

# HOUSTON

## 1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Houston's downtown area is its heartbeat, with an impressive skyline, international cuisine and Texas-sized commercial viability. Discover the Museum District, with gardens, parks, a zoo and a playground, explore the coastal charm of nearby Galveston or shop the day away at The Galleria, a mammoth mall that lives up to Houston's reputation for urban luxury.

### 1 MINUTE

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#### Lynchburg Ferry

1001 S. Lynchburg Rd., Baytown • 281-424-3521

First built in 1822, this ferry provided a vital escape route for retreating Texans in their fight for independence. Now, it provides a short, pleasant ride across the scenic San Jacinto River.

#### Downtown Tunnel System

Twenty feet below Houston's street-level hustle bustle, you'll find several miles of subterranean passages offering dozens of restaurants, cafes, boutiques and more. One of Houston's best-kept secrets, these air-conditioned corridors are used by most of downtown Houston's 150,000-person workforce every day, especially in warmer seasons. You can access the tunnel system from most downtown hotels and the visitor center in City Hall.

### 1 HOUR

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#### The Museum of Fine Arts

1001 Bissonnet St.  
713-639-7300 • mfah.org

Aside from the impressive collection of works from Van Gogh, Monet, Matisse and others, the museum is often praised for its peaceful sculpture garden and cultural film series throughout the year. Visit on a Thursday and enjoy free admission.

#### Memorial Park

6501 Memorial Dr. • 713-845-1000

Outdoor types will appreciate this oasis in Houston's outskirts—it features what many consider to be the city's best area for biking, jogging, rollerblading, swimming and sports. Popular attractions include the Seymour Lieberman Exercise Trail and the Houston Arboretum Nature Center.

#### Art Car Museum

140 Heights Blvd.  
713-861-5526 • artcarmuseum.com

Prepare for the bizarre—this unique collection of modified and custom-built autos includes a rocket car, a giant Easter-bunny-on-wheels and the chillingly insect-like Roachster. The free museum also features traditional art and photography exhibitions that go beyond cars.

### 1 HOUR (CON'T)

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#### The Menil Collection

1515 Sul Ross • 713-525-9400

Heralded as one of the most important private collections of the 20th century, the Menil collection features 15,000+ works ranging from the Paleolithic objects to contemporary masterpieces. Organized into four distinct areas: Antiquity, Byzantine/Medieval, Tribal and 20th Century. Highlights include works by Matisse and Picasso, an entire gallery of Cy Twombly and the only two 13th-century Byzantine frescoes in the western hemisphere.

#### Holocaust Museum Houston

5401 Caroline St.  
713-942-8000 • hmh.org

Take a sobering look at the tragic events of World War II's Holocaust in this educational facility. With an exterior built to resemble a concentration camp incinerator, the inside uses firsthand accounts to lead visitors on an historical journey to illustrate the consequences of hatred.

### 1 DAY

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#### Space Center Houston

1601 NASA Rd. 1  
281-244-2100 • spacecenter.org

Discover for yourself why Houston is known as "Space City." In addition to the hands-on Kids Space Place, the visitor's center features an IMAX theater, a full-size replica of a shuttle interior and the highlight—a tram tour of the working areas of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

#### Hermann Park

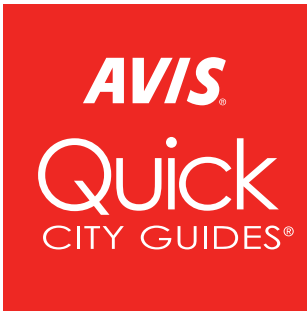
Hermann and S. Main • 713-845-1000

This more-than-445-acre park in the Museum District has it all—the Museum of Natural Science, Houston Zoo, Japanese Garden, Miller Outdoor Theatre, Buddy Carruth Playground for All Children, pedal boats on the picturesque lake, a miniature train and the beautiful grounds themselves.

#### Galveston

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Drive 40 minutes south of downtown Houston, and you'll discover Galveston, a charming Gulf Coast island that offers charming Victorian architecture, soft sandy beaches, shops, galleries, resort hotels and fine dining. Be sure to check out "The Great Storm" exhibit at Pier 21, where you'll find extraordinary accounts of the massive hurricane that ravaged the island on September 8, 1900.



# HOUSTON

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

## GOURMET DINING

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### Artista

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts houses this open, comfortable eatery serving contemporary America cuisine. Enjoy views of the downtown skyline and Tranquility Park from the airy main floor or dine in the lofty balcony.

**800 Bagby St. • 713-ARTISTA**

### Willie G's Seafood and Steak House

If it comes from the sea and can be eaten, there's a decent chance Willie G's has it on the menu. Expect a classic ambience accented with dark wood paneling, attentive service and signature Gulf red snapper dishes.

**1605 Post Oak Blvd. • 713-840-7190**

### Cafe Annie

Southwestern cuisine gets the fine dining treatment from acclaimed chef Robert Del Grande in a sleek, rich atmosphere that's popular with Houston's upper-crust.

**1728 Post Oak Blvd. • 713-840-1111**

### Lynn's Steakhouse

A trip to Houston isn't complete without a Texas-size steak, and Lynn's has what some consider to be the best in town. Dine on the white tablecloths of the main room, or host your party in one of three private rooms, including the sophisticated Wine Cellar.

**955 1/2 Dairy Ashford • 281-870-0807**

### Bank Jean-Georges, Hotel Icon

Formerly a bank lobby, this Houston gem features 30-ft. ceilings, soaring columns, plush fabrics, original European artwork and an Art deco bar. World-renowned chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten combines classical French methods with a mélange of international influences, with a lean toward Asian traditions. Expect upscale and truly innovative cuisine, like ribbons of tuna with avocado and ginger marinade, Maine lobster with Thai seasonings, grilled NY strip with gingered mushrooms and soy caramel sauce, and 7-spice rack of lamb with cucumber mint relish.

**220 Main St. • 832-667-4470**

## LOCAL FAVORITES

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### Kubo's Sushi Bar & Grill

Nestled in the Village Arcade shopping center, Kubo's provides sushi lovers with an atmosphere and menu that's both fresh and sleek. And if sushi rolls aren't your thing, there are also several authentic Japanese options to choose from.

**2414 University Blvd. • 713-528-7878**

### Benjy's Restaurant

Be part of the scene in this hip bistro in Rice Village that feels decidedly more New York than Texas. You can savor small plates (like pistachio-crusting goat cheese cakes), large plates (tea-smoked duck breast), speciality wood-oven pizzas (Thai BBQ chicken) and more.

**2424 Dunstan Rd. • 713-522-7602**

### Mission Burritos

"Fast Fresh Food" is the rule at this locally preferred burrito stand. If you can handle it, build your own Super Burrito with your choice of tortilla, rice, beans, meat, salsa, veggies, cheese and more.

#### Two locations:

**2245 W. Alabama • 713-529-0535**

**1609 Durham • 713-426-6634**

### Mark's American Cuisine

Located in a renovated 1920's church, Mark's features gold-toned ceilings, Art Deco walls and candlelight, and is considered by many to be Houston's most romantic restaurant. Mark's boasts three meeting rooms and innovative New American cuisine. Past highlights include Kobe beef osso bucco and Copper River salmon.

**1658 Westheimer Rd. • 713-523-3800**

### Quattro, Four Seasons Hotel

Elegant and modern, Quattro features a bar, main room and four private dining areas, one of which offers a view of the kitchen. Expect fresh, simple, seasonal contemporary Italian cuisine. A unique antipasti bar boasts 20 different offerings, and main courses include pastas, risottos, grilled meats and vegetables, free-range poultry, veal and seafood offerings like cioppino Genovese.

**1300 Lamar St. • 713-276-4700**