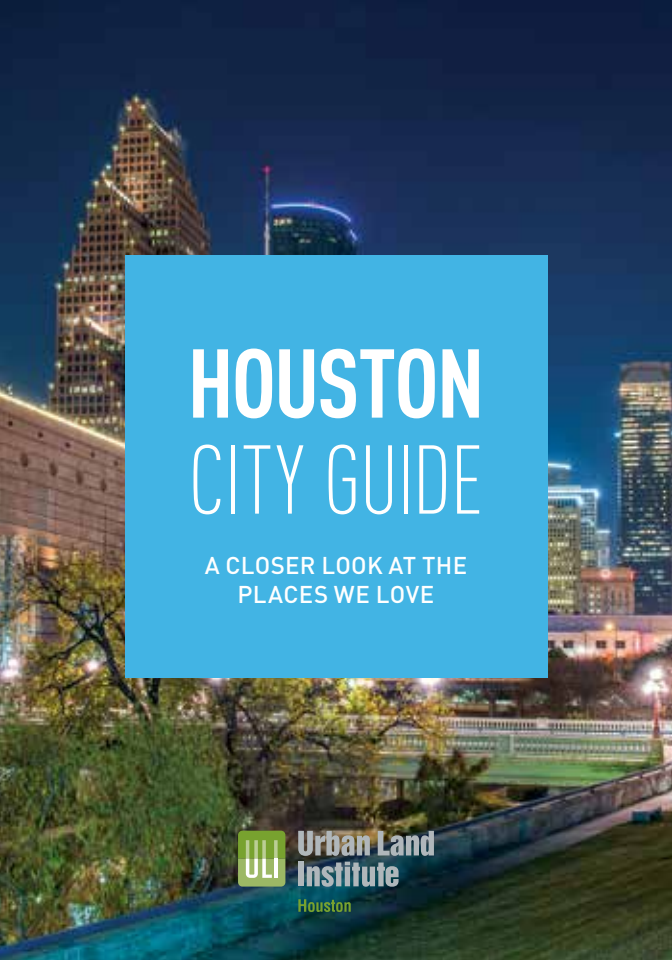


A night-time photograph of the Houston skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and subtitle text. In the foreground, there are green trees and a grassy area.

HOUSTON CITY GUIDE

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE
PLACES WE LOVE



**Urban Land
Institute**

Houston



WELCOME TO HOUSTON!

We hope you enjoy this little book highlighting the best-kept secrets in Houston from our very own ULI Houston members.

It's a true insider's guide to the city, with the best in food, shopping, hospitality and so much more.

* Ratings mean that a recommendation was submitted by more than one ULI member.



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T

*Niko Niko's in Market Square
in the Historic District downtown*

13 Celsius

3000 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004
713.529.8466
13celsius.com

Close to downtown. Eclectic crowd. Interesting space.

– Mark Judson, Judson Design

The Armadillo Palace*

5015 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77098
713.526.9700
goodecompany.com

benjy's

5922 Washington Ave, Houston, TX 77007
713.868.1131
benjys.com

Insider's tip: Try the brussels sprouts!

Blacksmith

1018 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006
832.360.7470

Brasserie 19

1962 W Gray St, Houston, TX 77019
713.524.1919
brasserie19.com

– Acho Azuike, Houston EB5

Café Brasil*

2604 Dunlavy St, Houston, TX 77006
713.528.1993
brasilcafe.net

Great, quaint café in the heart of a great neighborhood.

– Robert Olvera, Planning Design Research (PDR)

Catalina Coffee

2201 Washington Ave, Houston, TX 77007
713.861.8448
catalinacoffeeshop.com

Coltivare*

3320 White Oak Dr, Houston, TX 77007
713.637.4095
coltivarehouston.com

Very fresh and great atmosphere. Warning: no reservations, but the bar and the garden are worth the wait – you can walk the Houston Heights neighborhood until they text you.

– Rives Taylor, Gensler

Common Bond Café & Bakery

1706 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77098
713.529.3535
wearecommonbond.com

Off-the-chart pastries!

– Jonathan H. Brinsden, Midway

Da Marco Cucina E Vino

1520 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006
713.807.8857
damarcohouston.com

Da Marco has the most authentic Italian food in Houston and is widely considered the best restaurant in the city among people who understand and appreciate fine foods (was also rated 29th best restaurant in America a few years ago). Their pasta is fresh and handmade every day. They incorporate both white and black truffles into numerous dishes including truffle taglionini, black truffle mushroom risotto, and a "raviolo" that is a large ravioli with an egg yolk, ricotta cheese, shaved parmesan and shaved truffles. They are well known for the fresh whole Branzino, which they prepare for you table side. Other stand-out dishes include the Dover Sole, which in my opinion is the best fish dish in town, the lobster sweet corn ravioli, and the gnocci with wild boar ragu. As it pertains to the wine list, they have an incredible collection of Italian wines, both new and old vintages, and the prices range from reasonable to however big you want to go. I have never left Da Marco without being blown away and fully satisfied.

– James Tramuto, BroadVail Capital Partners

El Meson

2425 University Blvd, Houston, TX 77005
713.522.9306
elmeson.com

Best Cuban food I've ever had. Great place for food, drink, Spanish wine and festive atmosphere.

– Alan Hassenflu, Fidelis Realty Partners

The Glass Wall

933 Studewood St, Houston, TX 77008
713.868.7930
glasswalltherestaurant.com

House of Pies

3112 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77098
713.528.3816
houseofpies.com

Hugo's

1600 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006
713.524.7744
hugosrestaurant.net

Ibiza Food & Wine Bar

2450 Louisiana St, Houston, TX 77006
713.524.0004
ibizafoodandwinebar.com

Irma's Southwest Grill

1314 Texas St #100, Houston, TX 77002
713.247.9651
irmassouthwest.com

Jackson Street BBQ

209 Jackson St, Houston, TX 77002
713.224.2400
jacksonstbbqhouston.com

La Carafe

813 Congress Ave, Houston, TX 77002
713.229.9399

Laurenzo's El Tiempo Cantina

2814 Navigation Blvd, Houston, TX 77003
713.222.6800
eltiempocantina.com

Insider's tip: Ask for Erica – best waitress in town.

Mongoose vs. Cobra

1011 McGowen St, Houston, TX 77002
713.650.6872
mongooseversuscobra.com

Ninfa's (The Original)*

2704 Navigation Blvd, Houston, TX 77003
713.228.1175
ninfas.com

*Insider's tip: Try the green sauce, ribs, quail and fajitas.
Ask for Omar!*

The Oceanaire Seafood Room (in the Galleria)

5061 Westheimer Rd #8050, Houston, TX 77056
832.487.8862
theoceanaire.com

*Best oyster bar in Houston. Great selection from across
North America with fresh oysters brought in daily.
Relaxing atmosphere perfect for a quick drink or a
full-course meal.*

– Zach Cavender, Mark-Dana Corporation

Onion Creek

3106 White Oak Dr, Houston, TX 77007
713.880.0706
onioncreekcafe.com

Pappasito's Cantina

2536 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77098
713.520.5066
pappasitos.com

Pappy's Cafe

9041 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024
713.827.1811
pappyscafe.com

RDG + Bar Annie

1800 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056
713.840.1111
rdgbarannie.com

Spanish Village

4720 Alameda Rd, Houston, TX 77004
713.523.2861
spanishvillagerestaurant.com

My mother went there in high school and she was born in 1927. Atmosphere – Christmas lights up all year round – what's not to like? Best pure Tex-Mex food in town with excellent margaritas (get it frozen– they freeze the lime juice) and unbelievable fried chicken – yes, fried chicken, get it with some cheese enchiladas, rice and beans and you will think you've died and moved to River Oaks.

– Greg Erwin, Winstead PC

Tiny Boxwoods

3614 W Alabama St, Houston, TX 77027
713.622.4224
tinyboxwoods.com

Uchi*

904 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006
713.522.4808
uchirestaurants.com/houston

I know it's from Austin, but it's truly the best combination of inventive food. Comfortable ambiance and great table service.

– Annie Radecki, PulteGroup

Underbelly

1100 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006
713.528.9800
underbellyhouston.com

Through his food, James Beard winner, Chef Shepherd asks his customers to experience not just Houston's flavor, but its culture as well.

**– Margaret Wallace Brown, City of Houston
Planning & Development Department**

Weights + Measures

2808 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004
713.654.1970
weights-measures.com

A photograph of a retail store interior. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white patterned top, stands behind a wooden counter, talking on a mobile phone. Behind her are shelves displaying various handbags and accessories. The floor is made of dark wood. The word 'SHOP' is overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

SHOP

Elaine Turner at CityCentre

CityCentre*

800 Town and Country Blvd, Houston, TX 77024
citycentrehouston.com

Great mixed-use development where you can stay the night, have a great meal and good shopping. You can workout and catch a movie there as well. You really never have to leave.

– Paul House, JLL

Elaine Turner

Rice Village: 2439 University Blvd, Houston, TX 77005
CityCentre: 800 Town and Country Blvd, Houston, TX 77024
elaineturner.com

A Texas-based gem! The spirit of Elaine Turner and her collection of shoes and handbags is what Texas is all about.

– Dana Efthim, Midway

The Galleria*

5085 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056
713.966.3500
galleriahouston.com

Highland Village*

4055 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77027
shophighlandvillage.com

Best walkable retail in the city.

– Bryan Sanchez, Lionstone Investments

Houston Heights*

6th, 11th and 19th Streets, Houston, TX 77008
houstonheights.org

Electric mix of local shops and restaurants. Everything from antiques to locally made clothing and food.

– Adrienne Schwartz, AMS Consulting

Insider's tip: Check out Blue Line Bike Lab and Heights Vinyl.

Kuhl-Linscomb*

2424 W Alabama St, Houston, TX 77098
713.526.6000
kuhl-linscomb.com

Insider's tip: There is something for everyone: clothing, unique accessories, furniture, cookware and everything in between.

Market Street

9595 Six Pines Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380
281.363.3409
marketstreet-thewoodlands.com

New Living

6111 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77005

713.521.1921

newliving.net

Locally owned and tailored to environmentally aware shoppers seeking home improvement or furniture. Also hosts small businesses and special events within the store.

– Mark Smith, Jacobs

Rice Village

2526 Rice Blvd, Houston, TX 77005

thericevillage.org

River Oaks Shopping Center

1964 W Gray St, Houston, TX 77019

713.866.6982

riveroaksshoppingcenter.com

River Oaks Shopping Center is close to one of the most amazing neighborhoods in Houston. Tons of shopping, eating, movies, bars and more! A place you won't want to miss!

– Anne Louise Conway, Old Republic Title

Sid Mashburn

2515 River Oaks Blvd, Houston, TX 77019

713.936.9502

sidmashburn.com

TOOTSIES*

2601 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77098

713.629.9990

tootsies.com/houston

Town & Country Village

12850 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024

713.464.7353

townandcountryvillage.com

The Woodlands Mall & The Woodlands Town Center

1201 Lake Woodlands Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380

281.363.3409

thewoodlandsmall.com



A



TS

*Jones Hall, home of
the Houston Symphony*

Anderson Fair

2007 Grant St, Houston, TX 77006
832.767.2785
andersonfair.net

Art Car Museum

140 Heights Blvd, Houston, TX 77007
713.861.5526
artcarmuseum.com

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)

5216 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX 77006
713.284.8250
camh.org

The Continental Club*

3700 Main St, Houston, TX 77002
713.529.9899
continentalclub.com/Houston

The Continental Club originated in Austin, and expanded to Houston several years ago. The Club enjoys a national reputation for live music and offers visitors a taste of Texas. Visitors need to make sure they also visit the restaurant next door – Tacos A Go Go, before or after their show.

– Maury Bronstein, 1912 Ventures

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion*

2005 Lake Robbins Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380
281.363.3300
woodlandscenter.org

CWMP provides assigned or lawn seats to enjoy a wide variety of events through the season. This is the second most utilized outdoor pavilion in the world for a reason – it's a lot of fun to people watch and enjoy a show!

– Jim Carman, The Howard Hughes Corporation

Firehouse Saloon

5930 Southwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77075
713.977.1962
firehousesaloon.com

House of Blues*

1204 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77002
888.402.5837
houseofblues.com/houston

Great music, bars, piano bar, and close to the Hilton Americas.

– Tom Fish, JLL

Houston Ballet

Wortham Theater, 501 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002
713.227.2787
houstonballet.org

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main St, Houston, TX 77002

713.529.4848

crafthouston.org

Creative one-of-a-kind creations! Easy to park and you can see the rest of the Museum District while you are there!

– Patricia Knudson Joiner, Knudson & Associates LP

Houston Museum of Natural Science

5800 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77030

713.639.4629

hmns.org

Insider's tip: Leave time to see an IMax movie.

Houston Symphony*

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St, Houston, TX 77002

713.224.7575

houstonssymphony.org

One of the best in the country in classical and pops.

– Sue Jacobson, Chicago Title

James Turrell Skyspace – Twilight Epiphany*

Rice University Campus, next to the Shepherd School of Music

713.348.4758

skyspace.rice.edu

– Susan Elmore, Elmore Public Relations

The Last Concert Cafe*

1403 Nance St, Houston, TX 77002

713.226.8563

lastconcert.com

The Last Concert Cafe is a classic “no frills” joint with good Tex-Mex and live music in the courtyard after dark. There’s no sign outside, so just look for the red door and knock to be let in!

– Doug Crosson, Amegy Bank

Insider's tip: Live music Wednesday – Saturday nights until 2am.

McGonigel's Mucky Duck*

2425 Norfolk St, Houston, TX 77098

713.528.5999

mcgonigels.com

Irish type bar with great ambiance and intimate setting that captures a unique piece of the city's soul. There is typically live music at night, a lot of home-grown talent plays on the stage (rock, blues and country mix), and those that went off and had a very successful music career come back and play shows here for the same intimate crowd. Great beer menu (lots of beer on tap), really good food (comfort food) and the wine menu is above average. Only potential knock is that it can get crowded and they don't serve spirits.

– Robert Zorich, BroadVail Capital Partners, LLC

The Menil Collection*

1533 Sul Ross St, Houston, TX 77006
713.525.9400
menil.org

This is a Houston treasure hidden in the midst of an inner-loop neighborhood. The Menil boasts one of the greatest twentieth century art collections in the U.S. – consisting of more than 16,000 works dating from the Paleolithic era to present day.

– Doug Parker, BoyarMiller

Insider's tip: Free admission and just a few minutes walk from the Rothko Chapel.

Miller Outdoor Theatre*

6000 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030
832.487.7102
milleroutdoortheatre.com

Insider's tip: Free summer evening professional shows.

Museum of Fine Arts*

1001 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77005
713.639.7300
mfah.org

Intimate atmosphere to hear live music and conveniently located near downtown and the Museum District.

– Trent Agnew, HFF

The Orange Show Monument*

2402 Munger St, Houston, TX 77023
713.926.6368
orangeshow.org

A hand-built monument to the orange situated in a residential neighborhood with a spectacular half-acre mosaic park in progress.

– Susanne Theis, Discovery Green

Rothko Chapel

3900 Yupon St, Houston, TX 77006
713.524.9839
stagetheatre.com

The large Rothko paintings in the chapel and the Broken Obelisk in the outdoor reflection pool make this a place of quiet, uplifting meditation.

– Cassie Stinson, BoyarMiller

Stages Repertory Theatre

3201 Allen Pkwy, Suite 101, Houston, TX 77019
713.527.0123
stagetheatre.com

The intimacy of its two theaters offers a compelling theater experience unlike any other. Year-round performances.

– Sandra Porter, Hines



PLAY

Jamail Skate Park along Buffalo Bayou

Alexander Deussen Park

12303 Sonnier St, Houston, TX 77044
281.454.6076

Sunrise or sunset over Lake Houston.

– Ryan McCord, McCord Development

Battleship Texas State Historic Site

3523 Independence Pkwy, La Porte, TX 77571
281.479.2431
tpwd.state.tx.us

Buffalo Bayou Park*

3600 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77019
832.395.7000
buffalobayou.org

160 lushly landscaped acres in the heart of the city with separate jogging and biking trails that take you through an amazing collection of amenities, including public art, dog parks and water features. It offers something for everyone.

– Ellyn Wulfe, Gensler

Insider's tip: Rent a B-cycle to enjoy the natural landscape and people watch at the skate park. Great for a jog, picnic, or playing with your four-legged friend.

Discovery Green*

1500 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77010
713.400.7336
discoverygreen.com

Discovery Green is a centerpiece of downtown and is next to several hotels, restaurants and bars. It's also a great place to enjoy local music and is a great example of Houston's commitment to going "green."

– Justin S. Haire, AECOM

Insider's tip: Enjoy outdoor movies on Saturday nights.

The Esplanade

2600 Navigation Blvd, Houston, TX 77003
713.928.9916
greatereastend.com/navigation-boulevard

Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park*

2800 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056
713.850.8841
uptown-houston.com

Best fountain.

– Clark Martinson, The Energy Corridor District

Hermann Park*

6100 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030
713.524.5876
hermannpark.org

*The zoo is incredible. The train is great for young children.
Many hours spent there when my children were younger
and always great times!*

– Patrick Trask, Wood Partners

*Insider's tip: Visit the McGovern Centennial Gardens and
Japanese Garden. The 30-ft. high summit in Centennial
Gardens rewards visitors with a beautiful view of the
entire park.*

Houston Museum of Natural Science (Butterfly Center)

5555 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030
713.639.4629
hmns.org

Kemah Boardwalk

215 Kipp Ave, Kemah, TX 77565
281.535.8100
kemahboardwalk.com

Market Square Park

301 Milam St, Houston, TX 77002
marketsquarepark.com

*Great urban mixed-use park that made a HUGE impact
on revitalizing the Historic District in downtown Houston.*

– Angus Hughes, Cushman & Wakefield

Memorial Park*

6501 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77007
memorialparkconservancy.org

*The running trail is filled with thousands of runners.
The golf course is a magnificent public golf course. The
Arboretum educates the children of Houston. Even before
the new master plan begins, it is still a must-see park in
Houston that is almost twice the size of Central Park.*

– Bob Ethington, Uptown Management District

Town Green Park

2099 Lake Robbins Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380
281.210.3900
thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

A photograph of a tree-lined street, likely in a park or urban area. Large, mature oak trees with dense green foliage line both sides of a paved road. The sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the ground. A few street lamps are visible along the right side of the road.

ST

AY

*Oak trees along parts of
Main St and Sunset Blvd*

Hilton Americas

1600 Lamar St, Houston, TX 77010
713.739.8000
hilton.com

Staying downtown gives a unique experience for those not from Houston. Other hotels in Houston do not have the scale or amenities offered at the Hilton Americas.

– **Brian Attaway, Trammell Crow Company**

Hotel Granduca*

1080 Uptown Park Blvd, Houston, TX 77056
713.418.1000
granducahouston.com

Insider's tip: Stay for brunch.

The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa

111 N Post Oak Ln, Houston, TX 77024
713.680.2626
thehoustonian.com

One of Houston's best hotels, convenient to both downtown via Memorial Drive and the Post Oak/Galleria area. Also one of the country's best fitness facilities and spas. Great starting point for a run through Memorial Park.

– **Lance Gilliam, Waterman Steele Real Estate Advisors**

Hotel Icon*

220 Main St, Houston, TX 77002
713.224.4266
hotelicon.com

JW Marriott (Downtown)*

806 Main St, Houston, TX 77002
713.237.1111
marriott.com

It is a restored historic hotel with modern flair. Local artists featured throughout the hotel.

– **Anthony Marre; Wilson, Cribbs & Goren, P.C.**

La Colombe d'Or*

3410 Montrose Blvd, Houston, TX 77006
713.942.1073
lacolombedor.com

It's new cool and old cool.

– **Jim Furr, Gensler**

The Lancaster Hotel

701 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002
713.228.9500
thelancaster.com

Beautiful, historic hotel in the heart of Houston's downtown Theatre District.

– **Andy Lusk, Lionstone Investments**

Magnolia Hotel (Downtown)

1100 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002
713.221.0011
magnoliahotels.com

Stylish boutique hotel in a historic building downtown, that still has accessible prices.

– **Matthew Behrmann, Patrinely Group**

Sara's Inn

941 Heights Blvd, Houston, TX 77008
713.868.1130
saras.com

Insider's tip: Great breakfast and afternoon happy hour.

The St. Regis

1919 Briar Oaks Ln, Houston, TX 77027
713.840.7600
stregishoustonhotel.com

Hotel Sorella*

800 Sorella Ct, Houston, TX, 77024
713.973.1600
hotelsorella-citycentre.com

Great hotel in an amazing mixed-use environment.

– **Peter Barnhart, Caldwell Companies**

The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center

2301 N. Millbend Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380
281.367.1100
woodlandsresort.com

Newly renovated, The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center is an award-winning resort with a Forest Oasis Waterscape that includes a new lazy river, spa, 36 holes of championship golf, tennis center and home to Robard's Steakhouse.

– **Paul Layne, The Howard Hughes Corporation**

Hotel ZaZa*

5701 Main St, Houston, TX 77005
713.526.1991
hotelzaza.com

Cool vibe, over-the-top themed guest rooms and located in the heart of the Museum District!

– **Alan Colyer, Gensler**



FUN

*Roping, a long-time favorite
at Rodeo Houston*

Armando's

2630 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77098
713.520.1738
armandosrestaurant.com

Thursday is "salsa" night. Eat dinner, have some margaritas and then join the dance floor around 9:30pm. GREAT people watching!

– Chip Colvill, Colvill Office Properties

Art Car Parade* (April)

Allen Pkwy, near downtown
thehoustonartcarparade.com

Uniquely Houston event.

– Reid Wilson; Wilson, Cribbs & Goren, P.C.

Barbarella

2404 San Jacinto St, Houston, TX 77002

Best dance club in the city, brings together a diverse crowd of young people to dance.

– Joshua Owens, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Bayou Place

500 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002
713.227.0957
bayouplace.com

Blanket Bingo (Thursdays, once a month)

Market Square Park, 301 Milam St, Houston, TX 77002
marketsquarepark.com

Insider's tip: The 400 bingo packets available usually sell out within 30 minutes. Visit one of the dozens of restaurants and bars before or after the game!

Fitzgerald's

2706 White Oak Dr, Houston, TX 77007
713.862.3838
fitzlivemusic.com

Greek Festival (October)

3511 Yoakum Blvd, Houston, TX 77006
713.526.5377
greekfestival.org

Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park* (April – September)

501 Crawford St, Houston, TX 77002
713.259.8000

Houston International Festival (April/May)

Hermann Square, 900 Smith St, Houston, TX 77002
1.888.810.2063
ifest.org

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo* (March)

NRG Center, 8400 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
832.667.1000
rodeohouston.com

More people attended the rodeo in 2014 than attended the Sochi Winter Olympics – think about that.

– Jimmy Hinton, HFF

Houston Rockets at Toyota Center*

(October – April)

1510 Polk Street, Houston, TX 77002
866.446.8849
houstontoyotacenter.com

At each game there is an energetic atmosphere that is felt through the masses. After the game, local bars and restaurants are within walking distance for all fans.

– Bill Odle, TBG Partners, Inc.

Little Woodrow's*

720 Shepherd Dr, Houston, TX 77007
832.804.9941
littlewoodrows.com

Great to watch a game or grab a drink for happy hour.

– Tyler Munson; Ward, Getz & Associates

Poison Girl

1641 Westheimer Rd, Suite B, Houston, TX 77006
713.527.9929

This is a great spot on Montrose if you don't mind a few hipsters and no food. It's eclectic, gritty and unique – just like Houston. It also has a great selection of whiskey. On Wednesdays they have impromptu car shows and food trucks outside on Westheimer.

– Travis Baker, Moody Rambin

Prohibition Supperclub & Bar

1008 Prairie St, Houston, TX 77002
281.940.4636
prohibitionhouston.com

Amazing burlesque show, The Moonlight Dolls, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Amazing food and drinks, you'll have a uniquely Houston experience!

– Angie Bertinot, Downtown District

Waugh Drive Bat Colony

Waugh Dr at Allen Pkwy, Houston, TX 77002
713.752.0314
buffalobayou.org

Amazing spectacle close to downtown!

– Art Chavez, Page

Insider's tip: Boat tours offered May – September.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Y'ALL COME
BACK NOW

44



**Urban Land
Institute**

Houston

2617-C W Holcombe Blvd
Suite 122
Houston, TX 77025

713.349.8821
houston.uli.org