



WHY VISIT

HOUSTON



ENTERTAINMENT

Houston culture takes center stage. The sprawling downtown Theater District spans 17 blocks and has nearly 13,000 seats nestled amid the skyscrapers. Here, visitors and locals can enjoy a stunning variety of performing arts that might not be found anywhere else. Houston is one of only five cities in the country with permanent professional companies in all of the major performing arts disciplines—opera, ballet, symphony, and theater. Catch these shows at several premier theater venues, including Alley Theatre, Jones Hall, Wortham Theater Center, and Hobby Center for the Performing Arts—all conveniently located within a block of each other.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Unforgettable events? Nobody does them better than Houston! With such a diverse community, you're sure to find something new to try every weekend—from the world's largest livestock show and rodeo every February to the way the art community shines every April during the Houston Art Car Parade. Experience the way the city celebrates the LGBT community every June during Pride Houston or the way its diversity comes to life during festivals celebrating cultures ranging from Greek to Caribbean to Armenian. When the holiday season rolls around, you'll find a cozy place to try tamales, chow down on German Christmas treats, and even shop with a mimosa in hand at festivals that are sure to leave you merry and bright.



MUSEUMS

Houston is one of the most culturally rich destinations in the country, with more than 150 museums. In fact, it has an entire district devoted solely to these institutions of discovery and fun. Just southwest of downtown is the pedestrian-friendly Museum District, with 4 walkable zones connected by METRO light rail and BCycle stations, where more than 8.7 million visitors explore each year. The tree-lined neighborhood is home to the nation's sixth largest art museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, plus many free museums like The Menil Collection and DiverseWorks. There are even "free days" every Thursday at Houston Museum of Natural Science, Children's Museum of Houston and more.



SHOPPING

From antiques and bargain hunting to designer labels and cool thrift store finds, there's something to satisfy everyone's sense of style in Houston. The quintessential Houston shopping experience begins at The Galleria, an international shopping destination that draws more than 24 million visitors each year. Bargain hunters will find exceptional discounts at Houston Premium Outlets, Tanger Factory Outlet Center, and Katy Mills. You can also find unique antiques, Houston specialties, and vintage finds among the shops of Montrose. One thing is for sure—you won't leave Houston without a few new pieces for your closet and some incredible one-of-a-kind souvenirs.



CULINARY

Did you know that Houston restaurants represent cuisines from over 70 countries and many American regions? The city has more than 10,000 restaurants and 600 bars which showcase a diversity of epicurean creations to residents and visitors alike. In Houston, cuisine runs the gamut from divine dives to delectable dining, with a long list of restaurants that are frequent fixtures on many 'best of' lists. As the most diverse city in the nation, it shouldn't come as a surprise that Houston has developed its own distinct character, influenced by a tapestry of cultures. It is because of this diversity that fusion cuisine comprises such a large part of our dietary landscape. From Japanese tapas to Viet-Cajun, Houston is becoming famous for combining flavors that are greater than the sum of their ingredients!



MARKETPLACE

Calling all space explorers, history buffs, and thrill-seekers! The Houston Marketplace is your one-stop shop for all the wonders of Houston. Purchase brewery passes, culinary tours, museum passes, and more with tickets delivered straight to your phone. Light up the night with a holiday light tour in the winter months and set sail with a private catamaran cruise during the summer. Sip and savor the flavors of America's most culturally diverse city with brewery, distillery, and culinary tours. Blast off with discounted Space Center tickets, and enjoy unparalleled sunsets at Kemah Boardwalk & Pleasure Pier. Regardless of how you choose to experience Houston, fun is at your fingertips with the Houston Marketplace.



TRANSPORTATION

Houston's METRORail spans 23 miles in the most condensed areas of the city, including Museum District, East End, Medical Center, and more. One of the best ways to explore Houston's neighborhoods is by bicycle using the city's bike share program—Houston BCycle. Find one of 635 bikes at 90 different stations around the city for fresh air and a fresh perspective.



PARKS

Houston might be one of the largest urban areas in the country, but it ranks among the nation's top ten in total acreage of parkland. Houston has 52,912 acres of total park space, with 23.6 acres per 1,000 residents. Hermann Park is one of Houston's shining natural jewels, a 445-acre urban park packed with activities, from a pond for paddle boating to miles of walking trails to an outdoor amphitheater for live performances. Other notable green spaces include Discovery Green, a 12-acre oasis in the midst of Downtown, and Buffalo Bayou, a 52-mile stretch of water that has helped Houston thrive as a commercial hub throughout the years.



SPORTS SEASONS



RUGBY
JAN - JUN



SOCCER
FEB - OCT



SOCCER
MAR - SEP



BASEBALL
APR - OCT



FOOTBALL
SEP - FEB



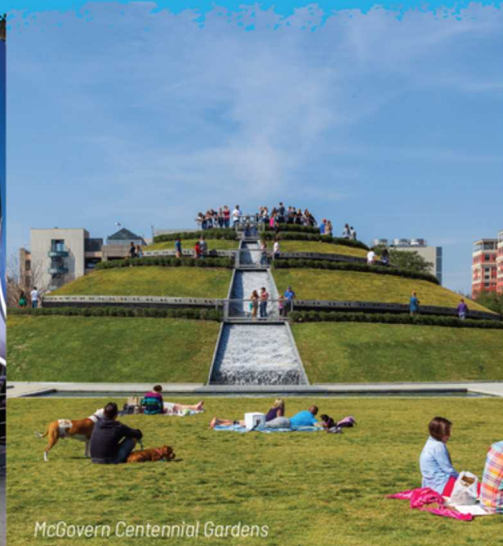
BASKETBALL
OCT - MAY



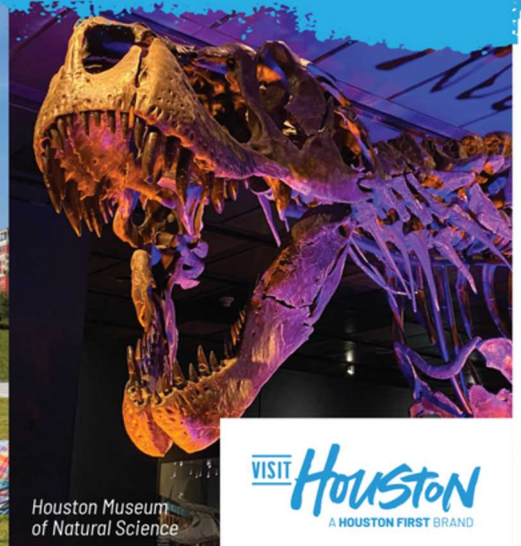
Get in Touch
& Explore More



Johnson Space Center



McGovern Centennial Gardens



Houston Museum
of Natural Science

VISIT **HOUSTON**
A HOUSTON FIRST BRAND