

PERSPECTIVE



“I had a pretty stereotypical view of Texas before I moved here, but Houston doesn’t quite fit the ‘country generalization.’ **It’s a pretty multi-cultural city.** There are plenty of places to go out, my favorite areas being Montrose and Rice Village. Houston also has festivals and community events every weekend to help you become acquainted with the area and meet people. My favorite place, by far, is the gorgeous Herman Miller Park, with water fountains, a zoo, Japanese gardens, and tons of trails and paths. The people that hang out at this park are **very sociable** and dog friendly.”

BRIANA BARCELO, TEACHING FELLOW

WHEN YOU ARE BROKE

The Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (www.visithoustontexas.com) offers a seemingly unending number of suggestions of places to see and things to do in Houston. From art galleries and museums, to sporting events, multicultural festivals and farmers markets the Visitors bureau has information about all kinds of entertainment in the City. Don’t miss the 34 suggestions that cost \$2 or less: www.visithoustontexas.com/visitors/houston_for_two_dollars_or_less/category.list.php

THINGS TO DO!

- ◆ **Cultural Attractions**—The Houston Museum District is one of the largest in the country, offering world-class, year-round resident companies in all of the major performing arts including:
 - ◆ The Houston Symphony—www.houstonsymphony.org
 - ◆ The Houston Grand Opera—www.houstongrandopera.org
 - ◆ The Alley Theater—www.alleythater.org
 - ◆ The Houston Ballet—www.houstonballet.org
- ◆ **Outdoors**—Greater Houston’s 650 parks provide ample space for hiking and biking. Check out Herman Brown Park, Memorial and Herman Praks for bird watching, hike-and-bike trails and jogging loops.
- ◆ **Night Life** – A huge categorized list of places to go out at night in Houston can be found at www.hosuton.com/nightlife.
- ◆ **Special Events**—Where else can you go to a Rodeo for 3 whole weeks? Rodeo time is a tradition in Houston, and the three-week extravaganza at Reliant Park consumes the city. All 20 championship rodeo competitions are concluded with entertainment by music superstars. (www.rodeohouston.com)

HOUSTON: IT'S WORTH IT

www.houstonitsworthit.com

“Houstonians have become a bit defensive trying to live up (or down) to images fabricated from marketing ideas rather than the experience of living here. With that in mind, "Houston. It's Worth It." was created believing that acknowledging the difficulties of living in Houston only makes the reasons why it's worth it more compelling, and that while Houstonians can reach a consensus on the difficulties of living here, the reasons it's worth it are diverse and plentiful.”

NEIGHBORHOODS TO LIVE

Houston has one of the lowest costs of living anywhere in the country. Houston's housing costs in cities of more than two million people are 44% below the national average.

Descriptions of various neighborhoods can be found at (houston.about.com/od/neighborhoods/tp/neighborhoods.htm)

Some places to start looking for apartments & room-mates include:

- ◆ houston.craigslist.org
- ◆ www.apartments.com
- ◆ www.location.roommates.com/texas/houston.html

TRANSPORTATION

Car is by far the best way to get around Houston. That said, Houston does have a Metro network (www.ridemetro.org) which includes a light-rail system running along Main St from downtown through the Museum District and a 100 bus network that is geared to the week-day commute in and out of the downtown area. (www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/north-america/usa/houston/transport)

The Houston Bikeway Program provides a completed 300-mile bikeway network for urban cycling that spans across a 500 square-mile area of the city. (www.publicworks.cityofhouston.gov/bikeways/index.htm)

Houston has two airports: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is served by major domestic and international airlines; William P Hobby Airport (HOU) is a main hub for Southwest Airlines. (www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/north-america/usa/houston/transport)

HOUSTON IS HOT!

An average of 99 days per year reach 90 degrees or above. On the bright side, 95% of Houston homes have some form of air-conditioning (www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17230019)

Houston winters are very mild. The average daily temperature bottoms out at 50.4 degrees in January.

POPULATION

- ◆ With just over 2 million people, Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States. (www.infoplease.com)
- ◆ 26% of Houston's population is between the ages of 20 and 34. (www.houston.areaconnect.com)

