

Unstoppable.

It's been called the "next great American city," and ranked as the nation's "coolest" and "best."

From career opportunities to recreation, from culture to cuisine, the Houston metro area has it all. Living in the region will make you part of a global metropolis where ideas, vision and imagination are welcomed and rewarded.

No matter what you may know about the city, there's always something new to discover. What follows are snapshots of why Houston is a great place to call home.

For details about these and other aspects of Houston, check the Greater Houston Partnership website at www.houston.org.

Houston is the **4TH MOST POPULOUS CITY** in the nation, with an estimated 2.3 million residents within the city limits and more than 6 million living in the greater metro area.

Houston has the **4TH BIGGEST ECONOMY** in the country, with a nominal gross area product of \$522.9 billion.

The Greater Houston area boasts the **3RD LOWEST COST OF LIVING** among the top 20 most populous metro areas in the country.

Houston is home to the Texas Medical Center, **THE WORLD'S LARGEST MEDICAL COMPLEX**. About 106,000 people work within its facilities, including close to 20,000 at MD Anderson alone. Altogether, 7.2 million patients visit TMC institutions each year, with MD Anderson recording more than 1.3 million outpatient clinic visits, treatments and procedures.

TWO MAJOR AIRPORTS serve the Houston area: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). They provide nonstop service to 190 domestic and international destinations on 25 airlines.

Travel + Leisure placed Houston at No. 2 on its **"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CITIES 2014"** list, while Condé Nast Traveler and the Boston Globe put it among their places to visit in 2015.

Because Houston is...

the most racially/ethnically diverse large metro area

— Kinder Institute for Urban Research and Hobby Center for the Study of Texas

best cities for
manufacturing **most competitive**
—Forbes metros in America

top metro area
for women-owned business (by revenue)

—The State of Women-Owned Businesses Report

top destination city
—U-Haul International (5th year in a row)*

the best city in America

—Business Insider



An appetite for the arts and more

The Houston Museum District comprises 19 eclectic member organizations that showcase art, history, culture, nature and science.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, houses nearly 60,000 works from antiquity to the present. It is the largest art museum in the Southwest.

Housed in a gem of modern architecture, The Menil Collection exhibits the renowned permanent collection of John and Dominique de Menil, which includes antiquities, Byzantine icons, ceremonial objects from African and Pacific cultures, and modern and contemporary art. Other museum highlights are the Cy Twombly Gallery and the Dan Flavin Installation.

- The Houston Museum of Natural Science is home to the Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham IMAX Theatre, Morian Hall of Paleontology, the Cockrell Butterfly Center and much more.
- Houston has internationally acclaimed resident companies in drama, ballet, opera and orchestra. A 17-block Downtown Theater District offers arts lovers classical music from the Houston Symphony and Houston Grand Opera, diverse styles of dance from the Houston Ballet, and plenty of live dramatic and musical theater from the Alley Theatre, Broadway Across America, Theatre Under the Stars and the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre, just to name a few. It's second only to New York City with its concentration of seats in one geographic area.
- The 130,000-square-foot Bayou Place entertainment complex includes a variety of restaurants, movie theaters, plazas and parks.
- With more than 11,000 food services and drinking establishments — featuring outstanding regional and traditional American dishes and diverse international cuisine — Houstonians enjoy taking advantage of one of the nation's hottest food scenes. Houston-area restaurants can be found sprinkled throughout national "best of" lists. Several of the most-acclaimed spots are Oxheart, The Pass, Uchi Houston and Underbelly, whose chef, Chris Shepherd, won the 2014 James Beard Foundation Award for Best Chef Southwest.



Museum of Fine Arts, Houston



Underbelly



Via Colori street painting festival



Discovery Green



Buffalo Bayou Park

How green is our city?

It's been estimated there are more than 660 million trees in the Houston region. That's enough trees to remove more than 60,000 tons of pollution from the air annually. But the city is green in other ways as well.

- The Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership hails Houston as the No. 1 municipal purchaser of green power in the nation and a crucial leader in the alternative energy trend. The green power accounts for half of the city's yearly electricity needs.
- Cyclists have access to an interconnected bikeway network of more than 300 miles. There also are more than 128 miles of hike-and-bike trails located within parks and along bayous in the city. There are 45 hike-and-bike trails (more than 228 miles total) in Harris County. Houston Bike Share's B-cycle program provides members access to 225 bikes at 29 stations around the city.
- With more than 360 municipal parks and an additional 220 open-space areas, Houston ranks fifth in the nation in land devoted to parks (more than 52,000 acres).

Explore outside opportunities

Houston's temperate weather allows for outdoor activities year-round. The city has normal daily temperatures ranging from the 40s to 60s in January and the 70s to 90s in July.

- With Galveston Island beaches just 50 miles southeast of Houston, and Surfside beach 60 miles to the south of the city, a day of sand and surf is easily within reach.
- Sam Houston National Forest, one of four national forests in Texas, is just 50 miles north of Houston.
- There are several Texas National Wildlife Refuges in the metro area. More than 620 plant species and 400 vertebrate species have been observed in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Lakes Houston, Conroe and Livingston are all a short drive from the city, and are great destinations for outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, hiking, birding and camping.



Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier

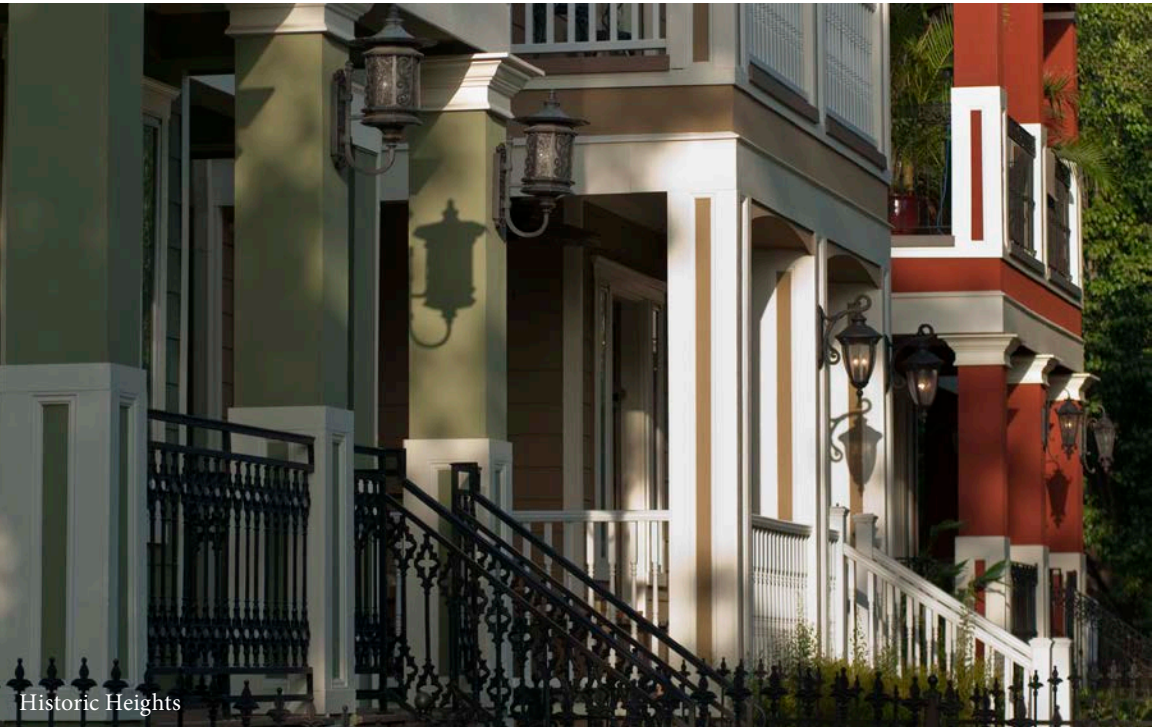
Feeling right at home

Over the years, an abundance of land, lack of zoning and other variables have helped keep Houston housing affordable, and it excels at providing a broad range of competitive housing options.

- Housing costs are almost 34% lower than the average among the 20 most populous metro areas.
- Houston's overall living costs are 5.6% below the nationwide average and more than 17% below the large-metro average.



Downtown Houston



Historic Heights

We mean business

Houston ranks among the top-performing U.S. metro areas for business. It's recognized among the most competitive in the nation for corporate relocation and expansion activity.

- Houston's economy has a broad industrial base in energy, aeronautics and technology. It ranks third among U.S. cities with the most Fortune 500 headquarters. Sixty-three of the 100 largest non-U.S.-based corporations have a presence in Houston.
- Houston recently claimed the top spot on Forbes' list of "America's Fastest-Growing Cities." The business magazine also named the city one of the top 15 Best Places for Business for 2014, and ranked it No. 4 for job growth.
- Houston's economy is diverse, with a mix of public and private employment, companies of all sizes and a dynamic nonprofit community. Though it remains the national and international center of the energy industry, all other sectors account for more than 70% of Houston's net job growth since 1986.
- Houston is a global leader in manufacturing petrochemicals, with the \$15 billion Houston Ship Channel recognized as the largest petrochemical complex in the nation.
- The region remains the world leader in the aerospace industry. NASA's Johnson Space Center is a \$1.5 billion complex occupying 1,620 acres.



We're in good hands

The Houston area has more than 15,000 physicians and 132 hospitals, with more than 20,000 total beds.

- U.S. News & World Report's annual "Best Hospitals" survey has ranked MD Anderson one of the nation's top two cancer centers every year since the survey began in 1990.
- Virtually every medical specialty is represented in the Houston region.

World-class education

First-rate education in Houston can be found through quality public, private and parochial primary schools, dozens of local community colleges, several four-year universities and colleges, and other specialized training options.

- Houston Independent School District is a two-time winner of the prestigious Broad Prize — which honors large urban districts showing the greatest academic performance — and a recipient of the federal Race to the Top grant. In addition to strong neighborhood schools, the district offers an unmatched portfolio of themed magnet programs, gifted-and-talented programs and schools, and International Baccalaureate, dual-language, college preparatory and career academies.
- The metro area contains 62 school districts and 50 charter schools with total enrollment of more than 1.2 million students.
- In addition to universities located in the heart of Houston, such as Rice University, the University of Houston, the University of St. Thomas and Texas Southern University, the area is home to four medical schools and three law schools.



The bio city

Biotechnology and the life science industry continue expanding in the Houston region. More than 100 institutions and companies attract in excess of \$1.5 billion in research and development funding annually.

- BioHouston Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that helps connect scientists working toward commercializing their discoveries with the funding and development expertise required to turn great ideas into marketable products.
- Leading research efforts include nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, genetics/genomics, biodefense and infectious diseases, stem cell research and oncology.
- Genesis Biotechnology Park, located just south of MD Anderson, comprises many innovative life sciences companies and researchers.
- The 1,000-acre Research Forest located in The Woodlands, just north of Houston, is a major research center designed for scientific, research and biotechnology companies.



Chevron Houston Marathon



Minute Maid Park



Plenty of good sports

Houston is home to a variety of professional sports teams, including the Astros (Major League Baseball), Texans (National Football League), Rockets (National Basketball Association), Dynamo (Major League Soccer) and Dash (National Women's Soccer League).



Shell Houston Open

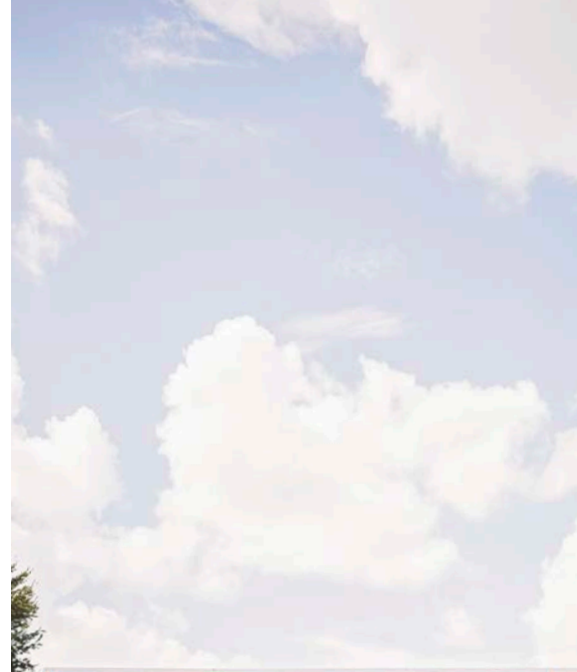


BBVA Compass Stadium

- The Shell Houston Open is the lead-in tournament for the Masters Golf Tournament.
- The Houston area is home to more than 165 golf courses, including municipal gems Memorial Park and Hermann Park golf courses, public/private courses such as Cypresswood Golf Club and the Golf Club of Houston, and private clubs like Carlton Woods and the Tiger Woods-designed Bluejack National, which is scheduled to open in late 2015.
- Racing facilities include Sam Houston Race Park (horses) and Gulf Greyhound Park (dogs).
- Thanks to the city's flat terrain, the Chevron Houston Marathon and the Aramco Houston Half Marathon offer extremely fast courses that draw many of the world's top runners as well as some 25,000 running enthusiasts annually.
- The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is the largest rodeo in the world and attracts more than 2.2 million visitors each year. The three-week celebration includes the World's Championship Bar-B-Cue Contest, nightly performances by the biggest names in country and pop music, a carnival and midway, where the biggest attractions are the fried offerings — everything from fried cheesecake to fried candy bars and pecan pie.
- Each April, approximately 13,000 cyclists in the BP MS 150 leave Houston early on a Saturday morning for a two-day ride to the Texas State Capitol in Austin, stopping for the night in La Grange and covering more than 150 miles along the way to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Uniquely Houston ...

- The Houston Art Car Parade, which began in 1988 with 40 cars and 2,000 spectators, has grown into a three-day celebration that attracts a crowd of more than 250,000 to see 250-plus rolling works of art from 23 states, Canada and Mexico.
- The Beer Can House, Houston's quirkiest landmark, has attracted worldwide attention over the years because of the 50,000 beer cans that cover the entire structure, which is a monument to recycling.
- Recognized by Parents magazine as one of the nation's Ten Best Zoos for Kids, the nonprofit Houston Zoo serves more than 1.8 million visitors each year. It's home to more than 6,000 exotic animals and over 900 species.
- Texas' biggest shopping destination, The Galleria, fits 400 fine stores and restaurants, two high-rise hotels, three office towers and a full-size ice rink into 2.4 million square feet of space. Anchor stores include Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom, and there are plenty of high-end favorites such as Fendi, Gucci, Prada and Louis Vuitton.
- The Free Press Summer Festival, an annual two-day music and art event debuted in 2009, drawing a crowd of around 30,000. Since then, the attendance has more than tripled, with more than 100,000 showing up to see bands such as Vampire Weekend, Jack White, the Wu-Tang Clan and Chvrches.



Houston Art Car Parade



Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo parade



Free Press Summer Festival