

Houston has landed

More than the historic space capital, Houston offers a vibrant cultural charm – drawing on Southern roots, inspired by neighbouring Mexican fiesta, business-adventure itineraries should not bypass this growing metropolis

A central meeting place for leaders in the energy sector, Houston showcases a multitude of success stories from big business to five major league sports teams. Affectionately known as the Bayou City, Houston's waterways have shaped the metropolis with coastal influence and emphatic patriotism reaching a crescendo on 713 Day (July 13th is an

unofficial holiday as a nod to the local area code). A summer stop in Houston is the perfect time to explore the city's vibrant green spaces or lean into a dynamic history of tech development and Texan community spirit.

WHERE TO STAY

HOTEL ICON

A historic experience in the heart of Downtown Houston,

the award winning Hotel Icon invites genuine relaxation through the dulcet tones of classical interiors. Occupying what once was the Union National Bank the hotel continues a legacy of commercial excellence. Embellishing neoclassical architecture with contemporary interiors the Icon marries spacious accommodation with the finest service. Drawing on the enchantment of classical

architecture internal meeting spaces promise up-to-date tech connectivity within the embrace of true Texan charm. <https://hotelicon.com/>

MARIOTT MARQUIS

Central to all and a world of its own the Marriott Marquis balances business efficiency with indulgent accommodation. A range of luxury suites promise

with expansive aquatic zones and personal training the Marriott commits to keep your head in the game whilst visiting Houston. Designed with meetings in mind, the hotel offers a total of 52 event rooms, and the convenience of a skywalk to the George R. Brown Convention Centre. marriott.com/en-us/hotels/houmq-marriott-marquis-houston

FOUR SEASONS HOUSTON

Discover the meeting point of urban elegance and southern charm at the Four Seasons Houston. Inviting business travellers to indulge in the exuberance of a rooftop oasis, Topgolf swing suites and a private Krigler Perfumery boutique the Luxurious accommodation comprises 115 guest suites. Cherished for an exceptional wine & dine experience chef Richard Sandoval turns all that is served at the Four Seasons' Toro Toro and Bayou & Bottle into gold. fourseasons.com/houston

WHERE TO DINE

Famously excluded from the Michelin dining guide, a Houston degustation relies on good old-fashioned hospitality. Local status ranks higher than international accolades in a town brimming with soul-food, where restaurants



named for the owner are a sure sign of detour worthy dining.

ANNIE'S

Pioneering fine dining in the Coastal city, Annie's stands the test of time as an old faithful homage to Southwestern culinary roots. Following the lead of Robert Del Grand, Annie's legacy remains despite the change in hands with a fusion of traditional and local influence meeting enthusiasm for holiday celebration.

HUGO'S

At home in Houston's Montrose area affectionately known for eclectic eateries, Hugo's brings the exciting and earthy flavours of Mexico across the border. Lead

with passion by the James Beard award winning chef Hugo Ortega, the menu features a dazzling display of lifetime skill and untouched simplicity of fresh ingredients straight from the earth.

KILLEN BBQ

What's a trip to Texas without a southern barbecue, you will find no better way to enjoy the local delicacy than from a kitchen led by the Le Cordon Bleu trained Ronnie Killen. Frequented by celebrity guests and loyal locals Killen's perfect solution to lines around the block is a location wherever you find yourself in the city, even inside the NRG stadium Killen's BBQ is to-die-for.

WHAT TO DO

Famed for humidity the Bayou city offers a mild winter landscape and balmy summer evenings to cheer at a Houston Texans home game.

Loved for an abundance of urban green spaces, a trip to Houston wouldn't be complete without a wander through the city's vibrant landscape. From the expanse of Buffalo Bayou's 100-acre boundary to Hermann Park's stunning reflection pool and alluring year-round outdoor theatre, these spaces truly offer something for everyone.

A step across the road from the Marquis Discovery Green sits amongst the action of the Toyota Centre and Minute Made Park a sure place to catch the city's highest profile entertainment.

Can't quite scratch that tech itch? Space Centre Houston offers a wealth of information spanning historic space exploration and cutting-edge technological development. From the Moon to Mars the Space Centre showcases the extremes of human capability. ■

Left: The Convention Center in Downtown Houston's east side, named after the entrepreneur, engineer and philanthropist George R Brown

