

# Houston

Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States, behind New York, LA, and Chicago. Over 2 million people live in the city of Houston and over 5 million in the metro area. The cost of living in Houston is great - 12% below the nationwide average 22% below other large metro areas Housing costs are 42% below average. Visit [www.har.com](http://www.har.com) to search local housing.



The climate in Houston allows residents to enjoy outdoor activities year round but still appreciate a mild change of seasons. Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, and Rice University provide open green space near TMC: [www.houstontx.gov/parks/hermannpark.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/hermannpark.html)

The Texas Medical Center is the largest medical center in the United States. Major contributors to TMC are:

- University of Texas/Memorial Hermann Hospital
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital
  - St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
  - Texas Woman's University
  - Methodist Hospital
  - Shriners Hospital

The opportunities to interact with patients with complex diseases from diverse backgrounds and participate in world-class research are unparalleled.



Sports fans love Houston, with professional baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. Houstonians are passionate about college sports and will host the NCAA final four in 2011.

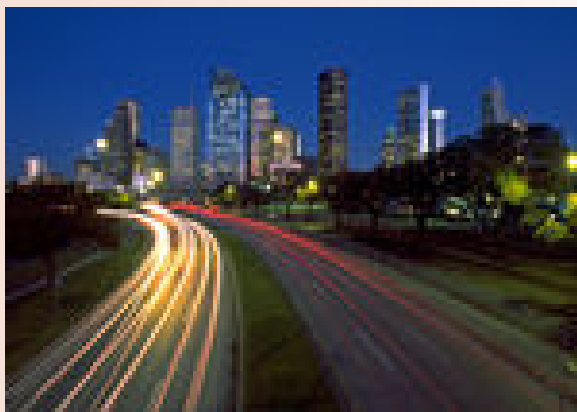


Houston has a rich arts tradition:

- world-class, year-round resident companies in all of the major performing arts: symphony, opera, drama, and ballet
- [www.houstontheaterdistrict.org](http://www.houstontheaterdistrict.org)
- leading visual arts collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and The Menil Collection
- [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org)
- Multiple music venues that attract top concerts



Shopping favorites include the Galleria, with over 375 stores such as Nordstrom, J Crew, Ann Taylor, Kate Spade, & Tiffany's, and Highland Village, with outdoor shopping at Crate and Barrel, Pottery Barn, and Lucky Jeans, as well as fashion conscious Rice Village with Lot 8, Urban Outfitters and more....



The Houston metro area has over 7600 restaurants & eateries and 600 bars & nightclubs.

Do not miss nearby favorites in "the Village" such as Little Woodrow's, the Ginger Man, and Brian O'Neill's. Visit [www.ricevillageonline.com](http://www.ricevillageonline.com).

Houston also has eclectic neighborhood cafes and fine dining establishments that have won accolades from Food & Wine and Travel & Leisure, among others.

