PLUS:  
Other Family Fun  
PAGE 8

PLUS:

**50+**  
Great Things to Do  
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**Sizzling Tex-Mex  
Fresh Seafood & more**  
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THE OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE TO

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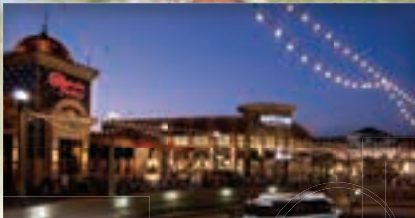
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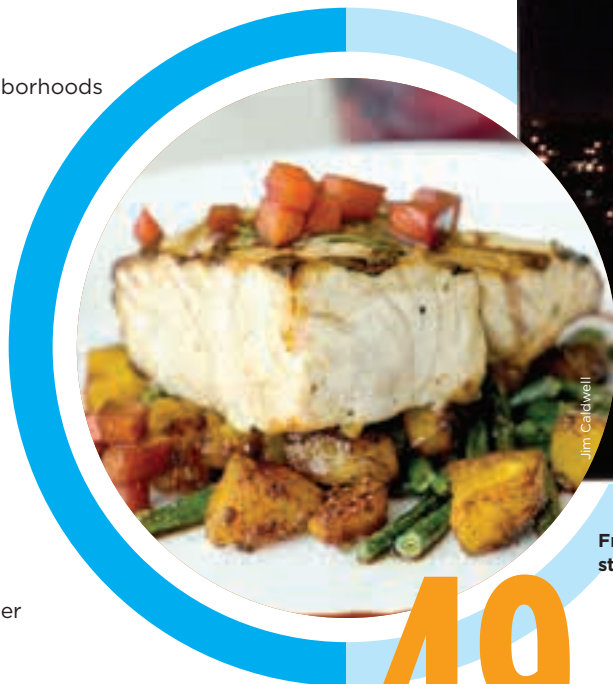
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Cover art: Jim Olive; www.stockyard.com

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The Official Visitors Guide is published quarterly for the membership of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (GHCVB) by Desert Publications, Inc. ©2009 by Desert Publications Inc.





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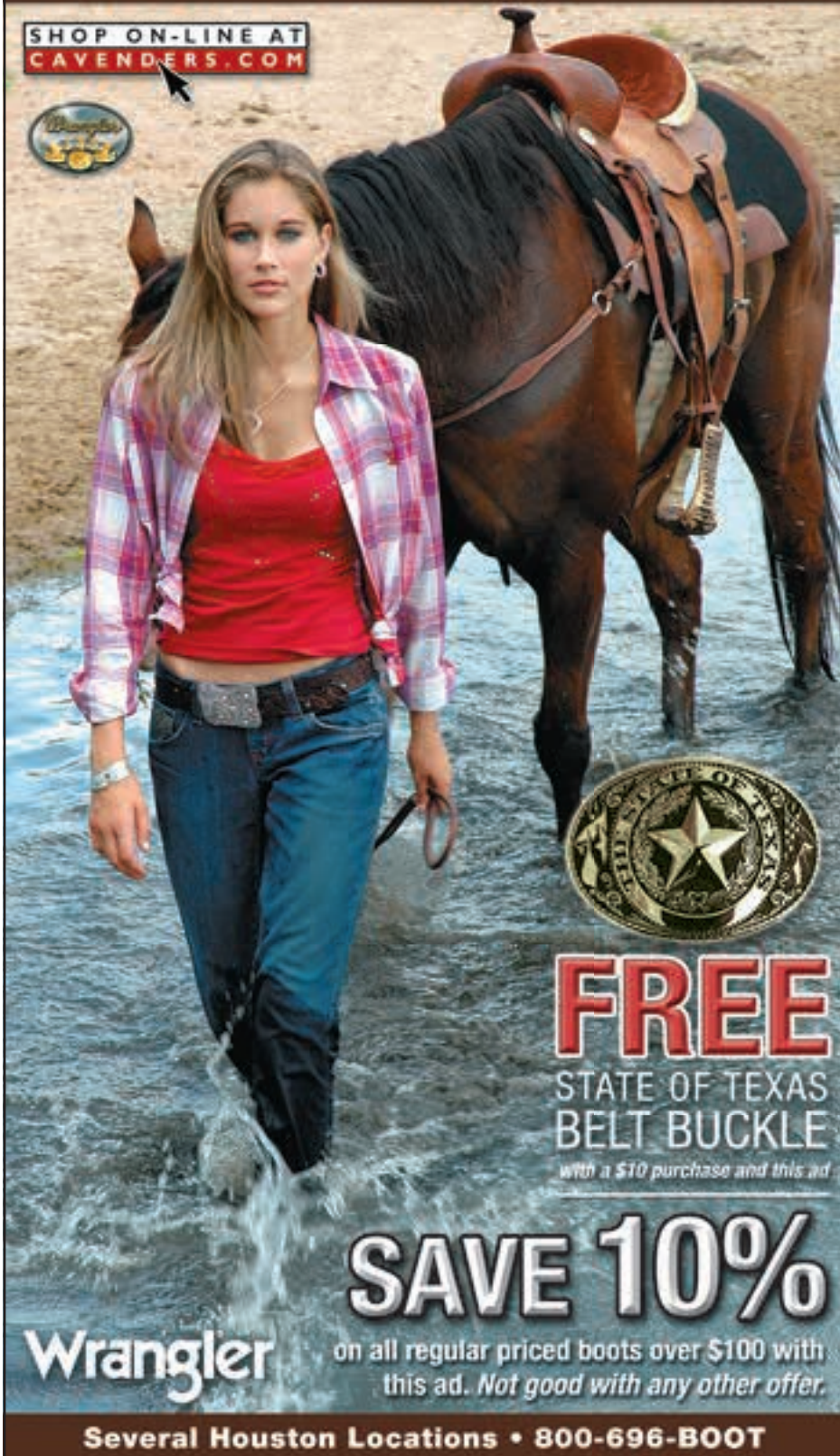


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Published by:  
DESERT PUBLICATIONS INC.,  
25132 Oakhurst Dr., Ste. 201,  
Spring, TX 77386,  
(713) 942-2222  
Fax: (713) 942-0277  
E-Mail:  
[sales@desertpublications.com](mailto:sales@desertpublications.com)  
P.O. Box 2724, Palm Springs,  
CA 92263-2724  
(760) 325-2333  
Fax: (760) 325-7008  
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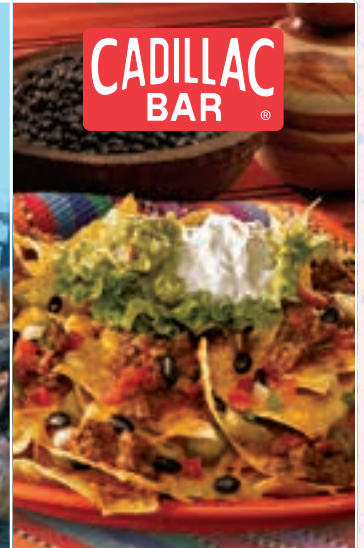
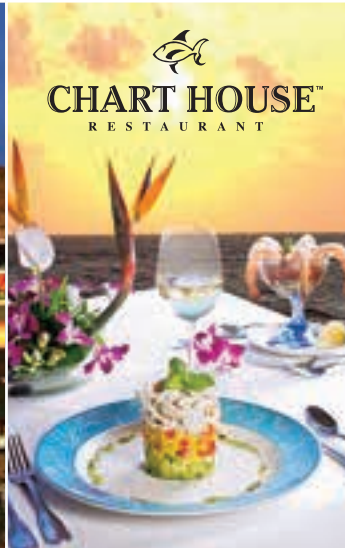
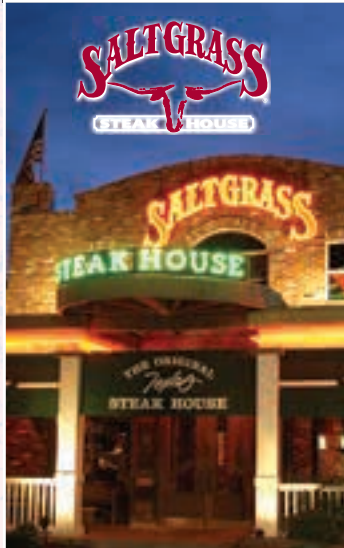
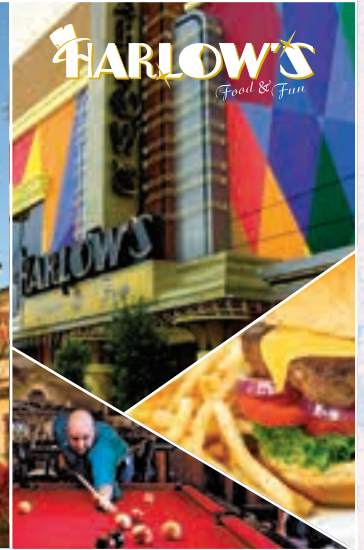
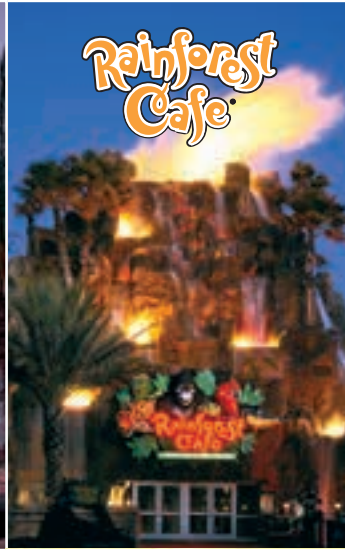
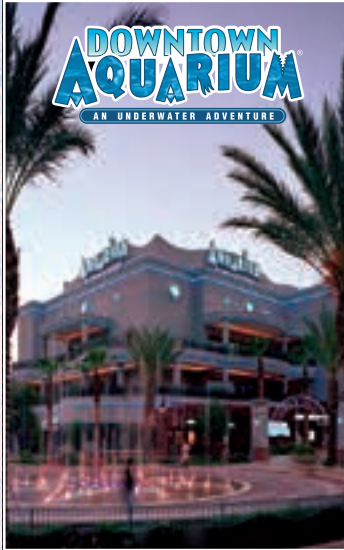
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# GETTING AROUND







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  - Japanese Friendship Garden
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- 3 Memorial Park, 7J
- 4 Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 6J
- 5 Discovery Green, 9J





# Return to Kemah!

## The Boardwalk reopens after Ike

with great family fun and fresh seafood

BY DEBORAH HENSEL



The thrill-a-minute Boardwalk Bullet is one of Kemah's top attractions.

It's back and better than ever! After a devastating brush with a bad storm called Ike last September, Kemah Boardwalk has rebuilt and redefined itself as a fresh and attractive destination for great food and family entertainment.

Visitors to the Boardwalk this summer can enjoy exhilarating rides like the Boardwalk Bullet roller coaster and the 140-foot Drop Zone tower. After a jaw-

dropping first plunge of 92 feet, the Bullet accelerates to 51 miles per hour as it twists and turns only five feet from Galveston Bay. For smaller visitors and squeamish parents, the newly renovated Carousel now features two decks of painted ponies and sea creatures.

While admission to walk the Boardwalk is free for taking in the sights and the sun, visitors who want more excitement can purchase an all-day pass for most

attractions. Passes start at \$16.99 for visitors under 48 inches tall, \$18.99 for those who are taller. The all-day pass saves visitors approximately \$30 over purchasing tickets separately. Note that the pass does not include a few of the premium, breathtaking attractions like a speedboat ride on the Boardwalk Beast and kids' favorites like Stingray Reef, the Midway games, or the Arcade. But you're certain to get your money's worth in amazement and smiles.



Landry's Restaurants owns The Boardwalk, but food choices go beyond seafood, although that's the biggest draw for diners who come to restaurants like The Original Joe's Crab Shack, Babin's Seafood House, The Aquarium, Landry's Seafood House, and The Flying Dutchman Restaurant and Oyster Bar. If delectable shrimp, crab, and Gulf Coast dishes are not enough, grab a slice of pizza quickly at The Pizza Oven, carve into steak and prime rib at The Chart House, chow down on chicken-fried steak at Salt Grass Steakhouse, nosh on nachos and margaritas at Cadillac Bar, or enjoy traditional Japanese cuisine at Red Sushi and Hibachi Grill.

Love live music? Crank up your summer with Rock the Dock every Thursday night from 6:30 to 10:15 p.m. through Aug. 27. Come hear live rock and pop music from bands like the incomparable Ezra Charles and the Texas Blues Band or The Fab Five covering the Beatles' classics and other '60s and '70s favorites. The Boardwalk sizzles with great food and Latin jazz on Saturday, Aug. 1, as it welcomes the second annual Salsa Beats. All concerts on the plaza are always free.



With two decks, the new carousel now offers twice the fun.

Kemah also lights up with an impressive fireworks display reflected in the bay every Friday in June leading up to the Fourth of July celebration.

Visitors can find an array of great bargains at the shops adjacent to the Boardwalk, including Christmas at Kemah, Kemah Country Store, Thomas Kinkadee Gallery, and Toy Crossing. And if you need another day to take in all

the fun, consider an overnight stay at the Boardwalk Inn, which also offers a boardroom and a ballroom for corporate retreats and weddings (281-335-9880 for reservations).

Kemah is only a half-hour drive south from downtown Houston, but well worth the day trip. For more information, call (877) AT-KEMAH or visit [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com). ■

## A BIGGER, BETTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON

Families looking to entertain the little ones can find a big adventure close to downtown at the newly expanded Children's Museum of Houston (CMH), 1500 Binz, in the heart of the Museum District.

When the CMH opened its new building in March, its size doubled to an astonishing 90,000 square feet of family fun, including seven new permanent, bilingual exhibits that offer terrific learning experiences. Cyberchase — The Chase is On! offers young mathematicians a virtual adventure, while FlowWorks teaches about fluid dynamics.

The Invention Convention supercharges creative problem solving and encourages invention, while KidTropolis, USA offers an understanding of finance. Matter Factory explains the world of nanotechnology and materials science. PowerPlay is a kid-friendly, high-action zone, and Tot\*Spot was designed for children 3 years and under.

"We've built a place where the best ideas come together — practically speaking, A Playground for Your Mind," says Executive Director Tammie Kahn. "This is a place where scientists and teachers, explorers and artists, mathematicians and poets can share with our children what they love."

**ICE** Open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. \$7 per person and \$6 for seniors 65 and older. Children under one and Museum Members are free. Free Family Nights are offered on Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.



A virtual adventure awaits daring kids who get on Cyberchase — The Chase is On!



# CITY EXPLORER

Savor the Houston experience, rich and diverse with fascinating sights, sounds, and flavors. Here's offer a bird's-eye-view with maps for easy navigation.



The fountains at The Aquarium on the banks of Buffalo Bayou provide popular "cooling off spot."

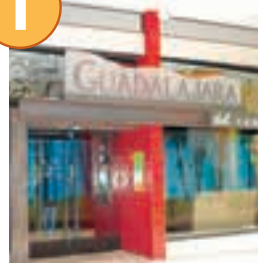
## DOWNTOWN | THEATER DISTRICT

Houston's shimmering modern skyline reflects the heart of the city. Stunning skyscrapers mix with early 20th-century structures juxtaposing contemporary and historical design. Downtown functions as the central business district, as well as the center for sports, performing arts, nightlife, and more. The 17-block Theater District hosts virtually every type of performance year-round, including opera, ballet, classical music, Broadway shows, and classic theater. Downtown's Minute Maid Park fields the Houston Astros and Toyota Center is home to the Houston Rockets and AHL Aeros.



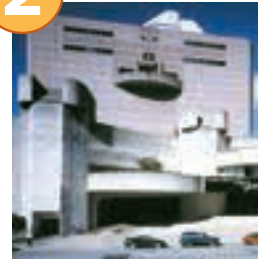
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Guadalajara Del Centro on San Jacinto offers a twist on Mexican food favorites – including the “must-try” margarita swirl.



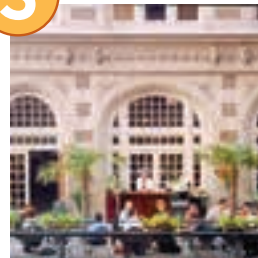
2

Suspenseful moments and unexpected revelations prevail at the ExxonMobil Summer Chills series at the Alley Theatre. Tickets start at \$21.



3

The State Bar & Lounge on the second floor of the Rice Lofts (Texas at Travis) celebrates the city's glory days with furnishings and memorabilia from the old Rice Hotel's Capital Club, and the veranda offers a sweeping view of the city.



4

The lawn at Discovery Green is a great place to spend a sunny afternoon. Participate in tai chi, yoga, or Pilates; shop at the Farmer's Market; and enjoy Family Film Fun presented by the Aurora Picture Show.





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6PM: COCKTAILS AT THE FOUNDATION ROOM.

1AM: SLEEP AND REPEAT.

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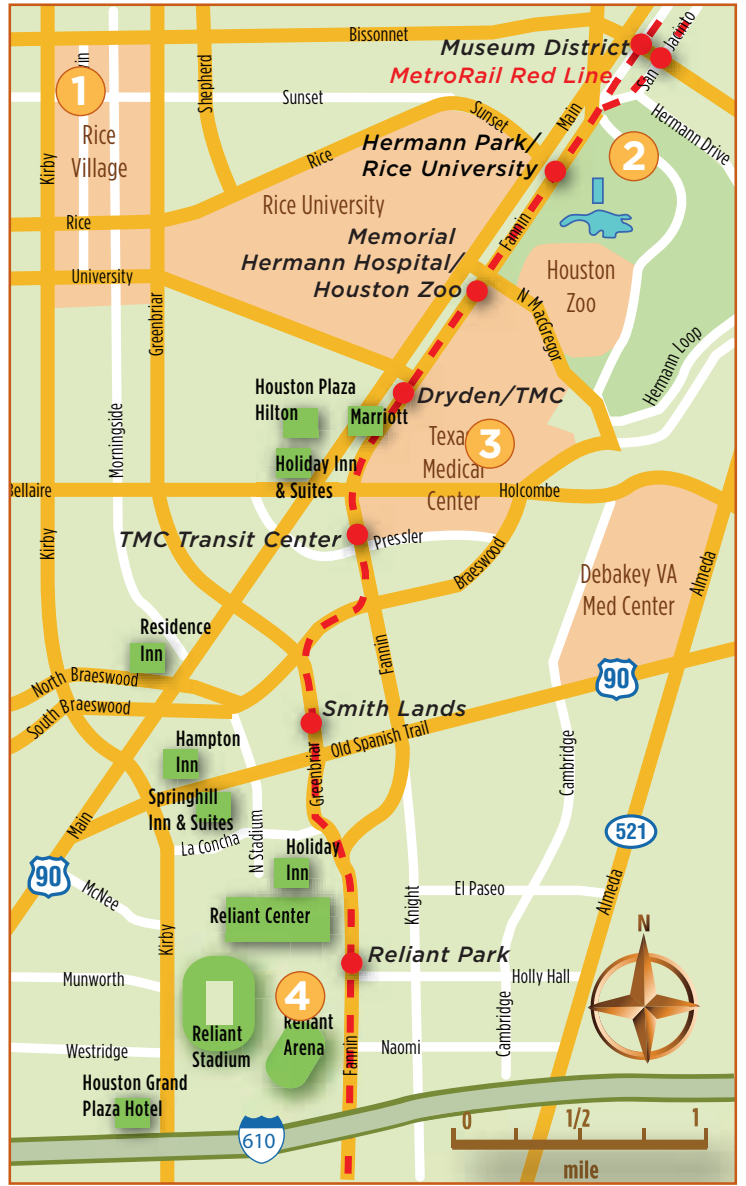


# RELIANT | MEDICAL CENTER | RICE VILLAGE



Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical complex.

Reliant Park is home to the Houston Texans' Reliant Stadium, as well as many major attractions, such as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ and the World Series of Dog Shows. Rice Village, named for its location next to Rice University, offers sidewalk cafés, casual and fine dining, and plentiful nightlife in a concentrated, pedestrian friendly shopping area. The internationally renowned Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world, sits next to the expansive Hermann Park.



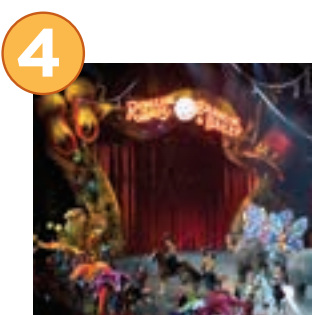
Shop and dine in Rice Village, where big-name stores such as Express and Urban Outfitters share the neighborhood with boutiques Hemline and Chloe Dao's Lot 8.



Hermann Park has 445 acres of family activities. Children love the Houston Zoo, pedal boats, and the miniature train. Lake Plaza includes Little Big's restaurant.



The 47 institutions that comprise the Texas Medical Center include two trauma centers and specialized care for children, cancer, and heart patients, as well as medical and nursing schools.

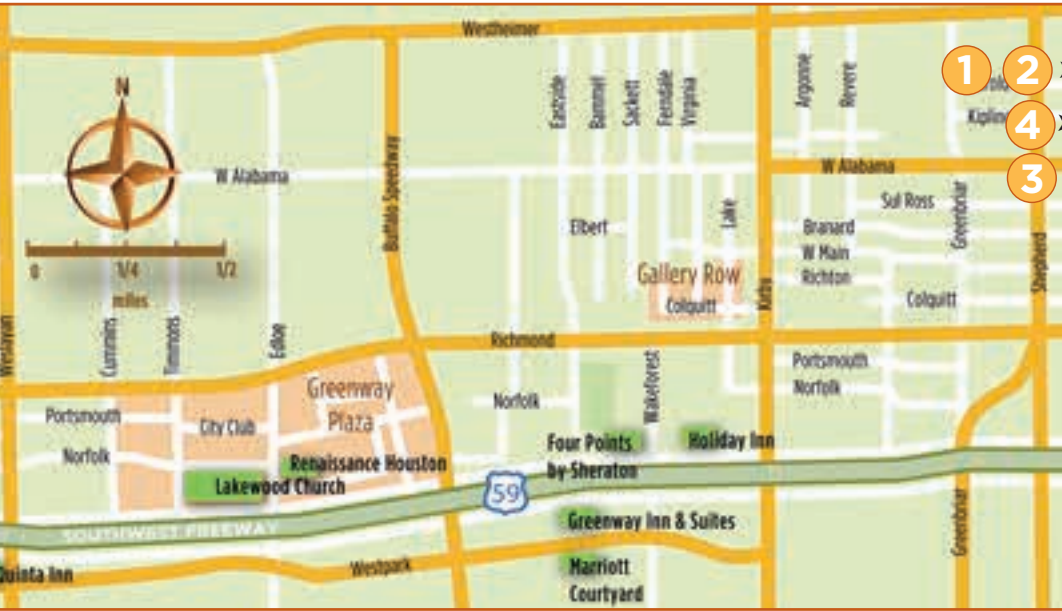


Gold Cup Soccer comes to Reliant Stadium July 9, while the Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus, July 15-26, is one of many exciting events in Reliant Park this summer.



# UPPER KIRBY | RIVER OAKS | GREENWAY

Lush and luxurious River Oaks truly shines in the summer. The ultimate address for Houston's elite, this posh area is the place for mansion gawking any time of the year. The area also boasts great dining and an abundance of art galleries.



River Oaks draws visitors to see mansions in many shapes and styles.



1

Ruggles Green on West Alabama is Houston's first certified "green" restaurant, offering an organic, all-natural, preservative-free menu.



2

Find your signature look at Muse, a luxurious boutique in The Centre at River Oaks that presents fashions by designers from New York and Los Angeles.



3

Cactus Music in Shepherd Plaza offers one of the city's largest selections of music in all genres.



4

On Sheperd at Alabama, you'll find one of seven Pappas Seafood restaurants — all of which serve fresh Texas Gulf Coast seafood delights.





# MIDTOWN | MONTROSE | MUSEUM DISTRICT

1



The Houston Pride Festival, Saturday, June 27, is an all-day celebration of the GLBT community, with live entertainment, vendor booths, and an evening with the Houston Pride Parade.

2



The Union Bar & Lounge on Bagby is one of Midtown's many trendy watering holes featuring an eclectic music mix.

3



The Station Museum of Contemporary Art on Alabama was a gas station converted for contemporary art exhibitions.

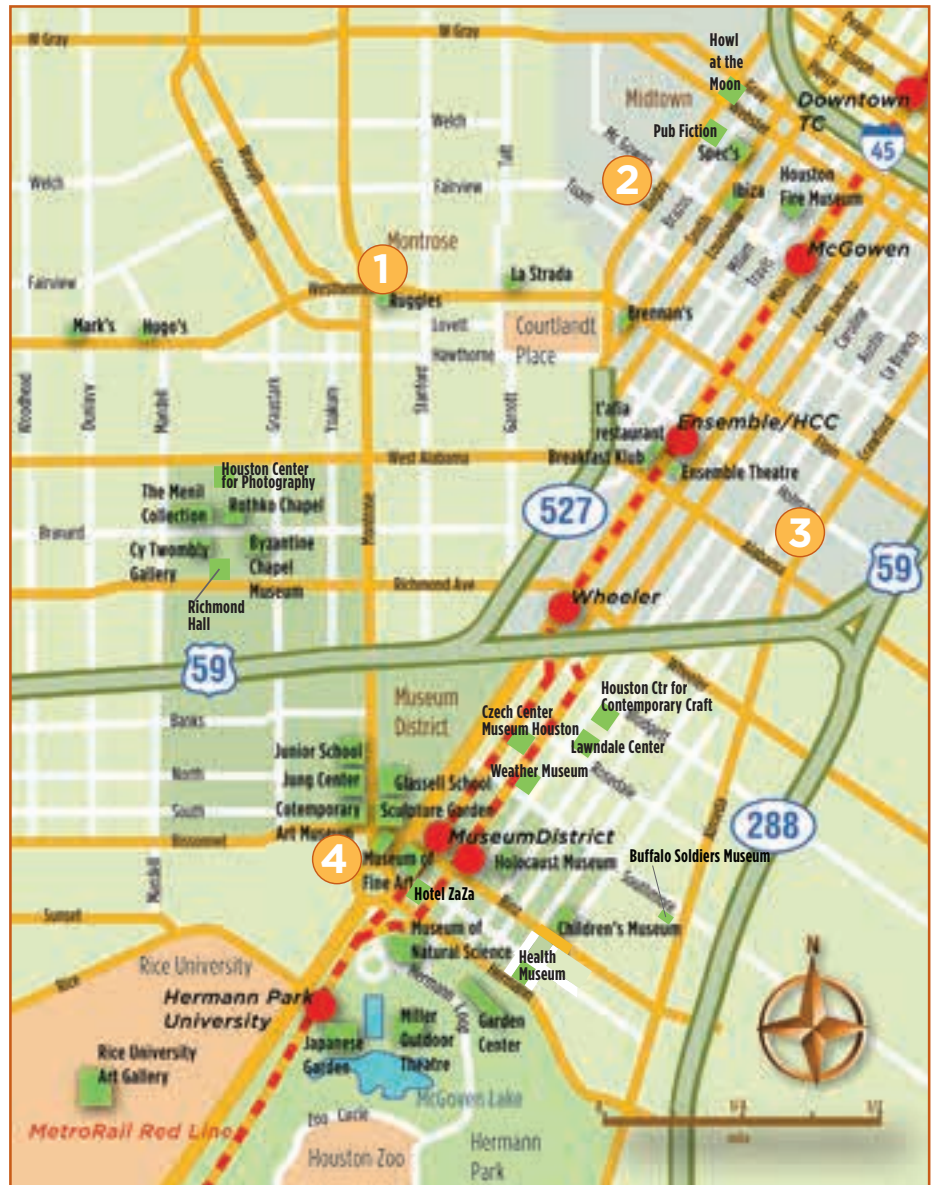
4



At the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston, "No Zoning: Artists Engage Houston" explores the works of regional artists working in the urban environment (through Oct. 4).

Explore the areas south of downtown, Midtown, Montrose, and the Museum District via METRO Light Rail. These dynamic neighborhoods offer restaurants and nightlife, eclectic shopping, and the city's treasure trove of world-class museums. Midtown's nightlife experiences run the gamut from sports bars to sushi bars, while Montrose brims with funky shops and refined restaurants. The Museum District's 18 museums scatter among scenic oak boulevards, which draw visitors toward the majestic Mecom Fountain and Hermann Park's inviting acres.

Dining in Midtown is an eclectic experience.





# HEIGHTS | WEST END | HISTORIC SIXTH WARD

Located just to the north and east of downtown, these historic neighborhoods, established in the late 1800s, were early residential retreats from the big city. The area is rich with historical architecture, artful shopping, restaurants, and wine bars along Washington Avenue.



The Heights has a neighborhood feel.

1



Cedar Creek, between Shady Acres and Oak Forest in the Heights, is a picturesque spot for casual dining — tacos, fajitas, and the best burgers you'll ever bite into.

2



The Flying Saucer Pie Company on Crosstimbers claims its confections are “out of this world” — and rightly so!

3

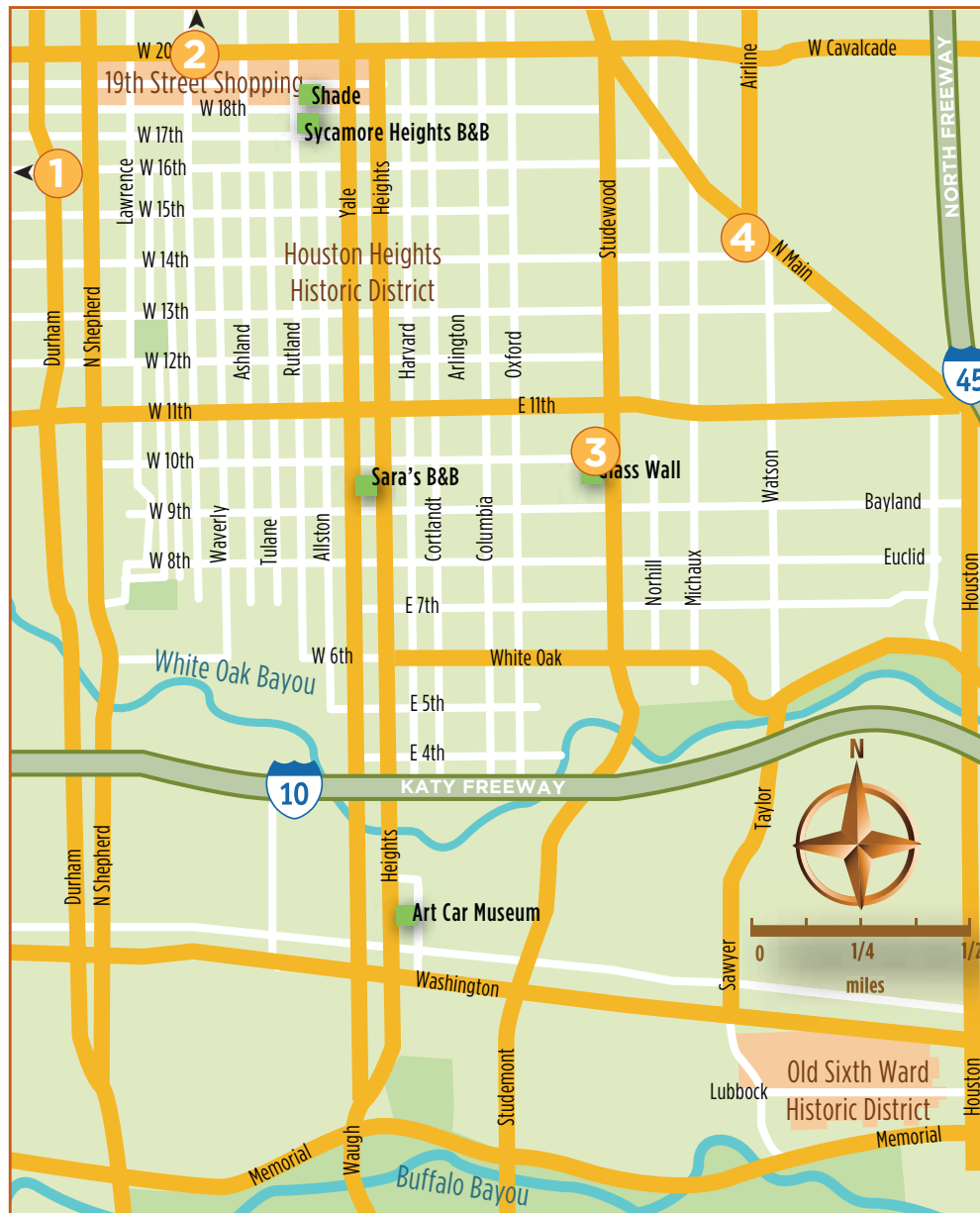


Houston Tamales Factory on Studewood in the Heights offers traditional family recipes with the freshest ingredients.

4



Spanish Flowers on North Main has served some of the city's best Mexican food for 30 years. Open 24 hours a day except for a short break on Tuesday nights into Wednesday morning.







Colorful flowers and gleaming silver arches mark Post Oak Blvd. in the Uptown/Galleria area.

# UPTOWN | GALLERIA

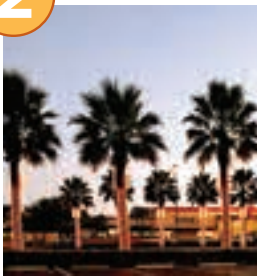
Anchored by mega-street Westheimer and pretty Post Oak Boulevard, the Uptown/Galleria area is well-known for its trifecta of stellar shopping, fine dining, and great hotels — more than 700 retail choices within only two miles. Post Oak’s shiny street arches and suspended, circular street signs symbolize the area’s timeless flair.

1



The Galleria itself is a triple-decker shopping city unto itself, featuring 375 retailers, including two Macy’s, Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany & Co., Cartier, and Gucci.

2

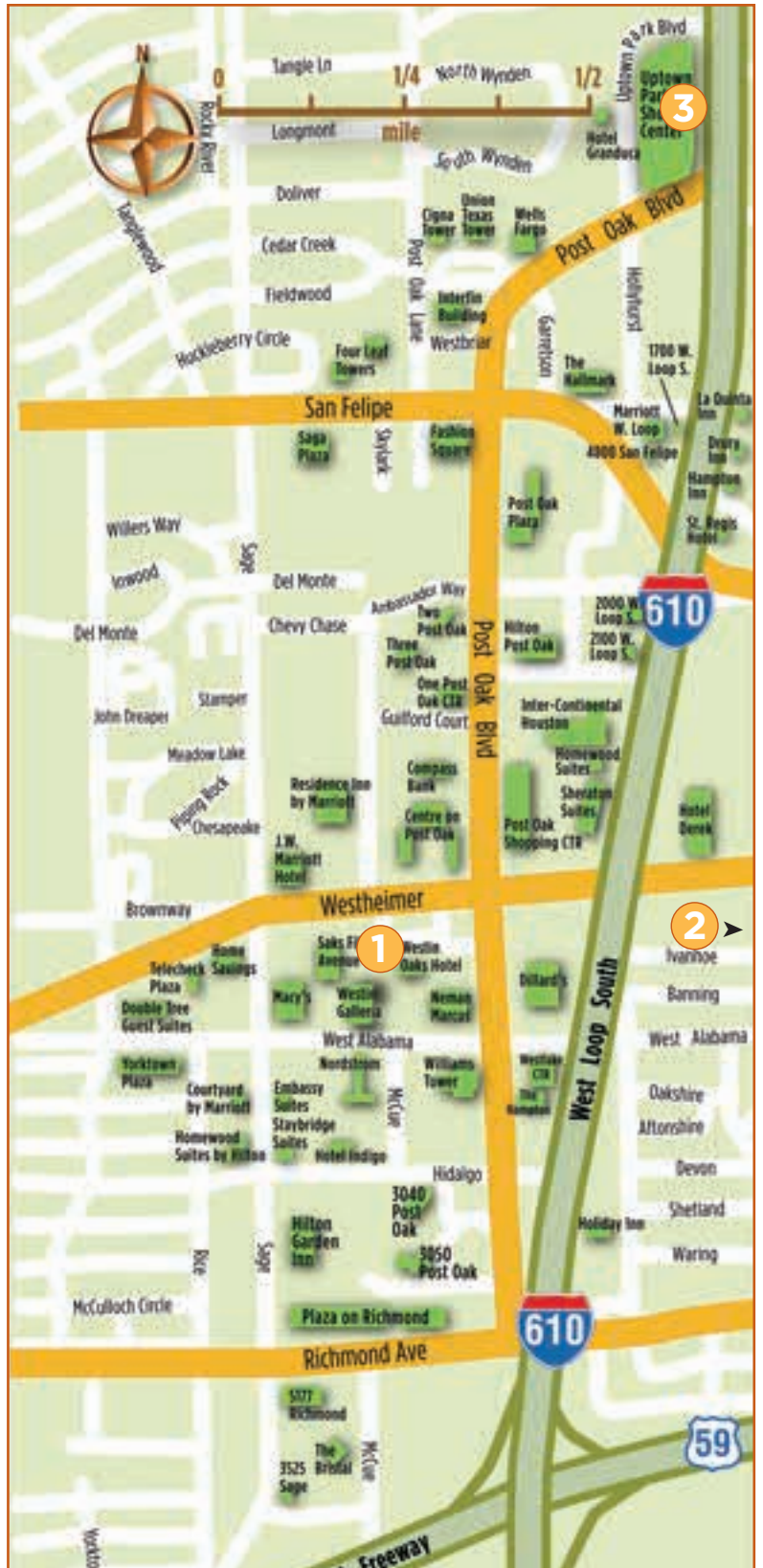


Highland Village offers shopping adventures on both sides of the street — from hometown favorite Tootsies to Crate & Barrel, Coldwater Creek, Chicos, and Victoria’s Secret.

3



Slightly north of the Galleria on Loop 610 West is the Italianesque shopping villa known as Uptown Park, featuring shops like M. Penner, Anne Taylor Loft, and Hanson Galleries. You’ll also find a dozen eateries, including the popular McCormick & Schmick’s, offering a fresh approach to seafood.





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# GREENSPPOINT | NORTHWEST HOUSTON

North of the city, the Greenspoint District is a major business center with offices for more than 80 energy-related companies. Business travelers take advantage of more than 9,000 hotel rooms in the area. Leisure is also on hand at Greenspoint Mall, Sam Houston Race Park, and numerous golf courses.



Bush Intercontinental Airport boasts a wealth of art installations.

1



Old Town Spring is a quaint, turn-of-the-century village of shops, museums, and art galleries.

2



The Showgrounds at Sam Houston Race Park brings in marquee musical acts most Saturdays from May to August.

3

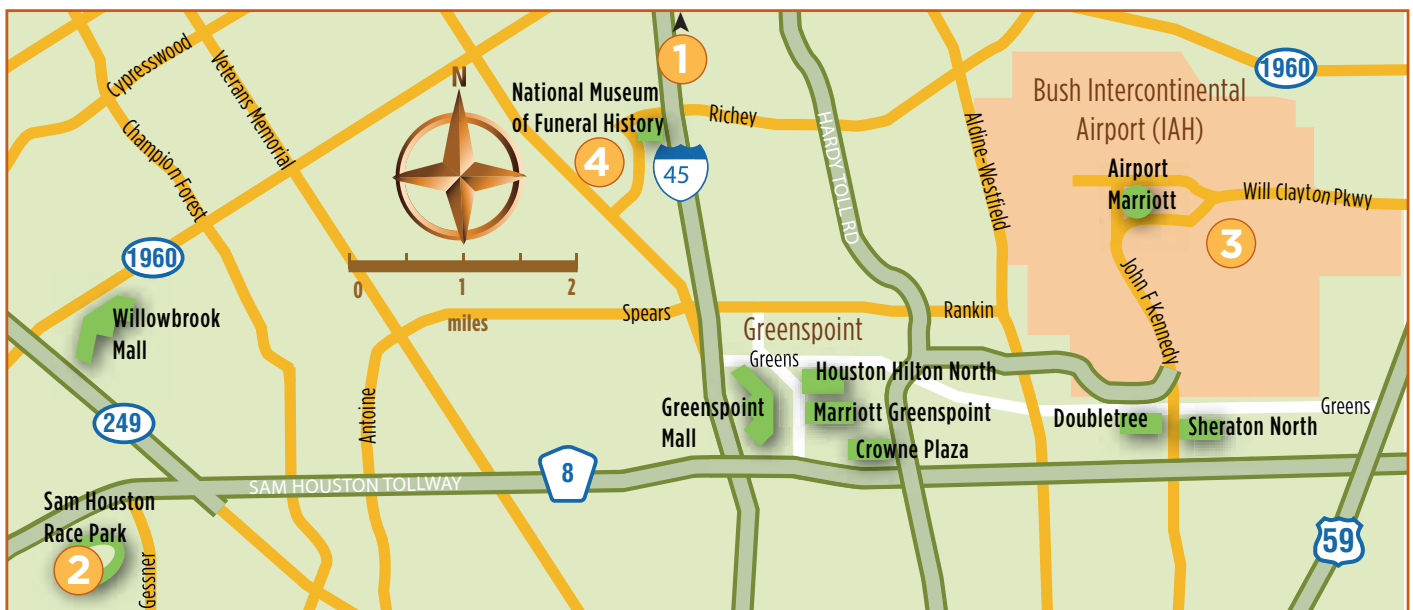


George Bush Intercontinental Airport now ranks third in the nation for domestic and international service to 170 destinations.

4



There's really nothing too macabre about the National Museum of Funeral History on Ella Blvd., whose tongue-in-cheek motto is "any day above ground is a good one."





# THIRD WARD | UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The Third Ward is anchored by University of Houston and Texas Southern University. Historically, the area has been home to a strong black community and was once home to Debbie Allen, Felicia Rashad, and Barbara Jordan. Today, education and the arts drive the Third Ward, along with a shining community spirit.

1



Project Row Houses consists of 22 shotgun-style homes, converted for use as art space and community programs.

2



Frenchy's Chicken has been serving Creole-style fried chicken with a unique, crunchy, non-greasy coating since 1969.

3



The Blaffer Gallery on the University of Houston's main campus is known for inspiring and supporting independent thinking in the visual arts.

4



The Orange Show, founded by Houston postman Jeff McKissack in 1980, celebrates his favorite fruit and works of extraordinary imagination.



JIM OLIVE

Project Row Houses features many art galleries.





# SOUTHWEST (CHINATOWN | HARWIN)

Houston boasts a large and vibrant Asian community, with the second largest Indochinese population in the United States, after Los Angeles. The first Chinatown was established east of downtown, but today the southwest area of the city is a thriving international district where many Chinese shops, restaurants, and cultural centers share blocks with Indian, Pakistani, and Middle Eastern markets.



Houston is home to two Chinatowns.



1 Bargain shopping along Harwin Drive is always a thrill for those in search of fashion and home décor finds.



2 Explore Hong Kong City Mall, a vast Chinese marketplace featuring restaurants, shops, colorful gardens, and lily ponds.



3 For your culinary curiosity, Ocean Palace is a grand, two-story dim sum destination at Hong Kong City Mall.



4 The serene Jade Buddha Temple is a stunning contrast to the bustling city blocks that surround it.



# GETTING AROUND ... *on the ground and in the air*

Once you've arrived, you will find ground transportation options are plentiful.



METRO's bus system offers express service from Bush and Hobby airports to downtown Houston and several business districts within the city. METRORail runs from downtown to south of Reliant Park, along Main and Fannin streets. The wheelchair- and stroller-friendly rail line also serves Midtown, the Museum District, Hermann Park, and Texas Medical Center.

## METRO'S AIRPORT DIRECT

METRO's Airport Direct provides a convenient, reliable service directly from the downtown Airport Direct Passenger Plaza (815 Pierce) to George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) Terminal C. The Airport Direct Passenger Plaza is a short walk from the Downtown Transit Center METRORail station. For only \$15 one way and with departures every 30 minutes, traveling has never been easier! (713) 635-4000, [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org).

## TAXI CABS

AAA Taxi-Clear Lake . . . . . (281) 338-7133  
 Fiesta Cab Company . . . . . (713) 225-2666  
 Liberty Cab Company . . . . . (713) 695-6700  
 Square Deal Cab Co. . . . . (713) 659-7236  
 United Cab Company. . . . . (713) 699-0000  
 Yellow Cab Company. . . . . (713) 236-1111

## METRORAIL/BUSES

Information about Houston's city transit system of buses and downtown METRORail: (713) 635-4000 or visit [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org).

## AMTRAK TRAINS

Call (800) USA-RAIL (800-872-7245) or [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

## APPROXIMATE CAB FARES

### George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport

TO:	6 a.m.-8 p.m.	8 p.m.-6 a.m.
Downtown	\$43.00	\$44.00
Reliant Park Area	\$53.50	\$54.50
Texas Medical Center	\$49.50	\$50.50
Uptown/Galleria Area	\$49.50	\$50.50
Greenway Plaza	\$49.50	\$50.50

### William P. Hobby Airport

TO:	6 a.m.-8 p.m.	8 p.m.-6 a.m.
Downtown	\$21.50	\$22.50
Reliant Park Area	\$26.00	\$27.00
Texas Medical Center	\$26.00	\$27.00
Uptown/Galleria Area	\$44.00	\$45.00
Greenway Plaza	\$31.50	\$32.50

## AIRPORTS

[www.fly2houston.com](http://www.fly2houston.com)

Bush Intercontinental Airport . . . . . (281) 230-3100  
 Hobby Airport . . . . . (713) 640-3000  
 Ellington Field . . . . . (281) 847-4200

## AIRPORT SHUTTLES

### To Houston

These scheduled ground-transportation companies have staffed booths in most airport terminals:

Airport Shuttle America . . . . . (281) 988-8578  
 Houston Professional Airport Shuttle . . . . . (713) 988-5126  
 METRO Airport Direct . . . . . (713) 635-4000  
 Super Shuttle . . . . . (800) 258-3826  
 Texans Shuttle . . . . . (713) 781-6660

### To Bay Area Houston

Clear Lake Shuttle Bus . . . . . (281) 334-3873

### To Galveston

Galveston Limousine Service . . . . . (800) 640-4826



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Houston shines like the summer sun with activities for everyone's taste — sporting events, concerts, art exhibitions, and family fun.



The 1,600-seat Miller Outdoor Theatre — located on more than seven acres in Hermann Park (site of Houston Zoo, Garden Center, and Museum of Natural Science) — offers quality, professional entertainment free to the public.

For a complete schedule of sporting events in Houston, see page 33.

## JUNE

**4** The free Concerts on the Green series features Austin's Latin rock band **Del Castillo** at Discovery Green Park downtown.

**5, 6, 7** The Houston Ballet presents *Of an Era*, three exquisite works of neoclassical ballet. For tickets, phone (713) 227-2787.

**6** Get up close and personal with **Dinosaurs Alive**. Galveston's Moody Gardens brings history to life with 22 robotic dinosaurs, including a life-size T-Rex. (800) 582-4673; [www.moodygardens.com](http://www.moodygardens.com)

**6, 13, 20** **Winnie the Pooh** stories are performed at Main Street Theatre. (713) 524-3622.

**7** Arena rock bands **REO Speedwagon** and **Styx** help you relive the '70s and '80s at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**7** The Houston Association of Acoustic Musicians performs a free concert as part of the Sundays in the Park series at Discovery Green.

**7 through Sept. 27** The Museum of Fine Arts presents *North Looks South: Building a Latin American Art Collection*, Caroline Weiss Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet. (713) 639-7300.

**11** Remember the rain, the park and other things? Concerts on the Green presents **Susan Cowsill** at Discovery Green. Free.

**11-20** The Houston Ballet presents *Swan Lake* at Wortham Theater Center downtown. (713) 227-2787. [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org).

**12** The Houston Symphony presents a **20th Season Celebration** at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**13** New Age keyboard star **Yanni** performs at Toyota Center. (866) 4HOUTIX. [www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com).

**13** “Best of Buffalo Bayou” Pontoon Boat Tour of the city's historic waterway. (713) 752-0314.

**14** **Rascal Flatts** sing country hits at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**14** The Trade Jazz Band performs for Sundays in the Park at Discovery Green.

**16-28** Theatre Under the Stars presents *Cabaret* at Hobby Center for the Performing Arts downtown. (713) 558-2600. [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com).

**18** **Paula Nelson**, daughter of country great Willie Nelson, and the Texas “gypsy desert rock” trio **Thunderado** perform for Concerts on the Green at Discovery Green Park downtown. Free.

**20** Funnyman **Dane Cook** takes the stage at the Toyota Center. (866) 4HOUTIX. [www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com)

**20** The Houston Symphony presents *Pictures at an Exhibition*, the first of the free Target Summer Symphony Nights at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**21** *Brahm's Piano Concerto No. 1* is presented under a starry summer sky by The Houston Symphony at Miller



Outdoor Theatre as part of a free concert series, Target Summer Symphony Nights. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**21** **The Gypsies** perform for Sundays in the Park, free at Discovery Green.

**23** Combining operatic tones and pop music, **il Divo**, the international group created by *American Idol*'s Simon Cowell performs at the Toyota Center. (866) 4HOUTIX.

[www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com).

**24** Former Blind Faith bandmates **Eric Clapton** and **Steve Winwood** reunite to revive classic rock at the Toyota Center. (866) 4HOUTIX. [www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com).

**25** Texas-based Southern rock band **Moses Guest** performs on the lawn at Discovery Green Park Downtown. Free.

**26** The **Texas Music Festival Orchestra** presents classic rock at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands.

(281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**27** *Dvorak's Seventh* is performed by the Houston Symphony at Miller Outdoor Theatre, part of the free Target Summer Symphony Nights series. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**27** **Pride Houston** celebrates the city's GLBT community with a festival from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Montrose area, followed by the Pride Parade from 8:45 to 11 p.m.

**28** *Respighi's Pines of Rome* resounds through the pines of Hermann Park as the

Houston Symphony plays at Miller Outdoor Theatre, a free concert in the Target Summer Symphony Nights series.

[www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**29** Sundays in the Park at Discovery Green presents a free concert by **Texas Johnny Brown**.

**30** Dance to **Lynyrd Skynyrd's** original "Sweet Home Alabama" and then Kid Rock's Southern rock homage "All Summer Long" at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands (281) 363-3300.

[www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

## JULY

**3** The Houston Symphony presents "**A Star-Spangled Salute**" at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**4** **Celebrate July 4th** with performers, activities and demonstrations from 1 to 5 p.m. at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens.

**4** The Houston Symphony presents "**A Star-Spangled Salute**," part of the free Target Summer Symphony Nights series at Miller Outdoor Theatre. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**6** Experience the sounds of the **Houston Symphony** for only \$1 at Jones Hall in downtown Houston, courtesy of the *Houston Chronicle*. (713) 224-7575. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).



## EDITOR'S PICK

### July 4

Independence rings proud, loud, and true in Houston, which celebrates the Fourth of July in star-spangled fashion, with a variety of spectacular events. Find big-name musical acts and a fantastic light show at the **Freedom Over Texas** celebration — the city's official Independence Day event — in Eleanor Tinsley Park on the banks of Buffalo Bayou. Other communities in the area also will celebrate with their own fireworks extravaganzas.

## CONTINUING EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

### Through June and July

Take your children ages 3 to 10 to the free, fun, and interactive **Rienzi Storytime Tours** each **Wednesday** from 10 to 11 a.m., Museum of Fine Arts Houston. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

### Through June 7

Broadway Across America presents *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall downtown. (713) 629-3700; [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com).

### Through July 5

The unexpected and serious side of children's book author Theodore Seuss Geisel, is presented in an exhibit called *Dr. Seuss, Wants You!* at Holocaust Museum of Houston, 5401 Caroline. (713) 942-8000; [www.hmh.org](http://www.hmh.org)

### Through July 26

**Pioneers of Contemporary Glass: Highlights from the Barbara and Dennis DuBois Collection**, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

### Through Aug. 2

**Contemporary Conversations: John Chamberlin, American Tableau** is the third exhibition in a series presented by The Menil Collection to celebrate the works of living artists. [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org).

### Through Aug. 2

**Perspectives 166: Torsten Slama**, an exhibition of works of the Berlin-based artist noted for psychologically charged images of fantastical realism, continues at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).

### Through Sept. 7

**Genghis Khan** rose from humble beginnings to become the most powerful man of his time. Take a closer look at his history through this collection of more than 200 artifacts and 13th century

treasures at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org). *The Nature of Diamonds* examines the rich history of a girl's best friend at the Museum of Natural Science. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

### Through Oct. 4

**No Zoning: Artists Engage Houston** at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston considers the works of regional artists working in the urban environment. [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).

### Through Oct. 11

**Drawings On Site: Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen** at The Menil Collection includes more than a dozen drawings from the artists' private collection. [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org).

### Through Oct. 18

**Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor** at the Museum of Natural Science was ranked among the top 10 museum exhibitions of 2008 by *Time* magazine. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).



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Expires September 20, 2009.

200000093

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**8 through Aug. 2** Broadway Across America presents *Phantom of the Opera* at Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall. (713) 629-3700. [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com).

**9 through 14** Tap your toes along with Theatre Under the Stars presentation of *42nd Street* at Miller Outdoor Theatre. (281) FREE FUN.

**10** Reminisce with **Chicago and Earth, Wind and Fire** at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**10** Want to introduce your techno whiz kids to the symphony? Take them to *Video Games Live*, a special presentation of video-game music performed by the Houston Symphony. (713) 224-7575. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**10-28** The Alley Theatre presents Aaron Sorkin's play about the creation of television, *The Farnsworth Invention*. (713) 220-5700. [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

**11 "Best of Buffalo Bayou"** Pontoon Boat Tour of the city's historic waterway. (713) 752-0314.

**11-12** Who says the symphony and classic rock can't harmonize? Get "comfortably numb" at the Houston Symphony's presentation of *The Music of Pink Floyd* featuring **LaserSpectacular**. (713) 224-7575. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**11, 13-16, 18 Winnie the Pooh** stories performed at Main Street Theatre. (713) 524-3622.

**15-26** Come join the spectacle and family that defines **Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus** at Reliant Park. Tickets available through Ticketmaster or the Reliant Park box office. (713) 629-3700.

**16 "Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust."** Opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holocaust Museum Houston. (713) 942-8000, ext. 100.

**17** Monty Python's own **Eric Idle** joins the Houston Symphony in the presentation of *Not the Messiah (He's a Very Naughty Boy)*, a zany oratorio. (713) 224-7575. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**18 New Kids on the Block** are back! See them at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**19** The grandchildren of the legendary **von Trapp Family** sing the Rogers and Hammerstein classics from one of the world's best-loved musicals, presented by the Houston Symphony in Jones Hall. (713) 224-7575.

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**22** British alternative-rock sensation **Coldplay** performs at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**24** Tonight's the night! **Rod Stewart**, the raspy-voiced rocker turned pop standards crooner, appears at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**25** Piano rock quartet **The Fray** performs at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**31** **Houston Shakespeare Festival** presents *Twelfth Night* at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. (713) FREE FUN.

## AUGUST

**1, 5, 7, 9** Houston Shakespeare Festival presents *Pericles* at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. (713) FREE FUN.

**2** *Getting High in Houston* is not quite what you think, but rather The Orange Show's Eye-opener tour that gives you a bird's eye view of Houston's world-class skyline and explains how it rose from flat coastal plains. (713) 926-6368.

**2** "Best of Buffalo Bayou" Pontoon Boat Tour of the city's historic waterway. (713) 752-0314.

**2, 4, 6, 8** Houston Shakespeare Festival presents *Twelfth Night* at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. (713) FREE FUN.

**7** **Motley Crue Fest** breaks the sound barrier at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

(281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).  
**14** Teen favorites **The Jonas Brothers** perform at Toyota Center. (866) 4HOUTIX. [www.houstontoyotacenter.com](http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com)

**18-23** The Tony Award-winning play based on Alice Walker's acclaimed novel, **The Color Purple**, returns to Houston for one week only at the Hobby Center for Performing Arts. For more information, go to the Theatre Under the Stars web site at [www.TUTS.com](http://www.TUTS.com) or call (713) 558-2600.

**19** **Def Leppard**, who helped usher in the new wave of British heavy metal music in the '80s, revive that sound at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org).

**27** "A Blessing to One Another: **Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People**." Opening receptions from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holocaust Museum Houston (713) 942-800. ext. 100.

**30** The alternative electronic sounds of **Depeche Mode** entertain at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. (281) 363-3300. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org). ■

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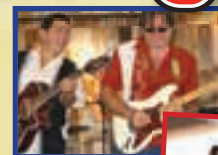
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# VISITORS CENTER

## City Preview



Swirls of red and orange flooring and art deco marquee-style columns catch the eye when you enter the **Houston Visitors Center**. Designed to complement its home — the 1939 City Hall — the center is the largest of its kind in the United States. Its popular features include a 50-seat theater, lifestyle kiosks, a nine-screen video wall, and museum-quality exhibits on history, events, and attractions. The center also offers more than 10,000 brochures, magazines, flyers, and other information. Visitor information specialists can help with directions and activity planning. Houston Visitors Center, located at 901 Bagby (entrance faces Walker), is open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (713) 437-5556, (800) 4-HOUSTON or go to [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com) for information.

**CP** Denotes **CityPass** attractions in this guide. The CityPass ticket booklet gives discount admission to the top attractions in Houston. Get more information or purchase CityPass at the Visitors Center or online at [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com).

## ESSENTIALS

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES °F

MONTH	HIGH/LOW
January	61/40
February	65/43
March	71/50
April	78/58
May	85/64
June	90/71
July	93/72
August	93/72
September	88/68
October	82/58
November	72/50
December	65/42

SOURCE: WEATHER RESEARCH CENTER

### GEOGRAPHY

Houston City Limits	579.5 sq. mi.
Houston Metro Area	8,778 sq. mi.
Elevation	0-90 feet

### SHIPPING COMPANIES

**FedEx** 800-GO-FEDEX (463-3339)  
**UPS** 800-PICK-UPS (742-5877)

### CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The following locations offer currency exchange:

**Bush Intercontinental Airport**  
 (281) 233-3588

**Hobby Airport** (713) 649-6664

**Chase Bank** 712 Main St.,  
 (888) 242-7384

### American Express Offices

- Galleria II, Level 3, (713) 626-5740
- Town and Country Mall, (713) 465-3494
- Willowbrook Mall, (281) 890-7161

**Travel Exchange** 10777 Westheimer Rd.,  
 Ste. 105, (713) 782-8092

### TOURIST INFORMATION

- ★ **BAY AREA HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**, 20710 Gulf Fwy., Ste. 40, Webster, TX 77598; (281) 338-0333, (800) 844-LAKE. Visit Center open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Group assistance, brochures, magazines, flyers and other information. Visitor information specialists can help with directions and activity planning. [www.visitbayareahouston.com](http://www.visitbayareahouston.com).
- ★ **CITY OF WEBSTER**, 311 Pennsylvania, Webster, TX 77598; (281) 316-4121; (877) WBSTR-TX. Conveniently located between Houston and Galveston on I-45. Call or visit [www.cityofwebster.com](http://www.cityofwebster.com) for a free information package with more than \$300 in area savings!
- ★ **DESTINATION LEAGUE CITY, South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center**, 2500 South Shore Blvd., League City, TX; (800) 442-5005. League City, in Houston's Bay Area, is home to the luxurious South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center on Clear Lake. Enjoy dinner cruises, water activities, golf and events and festivals all year long. [www.sshr.com](http://www.sshr.com).
- ★ **FORT BEND CONVENTION/VISITORS SERVICES**, 445 Commerce Green Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77478, (281) 491-0800. "All the Texas You're Looking For" in Fort Bend County. Shopping, golf, special events and attractions, including Brazos Bend State Park and the Imperial Sugar Mill. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. See the Fort Bend section. (IP)
- Galleria Chamber of Commerce**, 2700 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 2425, Houston, TX 77056; (713) 629-5555.
- ★ **GALVESTON ISLAND CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**, 2504 Church St., Ste. 200, Galveston, TX 77550; (409) 763-6564; (888) GAL-ISLE. Galveston Island... Escape and Explore! The perfect year-round resort destination — 32 miles of beaches, museums, Victorian homes, historic shopping district, arts, outdoor recreation, and more than 60 attractions including Moody Gardens and the Tall Ship Elissa. Homeport for Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean. [www.galvestoncvb.com](http://www.galvestoncvb.com).
- Greenspoint Visitors Information**, (Ask Me Booth) 12300 North Fwy., Ste. 208, Houston, TX 77060; (281) 875-4201.

- ★ **HOUSTON DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**, (713) 650-3022, [www.houstondowntown.com](http://www.houstondowntown.com).
- ★ **HOUSTON PREMIUM OUTLETS**, 29300 Hempstead Road, Cypress, TX 77433; (281) 304-5820. Visitors center located inside the food court. [www.premiumoutlets.com/houston](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/houston).
- Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau & Sam Houston Statue**, 7600 Hwy. 75 S., I-45 Exit #109, Huntsville, TX; (936) 295-8113; (800) 289-0389. Texas and Huntsville Visitor information is available seven days a week at the Sam Houston Statue & Visitor Center.
- ★ **KATY MILLS/WEST HOUSTON VISITORS CENTER**, Katy, TX; (877) KATY SHOP. Inside Katy Mills Mall near the AMC Movie theater south court find information about Greater Houston, Katy and West Houston.
- Kemah Visitor Center**, 603 Bradford, Kemah, TX 77565; (281) 334-3181. Located in the Kemah Lighthouse District near the Kemah Boardwalk. Visitor information available seven days a week. [www.kemah.net](http://www.kemah.net).
- ★ **LAKE CONROE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**, 505 W. Davis St., Conroe, TX 77301; (936) 756-6644, (877) 4-CONROE.
- ★ **NASSAU BAY**, I-45 S. Exit #25, Nassau Bay, TX 77058; (281) 333-4211, (877) 622-7728.
- ★ **SPRING TEXAS VISITORS BUREAU/CENTER**, 606 Spring Cypress Rd., Spring, TX 77383; (281) 288-2355.
- ★ **UPPER KIRBY-INTOWN VISITOR CENTER**, 3273B Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027; (281) 833-3333. From one-of-a-kind retail and dining experiences to first-class culture and entertainment, this is the one-stop visitor's center destination for planning an unforgettable adventure into one of Houston's most vibrant inner-city areas. [www.houston-intown.com](http://www.houston-intown.com).

### CONSULATES

For information on consulates in Houston, contact the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau at (713) 437-5200 or (800) 365-7575 or the Houston International Protocol Alliance at (713) 227-3395. ■  
 ★ Please look for advertisements in this magazine.

# ART + CULTURE

The treasure trove of cultural experiences includes performing arts groups, museums, and other enriching destinations.



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

**Left: Indoors and outdoors, Houston's performing arts venues offer an abundance of memorable cultural experiences. Above: A diverse collection of art enjoys world-class exhibition space at The Menil Collection, established by John and Dominique De Menil.**

## PERFORMING ARTS

For music, dance, and performances dates, see Calendar of Events, page 24. For coordinates, see map on page 8.

### Alley Theatre

One of the country's oldest resident professional theater companies, the Alley stages a diverse spectrum of plays by contemporary dramatists.

**Venue:** 615 Texas Ave. See map 9J.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 220-6700, [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

### Broadway Across America in Houston

Touring blockbuster musicals direct from Broadway or London's West End.

**Venue:** Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. See map 9J.

**Tickets:** Ticketmaster (713) 629-3700, [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com).

### Da Camera of Houston

Da Camera of Houston presents

innovative and diverse of chamber music and jazz often blended with visual arts, literature, and social and political issues.

**Venue:** Varies by featured performance.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 524-7601, [www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com).

### Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre

The innovative contemporary ballet company presents works by outstanding choreographers from around the world.

**Venue:** Hobby Center for the Performing Arts and others.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 652-3938.

### Houston Ballet

A top-tier troupe with an international reputation.

**Venue:** Wortham Center, 501 Texas Ave. See map 9J.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 227-2787, [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org).

### Houston Grand Opera

Founded in 1955, the Houston Grand Opera has a long list of accolades, including Grammy, Tony, and Emmy awards and numerous world premieres and television appearances.

**Venue:** Wortham Center, 501 Texas Ave. See map 9J.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 228-6737, [www.houstongrandopera.org](http://www.houstongrandopera.org).

### Houston Symphony

One of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas, the Houston Symphony has earned international acclaim for its performances and programming.

**Venue:** Jones Hall, 615 Texas Ave. See map 9J.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 224-7575, [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

### Main Street Theater

Main Street Theater offers a variety of adult and youth performances on separate stages in two locations.

**Venue:** 2540 Times Blvd.

(main stage), 4617 Montrose Blvd. (youth performances).

**Tickets:** (713) 524-6706.

### Society for the Performing Arts

Known for its willingness to go out on an artistic limb, SPA offers a diverse palette of programming.

**Venue:** Varies by featured performance.

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 227-4SPA, [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org).

### Stages Repertory Theatre

For more than 30 years, Stages has nurtured new talent and works in the performing arts.

**Venue:** 3201 Allen Parkway

**Tickets/Information:** (713) 527-8243 or (713) 52-STAGES.

### Theatre Under The Stars (TUTS)

As one of the largest nonprofit producers of musical theater in the United States, TUTS premieres new musicals and presents classic revivals.

**Venue:** Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. See map 9J.

**Information:** (713) 558-2600.

**Tickets:** (713) 558-TUTS, [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com).



## THE MUSEUM DISTRICT

**CP** Indicates CityPass attraction. See Visitors Center, page 28 or visit [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com). See Calendar of Events for exhibits. Visit [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org). Coordinates refer the map on page 8.

### Buffalo Soldiers National Museum

The museum pays tribute to the long history of the African-American military experience. Soldiers were nicknamed “Buffalo Soldiers” after the Civil War for their fierce fighting ability and bravery.

**Details:** 1834 Southmore; open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; (713) 942-8920; [www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com](http://www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com). See map 8L.

### Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum

This museum displays the only intact Byzantine frescoes of this size and importance in the Western Hemisphere.

**Details:** 4011 Yupon; open Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; free admission; (713) 525-9400; [www.menil.org/byzantine](http://www.menil.org/byzantine). See map 8L.

### **CP** Children’s Museum of Houston

Ranked as one of the country’s top children’s museums, the newly renovated Children’s Museum of Houston features hands-on, minds-turned-on exhibitions.

**Details:** 1500 Binz; open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m.; open on Mondays during federal holidays; admission is \$7; Free Family Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.; (713) 522-1138; [www.cmhouston.org](http://www.cmhouston.org). See map 8L.

### Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Founded in 1948, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) features a changing schedule of international contemporary art in a variety of media.

**Details:** 5216 Montrose Blvd.; open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; free admission; (713) 284-8250; [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org). See map 8L.

### Czech Center Museum Houston

This museum preserves, records, and celebrates the language, scholarship and arts of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia.

**Details:** 4920 San Jacinto; open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free admission; \$6 for docent tours; (713) 528-2060; [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org), [www.receptionsHouston.com](http://www.receptionsHouston.com). See map 9K.

### **CP** The Health Museum

Part of the world-renowned Texas Medical Center, The Health Museum takes you on the ultimate journey — inside yourself. Explore giant sculptures of human organs, a brain, ribs, and even teeth.

**Details:** 1515 Hermann Drive; open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Free Family Thursdays 2 to 5 p.m.; admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children (3-17) and seniors (65 and older); (713) 521-1515; [www.thehealthmuseum.org](http://www.thehealthmuseum.org). See map 8L.

### Holocaust Museum Houston

One of the leading institutions of its kind, Holocaust Museum Houston is a memorial and education center raising awareness of the dangers of hatred and prejudice.

**Details:** 5401 Caroline St.; open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; free admission; (713) 942-8000; [www.hmh.org](http://www.hmh.org). See map 8L.

### Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

One of the top organizations in the country dedicated to craft, HCCC highlights art made of glass, fiber, clay, metal, and wood.

**Details:** 4848 Main St.; open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; free admission; (713) 529-4848; [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org). See map 8K.

### Houston Center for Photography

HCP strives to increase the understanding and appreciation of photography and its evolving role in our culture.

**Details:** 1441 W. Alabama; open Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon to 6 p.m.; free admission; (713) 529-4755; [www.hcponline.org](http://www.hcponline.org). See map 8K.



Active kids have their own creative place at the newly renovated Children’s Museum of Houston.

### **CP** Houston Museum of Natural Science

This multilevel destination highlights the Earth’s wonders through world-class touring exhibitions. Nine permanent exhibition halls cover everything from dinosaurs to energy and African wildlife to anthropology.

**Details:** One Hermann Circle Dr.; open daily; (713) 639-4629; [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org). See map 8L.

### The Jung Center of Houston

This nonprofit educational center provides a forum for psychological, artistic, and spiritual discourse based on the work of Carl Jung. The center also displays art by local and regional artists.

**Details:** 5200 Montrose; open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.; free admission; (713) 524-8253; [www.junghouston.org](http://www.junghouston.org). See map 8L.

### Lawndale Art Center

An alternative art space dedicated to presenting contemporary art, the center promotes the creative exchange of ideas between diverse artistic, cultural, and student communities.

**Details:** 4912 Main St.; open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m.; free admission; (713) 528-5858; [www.lawndaleartcenter.org](http://www.lawndaleartcenter.org). See map 8K.

### The Menil Collection

This modern landmark, architect Renzo Piano’s first U.S. building, holds more than 17,000 works of art of modern and contemporary art by post-war masters

such as Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg.

**Details:** 1515 Sul Ross; open

Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; free admission; (713) 525-9400; www.menil.org. See map 8K.

## **OC** Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, recognized as one of the premier art museums in the country, exhibits works in two gallery buildings, a sculpture garden, and two house museums.

**Details:** Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St.; Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet; open Tuesday through Sunday; free admission Thursdays until 9 p.m., and the first Sunday of each month; (713) 639-7300; information in Spanish (713) 639-7379; TDD/TYY for the hearing impaired (713) 639-7390; www.mfah.org. See map 8L.

## Rice University Art Gallery

Rice University Art Gallery, the nation's only university museum dedicated to installation art, invites outstanding contemporary artists to create site-specific installations.

**Details:** Ground floor, Sewall Hall, Entrance 1 at 6100 Main St.; open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; free admission; (713) 348-6069; www.ricegallery.org. See map 8L.

## The Rothko Chapel

An intimate sanctuary open to people of every belief, this meditative environment. The chapel houses 14 paintings by Mark Rothko.

**Details:** 1409 Sul Ross at Yupon; open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; free admission; (713) 524-9839; www.rothkochapel.org. See map 8K.

## The Weather Museum

Natural disasters demonstrate how weather affects us. Here, you can explore weather's history and public safety.

**Details:** 5104 Caroline; open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, free on Thursdays noon to 4 p.m.; (713) 529-3076; www.weathermuseum.org. See map 8L.

# MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

2009 Season **Summer Highlights**

IN HERMANN PARK  
Houston, TX



### ACCORDION KINGS AND QUEENS

June 7, 6:30 pm  
Produced by Texas Folklife Resources

### HOUSTON SYMPHONY

**Summer Symphony Nights**  
June 18, 20, 26, 27 & July 4 8:30 pm  
Produced by Houston Symphony  
July 4th fireworks by Miller Theatre Advisory Board

### 42nd STREET

July 9-14, 8:15pm  
Produced by Theatre Under The Stars

### STAYIN' ALIVE:

#### One Nite of the Bee Gees

July 17, 8:30 pm  
Produced by Miller Theatre Advisory Board



### 50's DANCE PARTY

**Tribute to Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper**  
July 18, 8:30 pm  
Produced by Miller Theatre Advisory Board

### HOUSTON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

**TWELFTH NIGHT**  
July 31, August 2, 4, 6, 8 8:30 pm  
**PERICLES**  
August 1, 5, 7, 9 8:30 pm  
Produced by Houston Shakespeare Festival

details 281-FREE FUN  
www.milleroutdoortheatre.com  
Ride METROrail to Miller  
www.ridemetro.org

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it's fun  
it's for everyone



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- All cabs are operated by independent contractor drivers

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All cabs are operated by independent contractor drivers



## MULTICULTURAL ARTS

The city's multicultural arts scene features performances, art exhibits, and literary events. Coordinates (9J, etc.) refer to the map on page 8.

### American Cowboy Museum on Taylor Stevenson Ranch

The American Cowboy Museum preserves the Western heritage of blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, and women. This authentic, real-life, working ranch gives visitors an exciting and unique view of history.

**Details:** 11822 Almeda; (713) 478-9677; [www.americancowboymuseum.org](http://www.americancowboymuseum.org). See map 8N.

### Asian Heritage Tours

Sample a dim sum lunch or experience a Chinese tea ceremony on one of the many Asian cultural tours sponsored by the Houston's Chinese Community Center. Tour highlights also include the Hong Kong City Mall and the Buddhist Temple.

**Details:** 9800 Town Park; tours available Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; (713) 271-6100; [www.ccchouston.org](http://www.ccchouston.org). See map 4L.

### The Community Artists' Collective

The nonprofit organization promotes excellence in art education, entrepreneurship, and cultural awareness. The gallery exhibits works by local artists.

**Details:** 1413 Holman; open Wednesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment; (713) 523-1616; [www.thecollective.org](http://www.thecollective.org). See map 9K.

### The Ensemble Theatre

The Ensemble Theatre is one of the nation's most respected professional theaters devoted to the African-American experience. Founded in 1976, the Ensemble produces innovative and impressive theatrical works on its own stage.

**Details:** 3535 Main St.; (713) 520-0055; [www.ensemblehouston.com](http://www.ensemblehouston.com). See map 9K.

### Express Children's Theatre

Express Children's Theatre presents high-quality multicultural performing art programs dedicated specifically to children and families.

**Details:** 446 Northwest Mall; (713) 682-5044; [www.expresstheatre.com](http://www.expresstheatre.com). See map 6H.



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Diversity bursts in every corner of the city, including at Kuumba House Dance Theatre, which produces African-centered contemporary dance and performance.

### Kuumba House Dance Theatre

Kuumba House Dance Theatre has taught, produced and presented exciting African-centered dance and contemporary art forms for more than two decades.

**Details:** 3001 Cleburne; (713) 524-1079; [www.kuumbahouse.org](http://www.kuumbahouse.org). See map 9L.

### MECA

Multicultural Education and Counseling Through the Arts is an arts education center established more than 30 years ago to inspire inner-city youth. In addition to its arts programs, MECA hosts performances throughout the year including classical, multicultural, jazz, experimental, and popular forms of music, dance and theater.

**Details:** 1900 Kane St.; (713) 802-9370; [www.meca-houston.org](http://www.meca-houston.org). See map 9J.

### Project Row Houses

One of the most highly acclaimed art and cultural community centers in the country, Project Row Houses consists of 22 renovated shotgun-style houses. Eight of the houses serve as galleries.

**Details:** 2521 Holman; open Wednesday to Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; (713) 526-7662; [www.projectrowhouses.org](http://www.projectrowhouses.org). See map 9K.

### Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

This traditional Hindu Mandir was constructed of stone and marble and is the first structure of its kind in the United States. The intricately carved temple, made entirely by hand, glows with fiber optic lighting during the evening.

**Details:** 1150 Brand Lane, Stafford; open Monday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.; modest dress is required for entry; (281) 765-2277. See map 3O.

### Talento Bilingüe de Houston

One of the largest Latino cultural centers in the United States, Talento Bilingüe is home to bilingual concerts, plays, films and more in its 16,000-square-foot space near downtown.

**Details:** 333 S. Jensen; (713) 222-1213; [www.tbhcenter.org](http://www.tbhcenter.org). See map 10J.

### Tien Hou Temple

This lovely setting features elaborately carved dragon columns, altars, and symbols of Buddhist, Taoist, and other Eastern ideologies.

**Details:** 1507 Delano; (713) 236-1015. See map 10K. ■

# SPORTS

Pro teams serve up the hottest tickets in Houston.

Marking their 10th year at Minute Maid Park, the Houston Astros are looking to produce memories this season, while the Houston Dynamo — back-to-back winners of the MLS Cup — play a schedule of domestic and international matches at Robertson Stadium on the campus of University of Houston. Scoring leader and U.S. national team forward Brian Ching returns to bring the cup home to Houston. Catch all the action at a Houston home game this summer season (see schedules below).



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Astros' Price Matters Days offer a View Deck II ticket, hot dog, soda, and chips all for only \$10.

## GAME PLAN

### HOUSTON ASTROS

Tickets: (877) 927-8767

[www.astros.com](http://www.astros.com)

Minute Maid Park

#### JUNE 2009

1	Monday	Colorado Rockies	7:05 p.m.
2	Tuesday	Colorado Rockies	7:05 p.m.
3	Wednesday	Colorado Rockies	7:05 p.m.
4	Thursday	Colorado Rockies	7:05 p.m.
5	Friday	Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.
6	Saturday	Pittsburgh Pirates	6:05 p.m.
7	Sunday	Pittsburgh Pirates	1:05 p.m.
9	Tuesday	Chicago Cubs	7:05 p.m.
23	Tuesday	Kansas City Royals	7:05 p.m.
24	Wednesday	Kansas City Royals	7:05 p.m.
25	Thursday	Kansas City Royals	1:05 p.m.
26	Friday	Detroit Tigers	7:05 p.m.
27	Saturday	Detroit Tigers	6:05 p.m.
28	Sunday	Detroit Tigers	6:05 p.m.

#### JULY 2009

6	Monday	Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.
7	Tuesday	Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.

8	Wednesday	Pittsburgh Pirates	1:05 p.m.
9	Thursday	D.C. Nationals	7:05 p.m.
10	Friday	D.C. Nationals	7:05 p.m.
11	Saturday	D.C. Nationals	6:05 p.m.
12	Sunday	D.C. Nationals	1:05 p.m.
20	Monday	St. Louis Cardinals	7:05 p.m.
21	Tuesday	St. Louis Cardinals	7:05 p.m.
22	Wednesday	St. Louis Cardinals	7:05 p.m.
24	Friday	New York Mets	7:05 p.m.
25	Saturday	New York Mets	6:05 p.m.
26	Sunday	New York Mets	1:05 p.m.

#### AUGUST 2009

3	Monday	San Francisco Giants	7:05 p.m.
4	Tuesday	San Francisco Giants	7:05 p.m.
5	Wednesday	San Francisco Giants	1:05 p.m.
7	Friday	Milwaukee Brewers	7:05 p.m.
8	Saturday	Milwaukee Brewers	6:05 p.m.
9	Sunday	Milwaukee Brewers	1:05 p.m.
18	Tuesday	Florida Marlins	7:05 p.m.
19	Wednesday	Florida Marlins	7:05 p.m.
20	Thursday	Florida Marlins	7:05 p.m.
21	Friday	Arizona Diamondbacks	7:05 p.m.
22	Saturday	Arizona Diamondbacks	6:05 p.m.
23	Sunday	Arizona Diamondbacks	1:05 p.m.

Attacking midfielder Brian Mullen (above) adds fire power to the Dynamo offense.

### HOUSTON DYNAMO

Tickets and information: (713) 276-7500

[www.houstondynamo.com](http://www.houstondynamo.com)

Robertson Stadium, University of Houston

#### JUNE 2009

10	Wednesday	Chivas USA	7:30 p.m.
13	Saturday	Real Salt Lake	7:30 p.m.

#### JULY 2009

18	Saturday	Toronto FC	Noon
25	Saturday	New England Revolution	7:30 p.m.

#### AUGUST 2009

1	Saturday	D.C. United	7:30 p.m.
9	Sunday	Chicago Fire	7:30 p.m.
23	Sunday	Seattle Sounders FC	7:30 p.m.



# SHOPPING

Anything's a shopper's heart desires can be found in Houston's exceptional retail destinations.



## Great Malls mean great shopping

Houston's popular three-level shopping destination, **The Galleria**, presents more than 375 stores anchored by Neiman Marcus, Saks, Nordstrom, two Macy's stores, and two Westin hotels. A new wing features a mix of luxurious restaurants and shops, including the two-level Borders Books and Music, J. Crew, Chico's and its specialty store, SOMA, and the luxe stationery shop Papyrus. Hungry shoppers seek out the Oceanaire Seafood Room, Del Frisco's Steak House, Gigi's Asian Bistro, and Kona Grill. The Galleria's signature ice-skating rink offers one of the city's "coolest" spots for summer entertainment. Children enjoy the soft play area. (713) 877-9190, [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

**Katy Mills**, an all-day shopping affair and haven for budget-savvy

shoppers, unfolds only 25 miles west of downtown Houston. Discover extraordinary bargains from stores including Neiman Marcus Last Call, Saks Fifth Avenue Off Fifth, Ann Taylor Loft, and Kenneth Cole Outlet Store. For a break get a bite and take in a movie at the AMC 20 Theaters and theme restaurants. (281) 644-5000, [www.katymills.com](http://www.katymills.com).

Only 30 miles west of Houston, off Highway 290, the new **Houston Premium Outlets** boasts 120 designer and brand-name outlet stores for style-conscious bargain hunters. Browse famous-name outlets such as Ann Taylor, BCBG Max Azria, Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, Coach, Cole Haan, Crocs, Elie Tahari, Juicy Couture, Kate Spade, Lucky Brand Jeans, Michael Kors, Nike, True Religion, and Waterford Wedgwood. (281) 304-5820, [www.premiumoutlets.com/houston](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/houston).



Top: Downtown serves up some of the best shopping in the city and is conveniently located to the convention center and hotels.





A trip to Katy Mills Mall makes a worthy drive to the outskirts of town because of its exceptional choices at great bargains.

# Antique Pavilion

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### INSIDER'S EXTRA

Eclectic, sophisticated shopping experiences abound in Houston. The Galleria offers a larger than life, multicultural, fast-paced experience; while Rice Village offers an intimate, neighborhood vibe. You choose. Houston has it ALL!

— Elaine Turner,  
Elaine Turner Designs



The shops on Harwin Drive beckon bargain-conscious shoppers with great prices on leather goods, sunglasses, and perfumes.

### Downtown Delights

A world of choices converge on downtown Houston at **Macy's** on Main Street, in site of the historic Foley's department store—an institution for more than a century. Located at 1110 Main St., (713) 405-7035; [www.macys.com](http://www.macys.com).

**Houston Pavilions** offers a mix of restaurants, entertainment, and shopping on three city blocks bounded by Dallas,

Polk, Main, and Caroline streets. Retailers include *BCBG*, *Books-A-Million*, *Forever 21*, *Journeys* and more.

**The Shops at Houston Center** features more than 70 stores and restaurants with access to climate-controlled tunnel system. Shop for clothing, accessories, gifts, and more at *Jos. A. Bank*, *Dress Barn*, *Worth the Weight*, and *Animal Kingdom*. Choose from fine dining at

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*Strip House* and *Massa's Seafood Grill*, or more causal environments at *Ninfa's Comida Mexicana* and *Otto's Barbecue & Hamburgers*. Located at 1200 McKinney, (713) 759-1442; [www.shopsathc.com](http://www.shopsathc.com).

### Charming Shopping Districts

**Harwin Drive:** Like New York's Canal Street, this area boasts stores selling leather goods, jewelry, perfume, and clothing incredible prices. Don't miss *Charming Charlie*, the chic women's accessories store.

**Historic Houston Heights:** Antiques, vintage clothing, art galleries, and garden shops abound this picturesque neighborhood with Victorian architecture along Heights Boulevard and Yale Street. Find real treasures in 19th Street's shops.

**Rice Village:** Just west of Rice University, the Rice Village area is an old-school shopping district with character and plenty of choices. Big chain stores such as *The Gap*, *Banana Republic*, *Express* and *Urban Outfitters* share the neighborhood with boutiques such as *Raspberry Rose*, *Hemline* and *Chloe Dao's Lot 8*.

**The Woodlands:** Surrounding the picturesque Woodlands Waterway north of the city, the deluxe **Woodlands Mall** has traditional mall shopping. Nearby, Market Street area provides a scenic village shop-and-stroll.

### Boutiques and Big Names

**Uptown Park:** With the flair of an Italian piazza, Uptown Park caters to indulgences. Fine shops, boutiques, cafés, and salons offer endless ways to treat yourself. Fountains, lush landscaping, and architectural details distinguish this destination. Dining options range from *McCormick & Schmick's* and *Arturo's Uptown Italiano* for fine dining to *Champps Americana* and *Café Express* for casual fare. Several salons and spas offer great escapes from the everyday.

**Highland Village:** This shopping center is a must destination for home furnishings. Explore *Crate & Barrel*, *Williams-Sonoma*, *Pottery Barn*, *Z Gallerie*, *West Elm*, and others. You'll also find fashion and beauty icons and hometown favorite *Tootsies*, along with *lucy*, *Donald J Pliner*, *Cole Haan*, *Joseph*, *Kiehl's Since 1851*, *Ann Taylor*, *Jos. A. Banks Clothiers*, and *Lucky Brand Dungarees*. ■

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## IN THE BAG

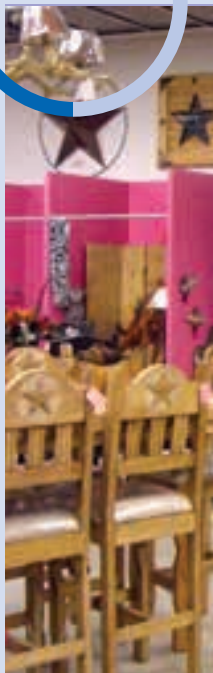


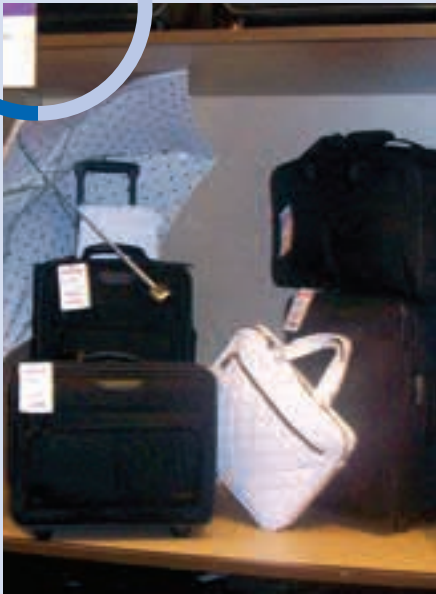
### Be a master chef

Kitchen Collection has all your favorite kitchen tools without the sticker-shock. Find brand names including KitchenAid, Bunn, Cuisinart, Wilton, and Progressive at everyday value prices. Save even more on overstocks, closeouts, and factory-renewed small appliances. Suite 407, Katy Mills Mall. (281) 644-4077.

### Every cowgirl knows

One of Katy Mills Mall's most distinctive retailers, **Gaughty Girlz** offers a world of character and a Western flair for everything from rustic furniture and home décor to women's apparel and accessories — including handmade jewelry. Suite 370, Katy Mills Mall. (281) 644-4759.





### Going places?

The **Samsonite Factory Outlet**, located in Suite 506 of Katy Mills Mall, has more than luggage: shop for everything a traveler needs, including excellent service. Since 1910, the Samsonite name has been known worldwide for its durable, dependable, long-lasting products. (281) 644-6686.



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# ATTRACTIONS

Walk through history, spend a day at the races and discover the wonders of everything from nature to NASA.

**CP** Indicates a CityPass attraction. See Visitor Center, page 28, or visit [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com) to purchase your CityPass. Coordinates (9J, etc.) refer to the map on page 8. Call ahead to confirm events and hours.

## **CP** Houston Zoo

Take a walk on the wild side with The Houston Zoo's 4,500 residents. Visited by more than 1.6 million guests each year, the 55-acre zoo is an experience and an education for guests of all ages, fostering an appreciation for the ecosystems of the natural world. Nearby, the newly renovated Hermann Park Pavilion invites visitors to tour the park on a miniature train or take a leisurely cruise on the duck pond in a pedal-boat.

**Details:** Located at 1513 N. MacGregor in Hermann Park, the zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 8 through Nov. 1 and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 2 through March 7. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 2 to 11 and seniors 65+. (713) 533-6500; [www.houstonzoo.org](http://www.houstonzoo.org). See map 8L.

## Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark

No summer visit to Galveston is complete without a good soaking, and Schlitterbahn is the place to do it. Blastenhoff, Wasserfest, and Surfenburg are the three distinct attraction areas that encompass multiple wave pools, slides, and whitewater thrills. The good news is that some of this park's water fun is under a convenient cover, minimizing exposure to extreme sun or inclement weather, and some are comfortably heated.

**Details:** Located at 2109 Lockheed St. in Galveston. All-day admission for visitors 12 years and up is \$37.99 and \$29.99 for children 3 to 11 or seniors 55 and older, but two-day and partial-day tickets are also available. Open



Houston Zoo provides a fun and inspirational experience that fosters appreciation, knowledge, and care for the natural world.

GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in summer, but call for seasonal hours (409) 770-WAVE. [www.schlitterbahn.com](http://www.schlitterbahn.com). See map 19E.

### Memorial Park

More than 1,500 beautifully wooded acres comprise Memorial Park, which draws 10,000 runners daily to the Seymour-Lieberman Exer-Trail. Golf, tennis, swimming and 30 miles of hiking and biking trails are added attractions. On the edge of the park, you'll find the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, a 155-acre sanctuary for wildlife that also features a Discovery Room with hands-on exhibits and learning activities. The grounds and five miles of walking trails are open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the Discovery Room is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on Mondays.

**Details:** Memorial Park sits at the southeastern intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 610, bi-sected by Memorial Drive. The park is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. 365 days a year.

### Discovery Green

Houston's newest green space is nestled among downtown's skyscrapers. Discovery Green features many amenities, including: a children's playground on a tree-shaded hill, small and large dog runs, lush lawns for pick-up sports, interactive water features, the one-acre Kinder Lake, and a shallow pool for remote-controlled model boats. Fans of live entertainment enjoy the Anheuser-Busch Amphitheater Stage and Fondren Foundation Performance Space with a sloped lawn for seating. Two restaurants, The Grove and the Lake House offer a choice of fine dining venues — and a cool place to enjoy the view.

**Details:** Located in front of the George R. Brown Convention Center within view of Minute Maid Park. For a schedule of events, including outdoor Pilates classes, check out the Web site at [www.discoverygreen.com](http://www.discoverygreen.com).

### George Ranch , George Observatory, and Brazos Bend State Park

Nothing thrills quite like hiking through a state park and finding a live alligator in your path. That's only one of the many wonders of this 5,000-acre wildlife sanctuary 28 miles southwest of the big

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**Brazos Bend State Park**

**ROSENBERG RAILROAD MUSEUM**

**GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK**  
*George Ranch Historical Park*

**FORT BEND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**GEORGE OBSERVATORY**

[www.visitfortbend.com](http://www.visitfortbend.com)





Space Center Houston

city in Fort Bend County. If you prefer a safer distance between yourself and the

wonders of nature, check out the view of the night sky at George Observatory. Nearby, George Ranch offers a historical perspective of life on the Texas prairie during the early days of Texas' statehood.

**Details:** Brazos Bend State Park and the George Observatory and Challenger Center are located at 21901 FM 762 in Needville. For park information, call (979) 553-5101 or (979) 553-5122, or check out the web site at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/brazos/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/brazos/). For the observatory, call (281) 242-3055. The George Ranch Historical Park is at 10215 FM 762 in Richmond, (281) 343-0218; [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org). See map 1P.

## **CE** Space Center Houston

While much of NASA's Johnson Space Center may be off-limits to civilians, guests can still get an in-depth look at the nation's space program — its history and its future — at Space Center Houston. Get answers for all those burning questions about how our nation's space explorers survive outside the Earth's orbit, and tune into a guided tour narrated by the astronauts themselves. Age-appropriate attractions, such as Mission Kidtrot and the Kids' Space Place, are both educational and fun for the little ones.

**Details:** 1601 NASA Parkway off Interstate 45 South in Bay Area Houston.

## EXPERIENCE THE CITY

**Audio Walking Tours** offer two new ultra-modern audio walking tours. Each tour is narrated by a local insider, who guides you through historic gateways, offbeat sights and local watering holes. The Ultimate Walking Tour gives a taste of what makes downtown Houston a special destination — a little bit of history, architecture, and art and a whole lot of fun. The Museum District Tour begins at the new Discovery Green Park, downtown, and then whisks the traveler via METRORail to the Museum District to meander through the amazingly beautiful and culturally significant district.

**Details:** Both tours are free and downloadable to an MP3/iPod player at [www.houstondowntown.com](http://www.houstondowntown.com). Printable versions also available.

**Discover Houston Tours** offers the perfect way to explore Houston: the weekday TunnelWalk & Rail Tour. The leisurely paced, two-mile walking tour includes lunch and a stroll through the awe-inspiring Downtown Tunnel System. Other popular tours include Broomstick Adventures on Friday and Saturday nights, with such tales as the ghosts at La Carafe, Houston's oldest building; the Hanging Oak; and Lifestyles of Houston's Rich and Famous.



**Details:** Reservations required. Admission starts at \$10 for basic tunnel tours, with discounts for seniors and children. Tours times vary, but are usually between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. (713) 222-9255; [www.DiscoverHoustonTours.com](http://www.DiscoverHoustonTours.com).

**Houston Greeters** offers visitors a unique look at Houston through the eyes and hearts of its residents. Local volunteers serve as guides for personalized tours of many scenic and fascinating areas. Experience unique parts of the city

**Tour the Museum District with an expert guide.**

accompanied by a local insider. Take a jog or bike excursion with someone who knows the terrain or explore downtown, the Medical Center or Museum District with a well-informed Greeter.

**Details:** The service is free; visitors are responsible for transportation fees (bus or taxi fare) and admission charges to museums, attractions, etc. Custom tours available to individuals and groups of up to six people. (713) 665-8710; [www.houstongreeters.org](http://www.houstongreeters.org).





GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

The Aquarium Pyramid and Rainforest Pyramid draw curious minds to Moody Gardens in Galveston.

Open daily. Admission is \$19.95 with discounts for children and seniors. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. (281) 244-2100. [www.spacecenter.org](http://www.spacecenter.org). See map 16P.

### Sam Houston Race Park

“And they’re off!” as Sam Houston Race Park celebrates the spirit and elegance of thoroughbred and quarter horse racing with live and simulcast racing in northwest Houston. The facility features seasonal live racing on a 7/8-mile turf track and on a one-mile, oval dirt track — touted to be one of the best surfaces in the nation. Watch from a 200,000-square-foot grandstand, a 30,000-square-foot pavilion or one of several luxury suites with trackside views. The park also features three formal dining facilities and general concessions, plus the Showgrounds live music venue.

**Details:** Located in northwest Houston at 7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway West; simulcasts from horse tracks around the world shown daily at 10:30 a.m.; admission is \$4 for adults, parking \$4; (281) 807-8760; [www.shrp.com](http://www.shrp.com). See map 4D.

### Moody Gardens

Three glass pyramids glistening on the horizon are one of Galveston Island’s

signature sights, but what lies under their slanted roofs is no mystery. An IMAX 3-D Theatre, Special FX-4D Theatre, and a RideFilm Theater are only three of the entertainment marvels, matched only by the wildlife you can observe in the Rainforest, Aquarium, and Discovery Pyramids. Outdoor fun includes a paddleboat ride on the bay and a manmade beach.

**Details:** One Hope Boulevard on Galveston Island. Open daily. Day Passes include one admission to all Moody Gardens’ attractions for \$44.95. Individual attraction tickets start at \$8.95 per person. (800) 582-4673. [www.moodygardens.com](http://www.moodygardens.com). See map 14P.

### Traders Village

Open every Saturday and Sunday year-round, this 60-acre market hosts an average of 800 merchants and one million bargain-seekers each year. No wonder the *Houston Business Journal* ranked it as the No. 1 free attraction in the city. Other special attractions include kiddie rides, restaurants, special events and even a concert series. Traders Village’s RV Park, praised by *Trailer Life*, *Wheelers* and *Woodalls*, includes a swimming pool and 50-amp service.

**Details:** Located in Northwest Houston at 7979 N. Eldridge, off Hwy. 290; open

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[www.shopspringtexas.com](http://www.shopspringtexas.com)

Located about 20 miles north of Houston on I-45, take Exit 70A and drive 1 mile east on Spring Cypress.





*The George Ranch Historical Park holds Texas' "big" stories—from cattle to cotton crops to oil, from the Texas Revolution to the Civil War to World War II. Come see what life was like in the 1830s, 1860s, 1890s and 1930s!*

Interactive Outdoor Exhibits  
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 Dinner Belle Cafe • Gift Shop  
 Children under 4 are FREE  
 (281) 343-0218

[www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org)  
 10215 FM 762 • Richmond, TX

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Daring speeds slides, endless rivers; uphill water coasters; waves for surfing, splashing and relaxing; and kid-friendly water playgrounds make SplashTown a thrilling family attraction.

Saturday and Sunday year-round; free admission; parking \$3 per car; (281) 890-5500; [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com).  
 See map 2E.

### SplashTown

Slides and pools, raft rides, family rides — if it's wet, wild, and fun, it's at SplashTown. For thrills, try Thunder Run, the Texas Freefall, or RipQurl. Then stop for a snack at one of the park's seven dining locations. Forgot your sunscreen? The Beach Shop near the entrance fulfills your needs.

**Details:** Located at 21300 I-45 North in Spring (Exit 70-A), the park is just 30 minutes north of downtown Houston. For most of the summer, SplashTown is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., except for extended hours (until 10 p.m.) on the Fourth of July. Discounted daily tickets (\$29.99 for

[www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com)



TOBY THE RED PANDA

# TOBY!

The world's cutest animal has arrived at the Houston Zoo.

We invite you to visit Toby at the beautiful new red panda exhibit. Once you see Toby, you too will agree he is the cutest animal in the world!

Learn more about Toby and Red Panda-omanium at

[houstonzoo.org/cutestanimal](http://houstonzoo.org/cutestanimal)



THE HOUSTON ZOO NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST IN THE COUNTRY FOR KIDS BY PARENTS MAGAZINE.



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adults and \$24.99 for children) are available online. (281) 355-3300; [www.splashtownpark.com](http://www.splashtownpark.com). See map. 8A.

### San Jacinto Battleground Historical Complex

The San Jacinto Battleground marks the spot where Texas won its independence from Mexico. The park houses the towering San Jacinto Monument and Museum, with a 489-foot elevator ride to the top for a panoramic view. The story of the battle is told in *Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto*. Also on the grounds is the World War II Battleship *Texas*.

**Details:** Located about 29 miles east of downtown, off Hwy. 225; open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; admission free; fee for film, elevator ride or battleship tour; (281) 479-2421; [www.sanjacinto-museum.org](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org). See map 17K.

[www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com)



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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU  
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July 4th Celebration  
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We have it all...from  
Country to Serious Blues!  
Jul. 10 – Aug. 21



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# CHECKING IN

Before you check in, check out our extensive accommodations guide.



Want a terrific quaint hotel or special bed-and-breakfast? Houston has it all! Downtown hotels include the DoubleTree Hotel Houston Downtown, Four Seasons Hotel, Hyatt Regency Houston, Lancaster Hotel, Crowne Plaza and others. The Alden-Houston, The Magnolia Hotel and Hotel Icon are all boutique hotels in historical structures. More budget-friendly options include the Best Western Downtown, Courtyard by Marriott and Residence Inn by Marriott. The 1,200-room Hilton Americas-Houston and the Inn at The Ballpark are convenient for events at Toyota Center and Minute Maid Park. Just minutes away, Hotel ZaZa has opened in the Museum District.

The Texas Medical Center offers the Best Western Plaza Hotel, Hilton Houston Plaza, Houston Marriott Medical Center and Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Medical Center. The Reliant Park area has the Holiday Inn, Homestead Guest Studios, Houston Grand Plaza and Shoney's Inn.

The Uptown/Galleria area hosts big business and serious shopping, plus hotels such as Courtyard by Marriott, Drury Inn, Hotel Granduca, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Hilton Post Oak, Hotel Indigo, InterContinental Hotel, J.W. Marriott, Hotel Derek, Sheraton Suites, Westin and others.

Houston B&Bs are a delight. The Heights area includes Angel Arbor Bed & Breakfast and Sara's Bed and Breakfast. The Patrician Bed & Breakfast is near the Museum District, while the Robin's Nest and The Lovett Inn are near downtown and convenient to the METRORail line.

For Houston area accommodations, visit [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com), call (800) 4-HOUSTON or find a hotel on the list on page 47.

GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Warmth and comfort bespeak Hotel Derek.

★ Please look for advertisements in this magazine. Map locations coincide with the Houston Map on page 8.

## DOWNTOWN

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Crown Plaza Houston — Downtown**, 1700 Smith St., Houston, TX 77002; (713) 759-8800, [www.cphdowntown.crownplaza.com](http://www.cphdowntown.crownplaza.com). Central downtown location, 259 spacious rooms, close to shopping and attractions such as the Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, GR Brown Convention Center, Aquarium, Arts District and nightlife. Free transportation, flexible meeting space. Award-winning Brazo's Restaurant and Bar. (9)

**Doubletree Hotel Houston Downtown**, 400 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77002; (713) 759-0202, (800) 772-7666. ☎ (9)

**Hilton Americas-Houston**, 1600 Lamar St., Houston, TX 77010; (713) 739-8000, [www.americashouston.hilton.com](http://www.americashouston.hilton.com). (9)

**Hyatt Regency Houston**, 1200 Louisiana, Houston, TX 77002; (713) 654-1234, (800) 233-1234. (9)

**Inn at the Ballpark**, 1520 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002; (713) 228-1520. (9)

## MUSEUM DISTRICT

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Hotel ZaZa Houston**, 5701 Main St., Houston, TX 77005; (713) 526-1991, [www.hotelzaza.com/houston](http://www.hotelzaza.com/houston).

## UPTOWN/GALLERIA

### HOTELS/MOTELS

★ **DOUBLETREE GUEST SUITES**, 5353 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77056; (713) 961-9000, (800) 222-TREE; [www.houstonsuites.doubletree.com](http://www.houstonsuites.doubletree.com). (8K)

**Hilton Houston at Post Oak**, 2001 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056; (713) 961-9300, (800) HILTONS. (8K)

★ **HILTON GARDEN INN**, 3201 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056; (866) 361-1730, [www.HiltonGardenInn.com](http://www.HiltonGardenInn.com).

**Hotel Derek**, 2525 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027; (713) 961-3000. ☎ (8K)

★ **HOTEL INDIGO**, 5160 Hidalgo St., Houston, TX 77056; (713) 621-8988, (877) 8-INDIGO. Located in the trendy Uptown business district near the Galleria. Inviting guest rooms with plush bedding, white-washed wood furniture, hardwood flooring and spa-inspired showers. [www.houstonluxuryhotel.com](http://www.houstonluxuryhotel.com). (6K)

**The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa**, 111 N. Post Oak Ln., Houston, TX 77024; (713) 680-2626, (800) 231-2759. (8K)

**Intercontinental Houston**, 2222 West Loop S., Houston, TX 77027; (713) 627-7600, [www.Houston.Intercontinental.com](http://www.Houston.Intercontinental.com). ☎ (8K)

**JW Marriott Houston**, 5150 Westheimer by the Galleria, Houston, TX 77056; (713) 761-1500, [www.jwmarriottHouston.com](http://www.jwmarriottHouston.com). (8K)

**Omni Houston Hotel**, 4 Riverway, Houston, TX 77056; (713) 871-8181; (800) THE-OMNI, [www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com).

**The Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks Houston**, 5060 W. Alabama and 5011 Westheimer at Post Oak, Houston, TX 77056; (713) 960-8100, (800) WESTIN-I. ☎ (8K)

## MEDICAL CENTER/RICE VILLAGE/ RELIANT PARK

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Holiday Inn Houston Hotel & Suites**, 6800 S. Main St., Houston, TX 77030; (713) 528-7744. Beautifully renovated in 2006, our full-service hotel offers 287 rooms and suites with full kitchens. Located in the heart of Houston's Medical Center near the Museum District, Reliant Park, and The Galleria. Convenient to Downtown Houston via METRORail. Free parking and shuttle service to Texas Medical Center, Rice Village, The Galleria, museums and more. [www.hi-medcenter.com](http://www.hi-medcenter.com).

## GREENWAY PLAZA/UPPER KIRBY/ RIVER OAKS

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Renaissance Houston Hotel**, 6 Greenway Plaza E., Houston, TX 77046; (713) 629-1200, (800) HOTELS-I; [www.renaissancehotels.com/hour](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/hour). ☎ (7K)

## SOUTHWEST/HWY. 59 SOUTH

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**La Quinta Inn — Stafford/Surgar Land**, 12727 Southwest Freeway, Stafford, TX 77477; (800) 531-5900; (281) 240-2300. Enjoy our complimentary continental breakfast, free local calls, in-room coffee maker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board and sparkling pool. Near George Ranch, Aerodome, First Colony Mall and area restaurants. For reservations visit [www.LQ.com](http://www.LQ.com) or call (800) 531-5900. (02)



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## WEST SIDE

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Crown Plaza West**, 14703 Park Row, Houston, TX 77079; (281) 558-5580.

**Marriott Westchase**, 2900 Briarpark Dr., Houston, TX 77042; (713) 978-7400. Each of our elegantly renovated 600 guest rooms are spacious and offer wireless high-speed internet connections and two-line phones. The hotel is located just minutes from the Uptown/Galleria Area and the I-10 Energy Corridor in West Houston. (4K)

**Omni Houston Hotel Westside**, 13210 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77079; (281) 558-8338, (800) THE-OMNI; [www.omniwestside.com](http://www.omniwestside.com).

## NORTHWEST

### RV PARKS/CAMPGROUNDS

★ **TRADERS VILLAGE**, 7979 N. Eldridge Rd., Houston, TX 77041; (281) 890-5500. RV park/campground. Rated 10/10. Open daily year-round. More than 200 full hookups, concrete and level, pull-thrus. Private restrooms/showers, pool, mini-mart and propane. Climate-controlled laundromat and recreation hall. Church service. Adjacent to Traders Village marketplace. ☎ (2E)

## GREENSPPOINT/BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL/ FM 1960

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Hilton Houston North**, 12400 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060; (281) 875-2222, (800) WYNDHAM. Newly renovated, 15-story hotel with 480 rooms/suites and 39,000 s.f. of state-of-the-art meeting and exhibit facilities. Adjacent to Greenspoint business center and shopping mall. 10 minutes from Bush IAH. ☎ (8C)

## THE WOODLANDS/FAR NORTH

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**La Torretta Del Lago Resort & Spa**, 600 La Torretta Blvd., Montgomery, TX 77556; (936) 448-4400. With gorgeous views, spacious, contemporary designs and only the most deluxe linens and bath accessories, each of our 445 lush accommodations are carefully orchestrated with one thing in mind, you. [www.latorrettadelagoresortandspa.com](http://www.latorrettadelagoresortandspa.com).

★ **THE WOODLANDS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER**, 2301 N. Millbend Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380; (281) 367-1100. The Woodlands Resort &

Conference Center is a leisure and meetings destination of international reputation. This award-winning facility features a world-class vacation and business environment that for more than 26 years has been one of Texas' finest. [www.woodlandsresort.com](http://www.woodlandsresort.com).

## HOBBY AIRPORT/I-45 SOUTH

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Hilton Houston Hobby Airport**, 8181 Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77061; (713) 645-3000; [www.houstonhobbyairport.hilton.com](http://www.houstonhobbyairport.hilton.com).

## BAY AREA HOUSTON

★ See the Houston's Bay Area, page 60 for listings in Clear Lake and Kemah areas.

## GALVESTON ISLAND

### HOTELS/MOTELS

**Casa Del Mar**, 6102 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551; (409) 740-2431.

★ **HILTON GALVESTON ISLAND**, 54th & Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551; (409) 744-5000, (800) 475-3386, [www.galvestonhilton.com](http://www.galvestonhilton.com).

★ **HOLIDAY INN**, 5002 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551; (409) 740-3581, toll free (800) HOLIDAY. Visit [www.holidayinnonthebeach.com](http://www.holidayinnonthebeach.com).

**Hotel Galveston**, 2024 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550; (409) 765-7721, [www.wyndhamhotelgalvez.com](http://www.wyndhamhotelgalvez.com).

**La Quinta Inn — Galveston**, 1402 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550; (800) 531-5900; (409) 763-1224. Enjoy our free continental breakfast, free local calls, in-room coffee maker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board and sparkling pool. Located on the Galveston Seawall, walking distance to great restaurants and Stewart Beach. Some ocean-view rooms and suites available. Reservations: [www.LQ.com](http://www.LQ.com) or call (800) 531-5900. (G22)

**Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa & Convention Center**, 7 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77554; (409) 741-8484, (888) 388-8484; [www.moodygardensshotel.com](http://www.moodygardensshotel.com).

★ **THE SAN LUIS RESORT, SPA & CONFERENCE CENTER**, 53rd St. and Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551; (409) 744-1500, (800) 445-0090; [www.sanluisresort.com](http://www.sanluisresort.com).

**The Tremont House**, 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston, TX 77550; (409) 763-0300, [www.wyndham.com/tremonthouse](http://www.wyndham.com/tremonthouse). ■



# where to stay



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[www.woodlandsresort.com](http://www.woodlandsresort.com)  
 The Woodlands, Texas



Located in the trendy uptown business district of the Galleria, the Hotel Indigo has signature design elements such as: inviting guestrooms with plush bedding, whitewashed wood furniture, hardwood flooring, and spa inspired showers. There is complimentary wireless internet access throughout the hotel. The bistro-style cafe, The Golden Bean, will offer a seasonal, health-conscious fare. It's about peace. A hotel, whose unique design brings together math, art and nature in perfect symmetry, and gives you a sense of balance and wellbeing.



5160 Hidalgo Street, Houston, Texas 77056  
 (713) 621-8988 or toll free (866) 2-INDIGO  
[www.houstonluxuryhotel.com](http://www.houstonluxuryhotel.com)



The Hilton Garden Inn Galleria Area hotel is located in Houston, Texas just a few steps away from the world-renowned Galleria Shopping Mall in the heart of the Uptown District, the city's most cosmopolitan area of sophistication, and style. The hotel features 182 well appointed guestrooms including 30 suites, and over 2800 sq. ft. of meeting space. Complimentary fitness center, high speed internet access, state of the art business center, and shuttle within a three mile radius are all included with your stay! The Great American Grill™ serves breakfast and dinner with evening room service.



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In the heart of the thriving Galleria; the Doubletree Guest Suites offers luxurious suites with beautiful city views. Great for weekend get-a-ways the Doubletree Guest Suites all have full kitchens for your convenience; an Olympic-sized pool for your recreation and McKinley's Bar & Grille for your relaxation and don't forget HHonors points and miles for your reward!



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# DINING & NIGHTLIFE

Toast and taste Houston's range of cuisines and scenes.

BY HOLLY BERETTO

## Surf & Turf

Chef Bryan Caswell has a fresh approach to serving up fish and burgers with equal style.

Chef Bryan Caswell grew up fishing along the Gulf Coast.

"We fished from Brownsville all the way to Apalachicola and everywhere in between," he says.

But when Caswell began his culinary career, he was surprised how few Gulf fish he could actually get for his restaurants. That's one of the reasons he opened Reef, Midtown's main seafood address, with ample choices for landlubbers. He and

business partner Bill Floyd had the idea that they could source local ingredients, build an inventive menu and introduce people to a variety of great fish.

"You know, let's give snapper a little bit of a rest," Caswell laughs.

"Rest" isn't in this busy chef's own vocabulary right now. Reef is celebrating its two-year anniversary and earlier this year, Caswell and Floyd opened two Little Big's locations in Montrose and near

Hermann Park. The funky burger joints serve up Houston's best sliders in locations that say casual as Reef says fine dining.

Little Big's was born after the slider appetizer at Reef got so popular, Caswell realized they were selling dozens of them a day. He exported Reef's all-beef slider over to Little Big's, then added two others: a mushroom and cheese version and a chicken slider. Naturally, there are fries and shakes.

"We do four things at Little Big's," says Caswell. "But we do them all in-house, from making our own bread to pickling our own jalapenos. Just like at Reef, we have that artisan vibe working."

Diners love it. At Reef, you'll find a diverse crowd digging into Caswell's Gulf Coast cuisine and ordering off one of Houston's best-priced wine lists. This summer, Caswell is looking forward to adding Wahoo,



JIM CALDWELL

**Local ingredients and an inventive menu distinguish the Reef and its chef/co-owner, Bryan Caswell.**

various jacks and tripletail to Reef's menu. It's not wonder that Reef was voted the No. 1 seafood restaurant in the country by *Bon Appetit* magazine and that Caswell was named one of *Food & Wine* magazine's "Best New Chefs." At Little Big's, urban professionals, retirees and hipsters rub elbows, drinking the Big Pink and eating sliders and fries.

"Houston diners are so supportive of owner-operated restaurants," says the chef who trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America and has worked in top restaurants in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Barcelona, and the Bahamas. "That's why we're here."

**Details:** Reef, 2600 Travis at McGowen. (713) 526-8282. [www.reefhouston.com](http://www.reefhouston.com). Little Big's: 2703 Montrose (near Westheimer) and 1600 Zoo Circle Drive (Hermann Park). (713) 521-BIGS. [www.littlebigshouston.com](http://www.littlebigshouston.com).



JIM CALDWELL

Reef introduces guests to a variety of Gulf fish.



# Savor the Tex-Mex

Bodegas serves it up in the heart of the Museum District.

BY HOLLY BERETTO



Freedom of choice prevails at Bodegas Taco Shop, which features a full bar with its signature, refreshing Flavor Blast margaritas.

**W**hen you go to Bodegas Taco Shop, the newly opened fast-casual Tex-Mex spot on the corner of Caroline and Binz streets, you're in for a treat. The taco shop offers up an array of tacos, quesadillas, burritos, and salads — and it's all custom-designed. Those who've been to Chipotle will immediately be familiar with the design-your-own concept, selecting taco, burrito, quesadilla, or salad; loading it with meats and veggies of your choice and topping it with sauces from spicy to sweet.

"We wanted diners to have a real choice here," says owner Ryan Granger, who, along with wife and business partner Josephine, owns the Park Grill just down the street. "And we wanted a more authentic Mexican menu."

So, Granger infused his menu with pork carnitas, cilantro-lime rice, chimichurri sauce, traditional flan for dessert, and limonada de fresa, to name only a few.

Try the carnitas on a crispy taco, topped with Monterrey Jack cheese, tomato, pico de gallo, red onion, and the ancho honey salsa for a combination that's a totally smoky, sweet delight. The pork is juicy and tender with just hints of saltiness and is a fantastic counter to the salsa's heat and sass. Another flavorful combo is to pair the spicy sirloin with a soft taco, topping it with lettuce, tomato, pico, cheddar cheese, and chimichurri sauce. It's a lime-infused delight.

Bodegas has a full bar, and the Flavor Blast margarita blends tequila, mango and fresh lime juice for a cool, refreshing quaff. The limonada de fresa is a lovely lemon water with strawberry hints, and

the pepino limonada is even more fun: a cucumber-infused lemonade guaranteed to be a favorite.

Kids will love a Tex-Mex menu tailored to their tastes, with mini quesadillas or a beef or chicken plate, and they'll love the décor with its winking red, green, and yellow lights, and the corrugated tin faux roof in the main dining area.

Everything is made in-house and Granger says he's been working on the concept for a couple of years.

"I love Mexican food," he says. "And I wanted a place where families, urban professionals, everyone, can come and enjoy great food in a relaxed atmosphere."

*Details: Bodegas Tacos, 1200 Binz. (713) 528-6102. Credit cards welcome.*



Cool jazz sets the vibe at Sambuca on the ground floor of the historic Rice Hotel (now Rice Lofts).

## A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

After 5, the Bayou City knows how to unwind.

When the sun goes down, some cities roll up their downtown sidewalks and call it a night. Not Houston. The city that is all business by day is all about R&R at night — whether your interpretation of that is “rock and roll” or “rest and relaxation.” Houston’s downtown nightlife scene has undergone a major transformation in recent years, resulting in a variety of venues where you can wind down or wind up the action. Whether your style is beer bottles or bellinis, you can find something that suits your mood in downtown or Midtown.

### Discover city lights

Start your search for the perfect evening in Discovery Green, which lives up to its name even after the families take their dogs and Frisbees home. Venture up to the second-floor **Treehouse** at **The Grove Restaurant** to discover one of a dozen specialty drinks — including the Grove’s signature Ginger Margarita — while watching the stars vie for attention amid the city lights. [www.thegrovehouston.com](http://www.thegrovehouston.com).

### Be a good sport

Not far from Houston’s two major sports arenas—Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center — you’ll find the sports fan’s ideal hangouts. Two locations of **The B.U.S.** at 1800 Texas and 1410 Bell offer a great spot

to warm up for a game or celebrate a win afterward. Your team cap and casual attire are welcome here, and the fare is also casual: burgers and hotdogs. (713) 222-2287.

### Jazz it up

A little further west at Texas Avenue, you start to hear the melodic strains of a jazz combo — as cool as the evening breeze. That’s the first sign that you’re in the vicinity of **Sambuca**, located on the ground floor of Houston’s historic Rice Hotel — now Rice Lofts. Here you’ll find an extensive wine list and a less-rambunctious, over-30 crowd that appreciates good music like you do. To reserve a table, call (713) 224-5299.

While you’re there, check out the quieter atmosphere of the **State Bar**, which retains much of the décor and memorabilia from the old Rice Hotel’s Capitol Club. The panoramic balcony grand veranda offers a breathtaking view of the city’s landscape and a great place to relax with a glass of wine or a martini.

Looking for another jazzed up spot? Check out the **Red Cat Jazz Café** at 924 Congress St. — a good place to enjoy some Creole cuisine, laid-back music, and the café’s signature Red Cat Cocktail. (713) 226-7870.

### A howling good time

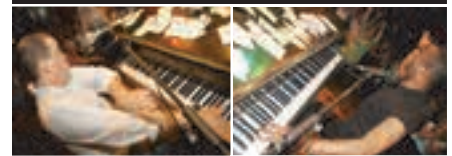
Sometimes you feel like you just need to **Howl at the Moon**, and this dueling piano bar at 612 Hadley in Midtown lives up to its name. Audience participation is highly encouraged when the twin baby grand pianos warm up for a sing-along. The club draws a loose, fun crowd, so leave your inhibitions at the door. (713) 658-9700.



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**ROCK N’ ROLL**  
**DUELING PIANO SHOW!**

*"Howl at the Moon is my favorite place to recommend to guests because I know they will always have a great time."*  
- Chicago Concierge

*"Howl at the Moon, a dueling piano bar, is my favorite new venture at CityWalk."*  
- Heidi Cuda Los Angeles Times



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The State Bar and Lounge is a Classic Bar and Lounge located in the Historic Rice Hotel, President Kennedy's last stop before Dallas. We offer sophisticated wines, beers and a large selection of liquors and specialty martinis. Our delicious menu has lovely hors d'oeuvres to full buffets. Please come enjoy a drink overlooking the downtown nightlife on our grand balcony.

Conveniently located one block from Main St. light rail and minutes from the Galleria. Our friendly staff looks forward to helping cater your happy hour party or business meeting.



909 Texas Ave., Suite 2A Entrance on Travis • Houston, Texas 77002  
 713-229-8888 • [www.thestatebar.com](http://www.thestatebar.com)  
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. • Saturday 6 p.m.-2 a.m.

Just on the western edge of downtown/ Midtown at 2708 Bagby is **Union Bar**, where a younger crowd keeps the action lively. It's also a dynamite spot to host a bachelor/bachelorette or birthday party, which the club encourages with special party packages. (281) 974-1916 or [www.unionbar.com](http://www.unionbar.com).

**Dancing shoes required**

If an urban beat is more your style, you might want to venture into **Venue**, 11,000 square feet of pulsating hip hop, Latin groove and R&B music. Enjoy the scene from one of several elevated VIP areas. The club's décor exudes a sophisticated, sensuous vibe, with a supporting dress code: no hats, no T-shirts, no sneakers, please. Reservations are also recommended. (713) 236-8150 or [www.venuehouston.com](http://www.venuehouston.com).

**Rockin' the House**

Houston's own 43,000-square-foot **House of Blues** at 1204 Caroline is almost a year old now, and the trendy restaurant/bar chain is still rockin' with live music — living up to a goal of 200 concerts a year — and great Southern-style cuisine. The split-level music hall seats 1,200. The lower level features the general-admission dance floor and three full-service bars, and the mezzanine level provides theatre-style reserved seating for 400 and two private luxury boxes.

Coming this summer: Third Eye Blind, the Robert Cray Band, and David Allan Coe with the Resin Valley Boys. (888) 402-5837 or [www.houseofblues.com](http://www.houseofblues.com).



Try the signature Red Cat Cocktail at Red Cat Jazz Café.

## MUSIC & MUNCHIES

Looking for authentic Texas tunes and grub in the same place?

Cowboy up at **Goode's Armadillo Palace** for live music by Texas bands on Tuesday through Saturday. Pull up a saddle at the bar and enjoy the famous barbecue and other Texas fare (try the seafood cocktail), along with the music and full-tilt Texas scene. 5015 Kirby Dr. at Bartlett, (713) 526-9700, [www.thearmadillopalace.com](http://www.thearmadillopalace.com).



JIM CALDWELL

Take in an authentic Texas experience — including live local music — at Goode's Armadillo Palace.

The relaxed pub atmosphere, great food and beer selection at **McGonigels' Mucky Duck** is worth seeking out its somewhat hidden location. Add in the first-rate live music by folkies, roots rocker and emerging singer/songwriters, and this spot is a must for music lovers seven nights a week. Order up a pint and the Welsh Rarebit or baked Brie to get the evening started on a high note. 2425 Norfolk St. off Kirby and Richmond, (713) 528-5999; [www.mcgonigels.com](http://www.mcgonigels.com).

**Pub Fiction** in Midtown offers live music, plenty of drink specials and an ample outdoor patio. Catch live bands four nights a week and choose from sandwiches, burgers and ample appetizers — even a few salads — when you need a bite. 2303 Smith St., (713) 400-8400, [www.pubfiction.com](http://www.pubfiction.com).

— Sandra Cook



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# conciierge choice



Perry's Tradition...For more than two decades, Perry's has been creating memorable dining experiences by combining superior food with outstanding service. A Houston-based, family-owned restaurant group, Perry's offers steakhouses featuring USDA Prime steaks, fresh seafood and our signature pork chop to customers across Houston. With locations in Clear Lake, The Woodlands, Memorial City, Sugar Land, Champions, Austin and Katy-Cinco Ranch, Perry's specializes in creating urban dining experience within suburban neighborhoods by combining exceptional guest service and food quality with an eclectic ambience and a casually elegant setting. In addition, our online market (PerrysOnlineMarket.com) allows you to bring home the Perry's experience including our signature USDA Prime steaks, seafood and famous pork chop. We take pride in our exceptional quality, creativity and world-class attention to detail, all of which ensures Perry's is always **"Rare and Well Done!"** 9827 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024. (832) 358-9000 for reservations.



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Ranked among the Top Ten Steak Houses in America since 1991, Shula's is known for serving the best of beef money can buy as well as an impressive roster of seafood and chops. Reserve one of Shula's three private dining rooms already wired for a business meeting. Breakfast Hours: 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Lunch Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dinner Hours: 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For reservations, please call (713) 375-4777. Private Dining: (713) 375-4709.



Dining at Mark's American Cuisine is a true epicurean adventure. Chef Mark Cox prepares not just one but four unique menus for his patrons. Houstonians and visitors will find food unlike that in any other restaurant. Mark's American Cuisine is located in a 1920's renovated church. The golden ceilings, hand painted deco walls and the candle lit tables provide guests with an intimate escape from the outside world. 1658 Westheimer Rd, Houston, Texas 77006, (713) 523-3800. www.marks1658.com

# DINING GUIDE

Restaurant	Cuisine	Price	Sunday Brunch	Late Kitchen (Closing 10 p.m. or later)	Reservations Recommended/Required
<b>The Aquarium</b> Kemah Boardwalk • (281) 334-9010	Seafood/Steaks	\$\$		★	
<b>Babin's Seafood House</b> 17485 Tomball Pkwy. • (281) 477-9300 21851 Katy Fwy. • (281) 829-9200 #13 Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah • (281) 334-0192 19529 I-45, The Woodlands • (281) 296-8829	Seafood	\$\$			
<b>Brenner's on the Bayou</b> One Birdsall • (713) 868-4444	Steaks/Seafood	\$\$\$	★	★	★
<b>Brenner's Steakhouse</b> 10911 Katy Fwy. • (713) 465-2901	Steaks/Seafood	\$\$\$	★	★	★
<b>Cadillac Bar</b> 1802 Shepherd • (713) 862-2020 Kemah Boardwalk #7 • (281) 334-9049	Mexican	\$\$	★	★	
<b>The Chart House</b> #3 Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah • (281) 334-3360	Seafood	\$\$\$			★
<b>Downtown Aquarium</b> 410 Bagby • (713) 223-FISH	Seafood/Steaks	\$\$		★	★
<b>Grappino di Nino</b> 2817 W. Dallas • (713) 522-5120	Wine Bar	\$		★	
<b>Grotto</b> 4715 Westheimer • (713) 622-3663 9595 Six Pines, The Woodlands • (281) 419-4252	Italian	\$\$	★	★	
<b>Hard Rock Cafe</b> 502 Texas • (713) 227-1392	American	\$\$		★	
<b>Harlow's</b> 3839 Weslayan • (713) 850-8555	American	\$			
<b>Joe's Crab Shack</b> #5 Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah • (281) 334-2881	Seafood	\$		★	
<b>La Griglia</b> 2002 West Gray • (713) 526-4700	Italian	\$\$		★	★
<b>Landry's Seafood House</b> 22215 Katy Fwy. • (281) 392-0452 8816 Westheimer Rd. • (713) 975-7873 #1 Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah • (281) 334-2513 5310 Seawall Blvd., Galveston Island • (409) 744-1010 1212 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands • (281) 362-9696	Seafood	\$\$	★	★	
<b>Mark's American Cuisine</b> 1658 Westheimer Rd. • (713) 523-3800	American Cuisine	\$\$\$		★	★
<b>McCormick &amp; Schmick's Seafood Restaurant</b> Houston Pavilions, 1201 Fannin • (713) 658-8100	Seafood	\$\$\$		★	★
<b>Nino's</b> 2817 W. Dallas • (713) 522-5120	Italian	\$\$			
<b>Perry's Steakhouse &amp; Grill</b> 9827 Katy Fwy. • (832) 358-9000	Steaks	\$\$\$		★	★

Restaurant	Cuisine	Price	Sunday Brunch	Late Kitchen (Closing 10 p.m. or later)	Reservations Recommended/Required
<b>Pesce</b> 3029 Kirby Dr. • (713) 522-4858	Seafood	\$\$\$		★	★
<b>Pronto Cucinino</b> 1401 Montrose • (713) 528-TOGO 3191 W. Holcombe Blvd. • (713) 592-TOGO	Italian	\$\$			
<b>Rainforest Cafe</b> 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Katy • (281) 644-6200 5310 Seawall Blvd., Galveston Island • (409) 744-6000	American	\$\$			★
<b>Red Sushi &amp; Hibachi Grill</b> #9 Kemah Boardwalk • (281) 334-6708	Sushi/Hibachi Grill	\$			★
<b>Saltgrass Steak House</b> 20241 Gulf Fwy. • (281) 338-9778 20090 Hwy. 59, Humble • (281) 540-5116 14909 I-45 North • (281) 872-4545 11900 I-10 East • (713) 453-2100 1803 Shepherd Dr. • (713) 869-7074 8943 Katy Fwy. • (713) 461-6111 21855 Katy Fwy. • (281) 647-9400 520 Meyerland Plaza • (713) 665-2226 9110 Southwest Fwy. • (713) 771-1777 1502 Seawall Blvd., Galveston Island • (409) 762-4261 215 Kipp Ave., Kemah Boardwalk • (281) 538-5441 17275 Tomball Pkwy. • (281) 477-0952 19720 Southwest Fwy., Sugar Land • (281) 232-3502 19533 I-45 North, The Woodlands • (281) 298-7527 3251 Silver Lake Village Dr., Pearland • (713) 436-0799	Steaks	\$\$			★
<b>Shula's Steak House</b> 1200 Louisiana (at Hyatt Regency Houston) • (713) 375-4777	Steaks	\$\$\$		★	★
<b>The State Bar &amp; Lounge</b> 909 Texas Ave., Ste. 2A • (713) 229-8888	American	\$		★	★
<b>The Steakhouse at The San Luis Resort</b> 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston Island • (409) 744-1500	Steaks	\$\$			
<b>Vic &amp; Anthony's Steakhouse</b> 1510 Texas Ave. • (713) 228-1111	Steakhouse	\$\$\$		★	★
<b>Vincent's</b> 2701 W. Dallas • (713) 528-4373	Italian	\$\$		★	★
<b>Willie G's Seafood &amp; Steak House</b> 1605 S. Post Oak Blvd. • (713) 840-7190 2100 Harborside at Pier 21, Galveston Island • (409) 762-3030	Seafood/Steaks	\$\$		★	

\$ — Inexpensive (entrées less than \$10)  
 \$\$ — Moderate (entrées \$10-\$20)  
 \$\$\$ — Expensive (entrées more than \$20)

Some of these restaurants require/recommend reservations for parties of six or more only, so please contact the dining establishment for details.



# FORT BEND COUNTY

Small-town hospitality and charm await a few miles southwest of the big city



GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Stargazers view the galaxy through George Observatory's three-domed telescopes, including a 36-inch Gueymard Research Telescope. Below: Plan to attend the nationally acclaimed Grand Wine & Food Affair from in April.

With all the amenities of a small Texas town and the urban attractions of a cosmopolitan city, Fort Bend County offers a wonderful balance of business and pleasure. The region presents an array of fine restaurants, choice accommodations, entertainment, championship golf courses, and plenty of shopping, recreation, and events.

**Sugar Land Town Square** is as convenient and walkable as a suburban plaza, but with the bustle of Main Street and a central business district. First Colony Mall houses a shopper's paradise nearby, and other services, restaurants, sidewalk cafés, entertainment venues, and a hotel and conference center are easy to navigate on foot or by car. Information: [www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com).

Every year in April, Sugar Land hosts the nationally acclaimed (and region's largest) wine and food festival, **The Grand Wine & Food Affair**. This annual celebration presents a lineup of wineries, talented chefs and culinary events sure to please the most even the most particular palate. Celebrated chefs from around the world offer exotic and sumptuous samples of their fine cuisine. Information: (713) 747-9463, [www.TheGrandWineAndFoodAffair.com](http://www.TheGrandWineAndFoodAffair.com).

Make plans now to bring the entire family to the **Fort Bend County Fair** Sept. 25 through Oct. 3 in Rosenberg. The fair has grown into one of the largest and most successful in the state. Enjoy everything from livestock judging and barbecue cook-offs, to



FRANK CASIMIRO



Texian Market Days at George Rancho Historical Park.

GREATER HOUSTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

arts and crafts and big-name music entertainers. For information, call (281) 342-6171 or visit [www.fbca.org](http://www.fbca.org).

An all-American vintage baseball game is a great way to celebrate the Fourth of July at George Ranch Historical Park. On Oct. 23 and 24, folks will gather there to celebrate **Texian Market Days**. Texas history comes alive with costumed interpreters and volunteers presenting vignettes of daily life and heroic moments from Stephen F. Austin's colony (1830s) through the Great Depression and World War II (1940s), along with old-time tunes, an antique tractor show and pull, and regional arts and crafts. For more information, call (281) 343-0218 or visit [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org).

Ancient oak trees, lakes, and marshes abound in the 4,987 acres of Brazos River bottomlands that make up **Brazos Bend State Park**. The park teems with wildlife and provides the perfect environment for picnicking, camping, biking, bird watching, hiking, or simply enjoying nature. Located within the park, the **George Observatory and Challenger Center** offers magnificent stargazing through its 36-inch-wide telescope — the largest in the nation available for public use (a real treat for school groups and tours). Information: (979) 553-5101, [www.brazosbend.org](http://www.brazosbend.org).

For more activities, events and fun things to do in Fort Bend County, visit the Fort Bend Convention & Visitors Services Web site at [www.visitfortbend.com](http://www.visitfortbend.com). ■

## FORT BEND COUNTY INFORMATION

### ACCOMMODATIONS

**STAFFORD**  
**COMFORT SUITES**  
 4820 Techniplex Dr., (800) 238-5150  
**HAMPTON INN**  
 4714 Techniplex Dr., (281) 565-0559  
**HOMWOOD SUITES**  
 4520 Techniplex Dr., (281) 265-2760  
**LA QUINTA INN**  
 12727 Southwest Fwy., (281) 240-2300  
**SLEEP INN SUITES**  
 4810 Alpine Dr., (281) 494-2900  
**STUDIO 6**  
 12827 Southwest Fwy., (281) 240-6900

### SUGAR LAND

**BEST WESTERN**  
 6330 E. Riverpark Dr., (281) 232-0680  
**DRURY INN & SUITES**  
 13770 Southwest Fwy., (800) 378-7946  
**EXTENDED STAY HOTELS**  
 13420 Southwest Fwy., (281) 494-6699  
**HILTON GARDEN INN**  
 722 Bonaventure Way, (281) 491-7777  
**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**  
 14444 Southwest Fwy., (800) 329-7466, (281) 565-6655  
**SUGAR LAND MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER AT TOWN SQUARE**  
 16090 City Walk, (281) 275-8400

### ROSENBERG

**COMFORT INN**  
 3555 Hwy. 36 S., (800) 228-5150  
**DAYS INN**  
 26010 Southwest Fwy., (800) DAYS INN  
**LA QUINTA INN & SUITES**  
 28332 Southwest Fwy., (832) 565-6111

### ATTRACTIONS

**BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK**  
 21901 FM 762 in Needville, (979) 553-5101, (979) 553-5122

**GEORGE OBSERVATORY AND CHALLENGER CENTER**  
 21901 FM 762 in Needville, (281) 242-3055  
**GEORGE MEMORIAL GENEALOGICAL COLLECTIONS**  
 1001 Golfview Dr., Richmond, (281) 341-2608, (281) 242-3055  
**GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK**  
 10215 FM 762, Richmond, (281) 343-0218, [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org)  
**RICHMOND HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 (281) 342-1256

### SPORTS AND RECREATION

**AERODROME ICE SKATING COMPLEX**  
 16225 Lexington Blvd., (281) 265-RINK  
**THE HOUSTONIAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**  
 12600 Houstonian Dr., Richmond, (281) 340-7278  
**SIENNA PLANTATION GOLF CLUB**  
 One Waters Lake Blvd., Missouri City, (281) 778-4653

### SHOPPING

**DOWNTOWN ROSENBERG**  
 For an antique shopping brochure, call (281) 342-7722  
**FIRST COLONY MALL**  
 16535 Southwest Fwy., (281) 265-6123  
**THE FOUNTAINS ON THE LAKE**  
 Corporate Dr. Exit off Southwest Fwy., Stafford, (713) 784-1082  
**SUGAR LAND TOWN SQUARE**  
 City Walk at Highway 6, [www.sugarlandtownsquare.com](http://www.sugarlandtownsquare.com)

### VISITOR INFORMATION

**FORT BEND CONVENTION AND VISITORS SERVICES**  
 445 Commerce Green Blvd., Sugar Land, (281) 491-0800, [www.visitfortbend.com](http://www.visitfortbend.com)  
**FORT BEND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
 (281) 342-6171  
**SUGAR LAND CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION**  
 (281) 491-0211  
**ROSENBERG CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**  
 (832) 595-3524, [www.rosenbergtourism.com](http://www.rosenbergtourism.com)



# GALVESTON ISLAND

A beachside retreat rich with heritage and culture, Galveston Island exudes a gracious charm.



The shops and restaurants in The Strand all occupy historic buildings. The vibe is quaint and the district has much to do — including The Grand 1894 Opera House and dinner favorite Rudy & Pacos — only a few blocks.

Galveston's resurgence since last season's hurricane demonstrates its resilience and yes-we-can spirit. As far back as 1900, the city proved that no hurricane could discourage its progress — a sentiment commemorated by local artist David Moore's sculpture on the seawall, *Place of Remembrance*. The multimedia presentation *The Great Storm* shows and tells the whole story at **Pier 21 Theatre**.

Galvestonians are proud of their island paradise — only an hour's drive from Houston — and eager to show off its charms to visitors. Fishermen, surfers, birdwatchers, and sandcastle architects find the beach a pleasing respite.

The island has the special ability to mingle its rich heritage with new and exciting family adventures. Notorious pirates including Jean Lafitte once

walked along these shores, where an impressive seawall now holds back the tide — and some say they hid their treasures here. Today, visitors easily enjoy treasures of a more contemporary age. Here, the world's longest mural stretches 2.5 miles between 27th and 61st streets along Seawall Boulevard, a few feet from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Victorian-era residences such as **Bishop's Palace** on Broadway — a castle-like structure cited by the American Institute of Architects as one of the 100 most important buildings in America. The Galveston Historical Foundation annually hosts a Historic Homes Tour in late spring, but visitors can view and enjoy the architectural treasures every day.

Galveston's historic district, **The Strand**, is a great destination for shopping, dining, museums, and galleries — conveniently located near the Cruise Ship Terminal. Want to take home your own memento of Galveston's history? The island boasts more than 20 antique shops ideal for scoping out vintage collectibles. **The Galveston Island Railroad Museum** in this area is a popular draw for railroad enthusiasts.

Postoffice Street is known for its abundant art galleries (call 409-763-2403 for details). The street also houses **The Grand 1894 Opera House**, which has weathered a century of storms and is now fully restored. One of the few remaining great theatres of its era, it holds a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. Call (800) 821-1894 or go to [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

The opposite end of the island offers adventures of a different sort. Explore the wonders of nature housed under Moody Gardens' three glass pyramids, enjoy its manmade white sand beach, or find a thrilling visual adventure in one of its 3- and 4-D IMAX theatres and RideFilm attraction. Accommodations,

fine dining, and luxurious spa treatments are steps away at the **Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center**. Call (800) 582-4673 or visit [www.moosygardens.com](http://www.moosygardens.com).

Other overnight accommodations in Galveston range from budget-friendly motels to luxury resorts, historic hotels, condominiums, and charming bed and breakfasts. Call the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau at (409) 763-4311, toll-free at (888) 425-4753, or visit [www.galvestoncvb.com](http://www.galvestoncvb.com).

While on the island, stop by one of the Galveston Island Visitors Centers: inside Ashton Villa at 2328 Broadway and downtown at 2215 Strand. ■



Galveston's grandest and best-known building, Bishop's Palace was cited as one of the most important buildings in America.

# REDISCOVER

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Galveston Island has always been rich in history, tradition, natural beauty and resiliency. In fact, many consider the Island an unbreakable treasure on the Texas Gulf Coast.

This summer, come enjoy 32 miles of sun-drenched beaches, penguins at Moody Gardens, shopping in the Historic Downtown Strand District or an afternoon on the links.

Stop by our Visitor Information Center at 2328 Broadway and let our friendly staff help you experience all that Galveston Island has to offer!

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[www.galveston.com](http://www.galveston.com)

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Book by August 31, 2009. Inclusions are per stay based on a minimum 3 night stay and have no cash value. The resort credit at The San Luis is a one time credit that may be applied to dining, retail, cabana rental, Treasure Island Kid's Club or spa/salon services located at The San Luis during stay. The Food and Beverage Dining credit at the Galveston Island Hilton may be used at the Palm Court Restaurant, The Bar, Coconut Pool Grill and Pool Bar and may only be redeemed after check-in. Guest must charge inclusions to room folio and will be credited upon check-out. If amount of credit is not used, change/credit will not be provided. We are unable to guarantee specific room types and locations, however a sincere effort will be made to accommodate your needs. Rates are subject to change and restricted dates apply. This promotion is non-transferable, subject to availability, may not be combined with any other San Luis Resort, Galveston Island Hilton or Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach promotion and is not available to groups or persons attending meetings or conventions or over certain blocked-out dates. All prices are subject to tax and/or handling fee and based on double occupancy on a per-stay basis.



# BAY AREA HOUSTON



Explore space, sample fresh seafood, cruise warm Gulf waters, and enjoy a relaxing Gulf Coast sunset.



Indicates a CityPass attraction. See Visitor Center, page 28, or visit [www.VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://www.VisitHoustonTexas.com) to purchase your CityPass. Coordinates (9J, etc.) refer to the map on page 8. Call ahead to confirm events and hours.

Residents and businesses of Bay Area Houston rallied to return to the vibrant region in the wake of last September's hurricane. Attractions and amenities began recovery immediately and, as a result, doors reopened within days of the storm's passing. Log on to [www.visitbayareahouston.com](http://www.visitbayareahouston.com) and the Web sites of the attractions before you visit.

## Come Sail Away

As the "Boating Capital of Texas," Clear Lake — a 2,000-acre inlet of Galveston Bay and the third largest pleasure boat basin in the United States — is the focal point of Bay Area Houston. Boat tours and charters range from 20-minute, open-deck rides to four-hour dinner cruises aboard air-conditioned yachts. Step aboard a schooner for a pirate ship adventure or enjoy a nostalgic voyage on an old-fashioned paddle wheeler.

## Experience a Birding and Ecotourism Paradise

Located on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, Bay Area Houston is an ecotourism haven — and a rest stop for North American migratory birds traveling the Central Flyway. Purple gallinule, red-headed woodpecker, great white pelican, and the once-endangered brown pelican are among the variety you can see along local trails and in birdwatching parks. The 2,500-acre **Armand Bayou Nature Center** wildlife preserve is home to more than 370 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Explore trails and see how deer, armadillos, bobcats, snakes, alligators, frogs, birds, and others rely on wetland, forest, and prairie environments for survival.



## Explore the Gateway to the Universe

NASA-Johnson Space Center houses mission control and the official training facility for astronauts. Witness the excite-



Coastal birds like this pelican agree that the Bay Area is great for fishing.

ment of space exploration at **Space Center Houston**, NASA's official visitor's center. Part science theme park and part space-travel museum, it offers adventure for all ages. Enjoy exhibitions, IMAX films, mock spacecraft, hands-on activities, and a behind-the-scenes tram tour. For discount tickets, call Bay Area Houston Visitors Center, (800) 844-LAKE (5253).

## Tempt Your Palate

Every meal in Bay Area Houston can be a succulent experience. Eateries from casual to elegant present fresh-from-the-Gulf seafood. Barbecue restaurants and steakhouses join other world cuisines, including Italian, Thai, and South American, offering an array dining options.

## Shop 'til You Drop

**Kemah Lighthouse District** offers delightful browsing amid eclectic cottage shops in the heart of Kemah, only steps from Kemah Boardwalk.

**La Porte's Main Street** features many artisan shops on a historic street. Historic League City along 518 East off Interstate 45 South boasts beautiful oak trees along Main Street with late 19th and early 20th century houses converted into shops and eateries.

**Old Seabrook** offers the opportunity to walk among antique and specialty shops. Visit the seafood markets along the bay.

**Webster** hosts an ever-growing shopping corridor along Interstate 45 and Bay Area Boulevard featuring 200 retail outlets.

**Baybrook Mall**, at Exit 27 on Interstate 45 South, has more than 170 merchants, including four major department stores.

## Find Adventure at Local Attractions

Explore Texas history at the **San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site**, featuring the 570-foot San Jacinto Monument, marking where Texans won independence from Mexico in 1836. Battleship *Texas* is docked where the battleground meets the Houston Ship Channel. Commissioned in 1914, the *Texas* served in World Wars I and II and was the first U.S. battleship established as a floating museum.

Wine lovers will savor a tour of **Haak Vineyards & Winery**, where visitors enjoy free tastings and vineyard tours.

## Family Fun With Accommodations for All

With more than 37 hotels, 15 bed & breakfasts or guest houses, Bay Area Houston has accommodations for every budget. If you have romance and adventure on your mind, consider boat-and-breakfast lodging. If you're bringing your house with you, select a scenic RV Park.



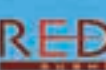
# FAMILY FUN!

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- C.P. Huntington Train
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The Kemah Boardwalk and Rainforest Cafe are wholly owned by Landry's Restaurants, Inc.



When planning your trip to Bay Area Houston, let the Bay Area Houston CVB hospitality staff assist you in finding sights to see and places to stay. Call the Bay Area Houston CVB at (800) 844-5253 or visit [www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com](http://www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com).

## The Cities of Bay Area Houston

All of the amenities on the previous page are in the cities that make up Bay Area Houston: Webster, Nassau Bay, League City, Kemah, Seabrook, La Porte, and Clear Lake City.

**Webster** features an abundance of shopping, dining, and entertainment. You'll find more than 100 restaurants — American, Mexican, Italian, Japanese, German, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mongolian, and Brazilian — as well as 13 hotels, top-name retailers, and various options for family fun. (888) 805-9000; [www.cityofwebster.com](http://www.cityofwebster.com).

**Nassau Bay** was one of the first communities developed to support the space programs. It rests along the shores of Clear Lake, with plenty of boating and water-sport activities from the Nassau Bay Marina located directly across from the Johnson Space Center. Located in Nassau Bay, Arts Alliance Center offers free art exhibitions, performances, refreshments, and a bookstore/gift shop. A few doors down,

visit the Clear Creek Country Theatre. (281) 333-4211; [www.nassaubay.com](http://www.nassaubay.com).

**League City** is home to a four-star resort, three golf courses, marinas, museums, historical houses, restaurants, and shopping. Its luxuriously planned development, South Shore Harbour, overlooks a yacht-filled marina and is a destination for business and great vacation experiences. (281) 338-7339; [www.visitleaguecity.com](http://www.visitleaguecity.com).

**Kemah** on Galveston Bay is named for the Karankawa Indian word for “wind in the face.” The Kemah Boardwalk offers the Boardwalk Bullet, a wooden roller coaster; Ferris wheel; The Red Train; and nine other rides, as well as dancing fountains, an interactive Sting Ray Reef, midway games, live music every weekend, and great seafood. (281) 334-3181; [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com).

The **Seabrook** village offers a retreat with nature excursions, hiking, biking, and birding. Many businesses sport whimsical fiberglass eight-foot pelican sculptures, collectively known as the Pelican Path Project honoring the return of the area's brown pelican. (866) 611-4688; [www.seabrooktourism.com](http://www.seabrooktourism.com).

Stroll along **La Porte's** historic Main Street. Enjoy the Gulf breeze at Sylvan Beach Park, a 32-acre county area along the coast known for its resort and dance

pavilion established in the early 1930s. Anglers seek Sylvan Beach Park for its lighted fishing pier stretching a quarter mile into Galveston Bay. (281) 471-5020; [www.laportetx.gov](http://www.laportetx.gov).

## Bay Area Houston Official Visitor Center

Whether looking for a romantic getaway or a fun-filled family vacation, start planning through the Bay Area Houston Visitor Information Center. Located on Interstate 45 South at NASA Parkway, it offers lodging, dining, shopping, and attractions information, as well as maps, coupons, discount tickets to Space Center Houston, Kemah Boardwalk all-day ride passes, and Schlitterbahn and souvenirs. Call (800) 844-LAKE (5253) or visit [www.visitbayareahouston.com](http://www.visitbayareahouston.com).

## Information on Area Cities

**Kemah** (281) 334-3181, [www.kemah-tx.gov](http://www.kemah-tx.gov)  
**La Porte** (281) 471-5020, [www.laportetx.gov](http://www.laportetx.gov)  
**League City** (281) 338-7339  
[www.visitleaguecity.com](http://www.visitleaguecity.com)  
**Nassau Bay** (281) 333-4211  
[www.nassaubay.com](http://www.nassaubay.com)  
**Seabrook** (866) 611-4688  
[www.seabrooktourism.com](http://www.seabrooktourism.com)  
**Webster** (888) 805-9000  
[www.cityofwebster.com](http://www.cityofwebster.com) ■

## BAY AREA EVENTS



The Kemah Boardwalk offers more fun and great food per square foot than almost any other Gulf Coast destination.

**Wednesday nights through October**, catch the wind in your sails or watch from shore as the **Clear Lake Racing Association** launches races for amateur and professional sailors. 6:15 p.m. start time at Club Classic, 2315 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. (281) 468-6909 or [www.clearlakeracing.com](http://www.clearlakeracing.com).

**Every Thursday night through Aug. 27**, Kemah Boardwalk presents **Rock the Dock** with a variety of live music from 6:30 to 10:15 p.m. For a list of bands, call (877) AT-KEMAH or visit [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com).

**Every Friday night**, see an outstanding display of fireworks reflected in the bay at Kemah Boardwalk. 9:30 p.m.

**Friday nights, June 5, July 3, and Aug. 7**, Take a **Prairie Night Ride** with guides from the Armand Bayou Nature Center at dusk, just as the wildlife — deer, owls, raccoons,

# Destination: Nassau Bay



Whether you are planning a major event or a weekend meeting – Nassau Bay offers the perfect combination of waterfront facilities, proximity to major airports, exceptional hospitality, spa-like relaxation and truly unique activities.

We are your gateway to Space Center Houston/NASA, world-renowned fishing, Ballunar Liftoff Festival, Clear Lake water sports, Wings Over Houston Airshow, Armand Bayou Nature Center and The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake.

Nassau Bay is convenient to Galveston Beaches, Moody Gardens, Gulf Greyhound Park, Kemah Restaurants & Boardwalk and other attractions that make the Bay Area Houston's most popular destination.

***Hold your next great event in Nassau Bay, Texas.***



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to stay in  
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## BAY AREA EVENTS CONTINUED

armadillo and rabbits — begin to emerge. 8-9:30 p.m. (281) 474-2551 or [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org).

**Saturdays, June-August: Free Bluegrass Music Show and Jam Session** with door prizes, raffles, and food. 7 p.m. at Johnny Arolfo Civic Center, 300 W. Walker, League City. (409) 935-0206. [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org).

**Every Saturday this summer**, enjoy a leisurely continental **Breakfast On The Bayou** aboard the pontoon boat *Bayou Ranger* as you learn about wildlife in the Armand Bayou Nature Center. The hour-and-a-half tour leaves at 8 a.m. from the Bay Area Park boat dock in Pasadena. Reservations required. (281) 474-2551 or [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org).

**Through June 14: Moonlight and Magnolias** at Clear Creek Country Theatre, 18091 Upper Bay Road, Nassau Bay. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m., Sunday matinee

at 2:30 p.m. (281) 335-5228. [www.clearcreekcountrytheatre.org](http://www.clearcreekcountrytheatre.org).

**June 6:** See elaborately crafted sand sculptures at the **23rd Annual AIA Sandcastle Competition**, East Beach, Galveston. (713) 520-0155. [www.aiasandcastle.com](http://www.aiasandcastle.com).

**June 11:** A 6:30-8:30 p.m. reception marks the opening of the **2009 Open Doors Series: Summer Juried Exhibition** at the Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. (281) 335-7777. [www.taaccl.org](http://www.taaccl.org).

**June 21:** Make a Toast to Dad at the **Summertime Festival**. 1 p.m. at Haak Vineyards & Winery, 6310 Ave. T, Santa Fe. (409) 925-1401. [www.haakwine.com](http://www.haakwine.com).

**Throughout July:** Celebrate the **Lunar Rendezvous Festival** in the Clear Lake/Bay area with events including a golf tournament, fun run, fashion show, tennis tournament, family fun night, and a coronation ball. The nonprofit event honors achievements in space exploration and raises money for scholarships, museums,

libraries, and local arts groups. [www.lunarendezvous.org](http://www.lunarendezvous.org).

**July 4:** Enjoy the celebration of America's independence — from either the Kemah Boardwalk or aboard a dinner cruise. Fireworks begin after 9 p.m. Call (281) 538-9600 or visit [www.thebigwhiteboat.com](http://www.thebigwhiteboat.com).

**July 5: Celebrate America Festival** begins at 1 p.m. at Haak Vineyards & Winery.

**July 11:** Sip a little at an Old-World-themed **Harvest Festival**. 9 a.m. Haak Vineyards & Winery.

**Aug. 1:** Samba to the sounds of the second annual **Salsa Beats Festival**, featuring some of the best salsa and Latin jazz at Kemah Boardwalk.

**Aug. 20 through October:** See *Flotsam and Jetsam*, an art exhibition inspired by Hurricane Ike that opens with a reception Aug. 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. (281) 335-7777. [www.taaccl.org](http://www.taaccl.org).

**Visit [www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com](http://www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com) for an updated list of events.**

## BAY AREA: WHERE TO STAY

### HOTELS

**America's Best Value Inn & Suites** 1568 Live Oak Street, Webster, (281) 338-9400.

**Best Western** 705 Hwy. 146 S., La Porte, (281) 471-4040.

**Best Western/NASA-Space Center** NASA 889 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster, (281) 338-6000, (800) 528-1234, [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com).

**Boardwalk Inn #8 Kemah Boardwalk** (281) 334-9880, [www.kemah.com](http://www.kemah.com).

**Candlewood Suites – Houston/Clear Lake** 2737 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, (281) 461-3060, (888) CANDLEW, [www.candlewoodsuites.com](http://www.candlewoodsuites.com).

**Comfort Inn & Suites/NASA** 2901 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook, (281) 326-3301, (866) 868-3301, [www.comfortinnnasa.com](http://www.comfortinnnasa.com).

**Comfort Suites** 902 S. 8th St., La Porte, (281) 842-9200.

**Comfort Suites/Webster** 16931 N. Texas, Webster, (281) 554-5400, (877) 424-6423.

**Days Inn & Suites/NASA** 750 W. NASA Pkwy., Webster, (281) 332-1001, (800) 228-5150.

**Days Inn & Suites – Kemah** 1411 Hwy. 146, Kemah, (281) 538-0077, [www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com).

**Econolodge** 904 E. NASA Pkwy., Houston, (281) 333-3737, [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com).

**Edgewater Inn** 1447 Bayshore Kemah, (281) 334-4141, (800) 423-6288, [www.edgewaterinnkemah.com](http://www.edgewaterinnkemah.com).

**Extended Stay America** 1410 NASA Pkwy., Houston, (281) 333-9494, (800) EXT-STAY, [www.extendedstay.com](http://www.extendedstay.com).

**Extended Stay Houston NASA** 720 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster, (281) 338-7711, (800) 444-8888, [www.extendedstayhotels.com](http://www.extendedstayhotels.com).

**Fairway Inn** 902 S. Hwy. 146, La Porte, (281) 470-2800.

**Garden Suites** 107 N. 8th St., La Porte, (281) 867-9944.

**Hampton Inn – Seabrook** 3000 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook, (281) 532-9200, (800) HAMPTON, [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com).

**Hampton Inn & Suites – Clear Lake/NASA** 506 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster, (281) 332-7952, (800) HAMPTON, [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com).

**Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake** 3000 NASA Pkwy., Houston, (281) 333-9300, (800) 445-8667, [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com).

**Holiday Inn Express** 908 W. "G" St., La Porte, (281) 842-9888.

**Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites** 2720 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook, (281) 326-7200, (800) 736-0092, [www.hiexpress.com/hou-seabrook](http://www.hiexpress.com/hou-seabrook).

**Homewood Suites by Hilton** 401 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, (281) 486-7677, (800) CALL-HOME, [www.homewood-suites.com](http://www.homewood-suites.com).

**Howard Johnson Houston NASA-Clear Lake** 15313 Gulf Fwy., Houston, (281) 484-1500, (800) 951-STAY.

**InTown Suites** 480 W. Bay Area Blvd., Webster, (281) 554-9552, [www.intownsuites.com](http://www.intownsuites.com).

**Kemah Escape** 617 Ninth St., Kemah, (281) 538-3200, [www.kemahescape.com](http://www.kemahescape.com).

**LaQuinta-Seabrook** 3636 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook, (281) 326-7300, (800) 531-5900, [www.laquinta.com](http://www.laquinta.com).

**La Quinta Inn & Suites/Webster (All Suites)** 520 West Bay Area Blvd., Webster, (281) 554-5290, (800) 531-5900, [www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com).

**La Quinta La Porte** 1105 Hwy. 146 S., La Porte, (281) 470-0760, fax: (281) 471-2116.

**Marriott Residence Inn** 525 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, (281) 486-2424, [www.residenceinn.com](http://www.residenceinn.com).

**Marriott Towneplace Suites** 1050 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, (281) 286-2152, (800) MARRIOTT, [www.townplacesuites.com](http://www.townplacesuites.com).

**Microtel Inn & Suites** 1620 NASA Pkwy., Houston, (281) 335-0800, (888) 771-7171, [www.microtelinn.com](http://www.microtelinn.com).

**Motel 6** 1001 W. NASA Pkwy., Webster, (281) 332-4581, (800) 466-8356, [www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com).

**Oxford Inn & Suites** 915 NASA Pkwy., Webster, (281) 316-2003, (800) 446-4656.

**Passport Inn** 601 Texas Ave., Kemah, (281) 334-4855, (800) 251-1962, [www.passportinnkemah-houston.com](http://www.passportinnkemah-houston.com).

**South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center** 2500 South Shore Blvd., League City, (281) 334-1000, (800) 442-5005, [www.sshr.com](http://www.sshr.com).

**Staybridge Suites** 501 W. Texas Ave., Webster, (281) 338-0900, (800) 225-1237, [www.staybridge.com](http://www.staybridge.com).

**Super 8 Motel – League City** 102 Hobbs Rd., League City, (281) 338-0800, (800) 800-8000, [www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com).

**Super 8 Motel – NASA** 18103 Kings Row, Houston, (281) 333-5385, (800) 800-8000, [www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com).

**Value Place La Porte** (weekly rentals only), 1506 W. Fairmont Pkwy., La Porte, (281) 471-6600.

### BED & BREAKFASTS

**A White Texas Pelican** 408A Bay Ave., Kemah, (281) 538-3900, (866) 538-3900, [www.ahwhitetexaspelican.com](http://www.ahwhitetexaspelican.com).

**Back Bay B&B** 1401 Second St., Seabrook, (281) 474-3869, [www.backbaybnb.com](http://www.backbaybnb.com).

**Beacon Hill Guest House & B&B** 3705 NASA Pkwy., Seabrook, (281) 326-7643, [www.visitbeaconhill.com](http://www.visitbeaconhill.com).

**Clipper House Inn** 710 Bradford, Kemah, (866) 887-3534, [www.clipperhouseinn.com](http://www.clipperhouseinn.com).

**Courtesy Inn** 909 Kipp Ave., Kemah, (281) 538-9648, [www.courtesyinn.net](http://www.courtesyinn.net).

**Heron House Guest House** 603 Sixth St., Kemah, (281) 334-4466, [www.kemahheronhouse.com](http://www.kemahheronhouse.com).

**Kemah Bay Breeze** (Guest House) 1325 Kipp St., Kemah, (713) 906-1186, (888) 425-0152, [www.kemahbaybreeze.com](http://www.kemahbaybreeze.com).

**The John Kipp House** 707 Seventh St., Kemah, (281) 334-3636, [www.kemah.net/kipphouse.html](http://www.kemah.net/kipphouse.html).

**Lighthouse Charters Boat & Breakfast** Kemah Boardwalk Marina B-47, Kemah, (713) 822-0825, (877) 202-4454.

**The Old Parsonage Guest Houses I & II** 1113 Hall St. and 1109 Hardesty St., Seabrook (713) 206-1105, [www.seabrookaccommodation.com](http://www.seabrookaccommodation.com).

**Palm Lodge B&B** 1010 Milby St., Seabrook, (281) 291-7513, [www.visitpalmldodge.com](http://www.visitpalmldodge.com).

**Seaside Inn** 503 Bay Ave., Kemah, (281) 334-3636, [www.seasideinnkemah.com](http://www.seasideinnkemah.com).

**Book online at [www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com](http://www.VisitBayAreaHouston.com)**

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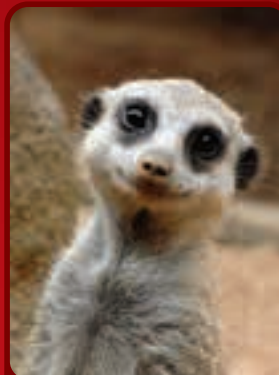
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