

Houston

NASA's Space Center, a 19-museum district and the biggest food scene in Texas

Houston is the fourth-largest city in America and the most diverse, with 145 languages spoken, the biggest medical centre in the world, NASA's Mission Control and a Museum District of 19 institutions in a square mile. It is flat, sprawling and humid — go inside in the day and out at night. The food, from brisket to Viet-Cajun crawfish, is the best in Texas.

At a glance

AIRPORT	IAH (Bush Intercontinental) or HOU (Hobby)
BEST SEASON	Mar-May and Oct-Nov; summer is 35°C+ humid
GETTING AROUND	Car essential · light rail on Main Street

When to go

March to May and October to November are warm and bearable. Summer (June–September) is hot and humid at 35°C+. Winter is mild; January is the quietest month.

Getting around

A car is essential — Houston is 1,700 km² with no comprehensive transit. The METRORail Red Line connects downtown, Midtown, the Museum District and NRG Stadium. Parking is free at most museums on Thursdays.

What to see

Space Center Houston	NASA's visitor complex: Mission Control, the Saturn V and the astronaut tram tour.
Museum District	19 museums in a square mile: the MFAH, the Menil, the Holocaust Museum and the Zoo.
Buffalo Bayou Park	A 160-hectare river park with bike paths, the Waugh bat colony and kayak hire.
The Heights	Victorian bungalows, craft breweries and 19th Street vintage.
Montrose	The alternative strip: galleries, vintage and patios.
Midtown	Viet-Cajun crawfish boils and late-night patios.
Galveston	45 min south: a barrier island with 51 km of beach and the 1894 Opera House.
The Galleria	Texas's biggest mall — 400 stores and an indoor ice rink.

Tours worth booking

Space Center Houston admission with NASA tram	4–6 h · Culture · 4.8/5 (6420 reviews)
Houston Museum District self-guided pass	Full day · Culture · 4.7/5 (1460 reviews)
Galveston Island day trip from Houston	6 h · Boat & beach · 4.5/5 (1240 reviews)
Fort Worth Stockyards cattle drive and rodeo	3 h · Culture · 4.7/5 (2840 reviews)
San Antonio River Walk boat cruise	35 min · Boat & beach · 4.6/5 (5180 reviews)
San Antonio Missions bike tour	4 h · Adventure · 4.9/5 (1240 reviews)

Where to stay

The Post Oak Hotel	Houston · Uptown · Luxury · From \$420
Hotel ZaZa Houston	Houston · Museum District · Design · From \$280
The Lancaster Hotel	Houston · Downtown · Boutique · From \$320
Hotel ICON, Houston	Houston · Downtown · Design · From \$240
Four Seasons Houston	Houston · Downtown · Luxury · From \$380
Houston Marriott Marquis	Houston · Downtown · Business · From \$180

Day-by-day itineraries

Houston in 1 day	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/houston/1-day-itinerary
Houston in 2 days	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/houston/2-day-itinerary
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