

HOUSTON

As the 4th largest city in the U.S., Houston, Texas is a leader in business, entertainment, the arts, and more. From professional sports to outdoor fun to an out-of-this-world space experience and incredible dining - it's all here! SpaceCity offers everything from breathtaking museum exhibits to vibrant downtown entertainment. Explore the wonder of space or spend the day shopping to your heart's content. Come and you'll understand why it is a city of infinite possibilities.

Houston has emerged as one of the great cities of the 21st century. A large, cosmopolitan city with a small town feel, Houston is unique among other major cities due to its southern hospitality and can-do attitude.



Houston's Size

- ★ The Houston City Statistical Area (CSA) covers 12,476 square miles, an area larger than Maryland (12,297 square miles).
- ★ The Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers 10,062 square miles, an area smaller than Maryland but larger than Massachusetts (9,241 square miles).
- ★ At 639 square miles, the City of Houston could contain the cities of New York, Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis and Miami.
- ★ If the 10-county Houston MSA were a state, it would rank 20th in population—it has more than 5.2 million placing it behind Wisconsin and ahead of Minnesota and Colorado.
- ★ If the City of Houston were a state, it would rank 36th in population—its 2,016,582 residents in 2005 placing it behind Nevada (2,414,807) and ahead of New Mexico (1,928,384).

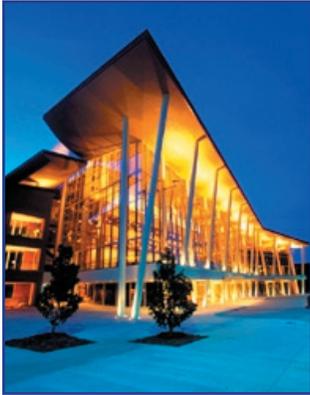
Houston Business and Economy

Although Houston remains the energy capital of the world, the industry has streamlined and redefined itself. The city's history has been intertwined with that of the energy industry since the discovery of oil at Spindletop in East Texas in 1901. Within 10 years, that discovery led to the founding of The Texas Company (now Chevron) and Humble Oil and Refining Company (now ExxonMobil), both with operations based in Houston.

Today, SpaceCity's economy is still based on energy, but to a lesser extent than in the boom days. The city is an industrial, commercial, educational and financial center. Its diverse economy comprises space and science research firms, universities, leading medical facilities, technology companies, telecommunications, shipyards, grain elevators and a wide range of other businesses. The emphasis on international trade is expanding every year, and will be a prominent theme in the city's continued economic development.

Houston Fast Facts

- ★ With more than 14,000 theater seats in a concentrated Theater District, Houston offers a variety of options for theatergoers.



- ★ Houston is one of five cities in the United States with resident companies in the four disciplines of the performing arts-Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony and Alley Theatre. Houston is also home to Theatre Under the Stars and the Society for the Performing Arts.
- ★ Explore a world of art, history and nature in the fourth largest museum district in the United States, featuring 15 world-class museums.
- ★ The Toyota Center, a downtown arena, is home to the Houston Rockets, Comets and Aeros. The facility boasts the city's largest escalator.
- ★ One of the finest baseball parks in America, Minute Maid Park features a retractable roof and is home to the Houston Astros.
- ★ The Downtown Aquarium, an underwater dining and entertainment adventure, features 500,000 gallons of marine life, a live white tiger exhibit, several themed restaurants, a Ferris wheel, boardwalk, dancing fountains and more.
- ★ Houston is a coastal city with some of the country's most diverse saltwater fishing opportunities available in the nearby waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Houston is also surrounded by 1.5 million acres of lakes and 80,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- ★ SpaceCity has more than 43,700 acres of green and growing city parks.
- ★ The first project of Buffalo Bayou's 30-year master plan will be completed in this year, offering a new lighting system, expanded hike and bike trails and boat tours along the bayou.
- ★ Enjoy Gulf Coast seafood, the great outdoors and the relaxing waters of Clear Lake on the Kemah Boardwalk - just 30 minutes from downtown Houston.
- ★ Head to miles of Galveston's sun-drenched beaches just one hour from downtown Houston.



- ★ Miracles happen daily at the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest healthcare complex. The 42+ non-profit institutions include M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Hermann Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital.

Source: Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, <http://www.vishouston.com>.

