



Texas Water Insider's Guidebook

Welcome Texas Water Guests

The Texas Water 2025 conference hotel and convention center are at the heart of one of the most exciting cities in the nation, Houston TX. Houston's Discovery Green Park, Minute Maid Park, and the restaurants along the Avenida De Las Americas are just steps away from your hotel.

Just Around the Conference Area

Discovery Green Park - is a 12-acre village green across the street from the Convention Center with two restaurants, water fun for kids, 1 acre lake open for kayaking, dog runs, and so much more.

<https://www.discoverygreen.com/>

Avenida De Las Americas – is the boulevard that fronts the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) the Hilton Americas-Houston hotel to and to Minute Maid Park with a number of great restaurants to try.

<https://www.avenidahouston.com/about-us/>

Spouses and guests of the registered attendees at Texas Water 2025 will have the opportunity to embark in self-guided tours to explore the sights, sounds, and amazing cuisine of the Bayou City in a self-guided program. This year, you can plan and visit all the attractions this vibrant City has to offer at your own pace and schedule.

Your best one-stop source of information about our amazing City is through the Houston Visitors and Convention Bureau's visit Houston website. This site provides a comprehensive array of available sights, sounds, eats and entertainment happening during your stay. <https://www.visithoustontexas.com>

To supplement the visit Houston site, we have selected a few "Can't Miss" items to help guide you through the maze of things to do while you are here.

Things to See

History

Allen's Landing Park – at the foot of Main Street in Downtown Houston see where it all began at the site where the Allen brothers first stepped ashore to create the City of Houston. Explore other near-by parks along Buffalo Bayou sponsored by the Buffalo Bayou Partnership. Also, don't miss Market Square Park just three blocks away while you are there. <https://buffalobayou.org/visit/destination/allens-landing/>

Houston Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park – Just twelve blocks down Lamar St. from the Hotel, you can tour historic buildings from pre statehood to the oil boom of the early 20th century.

<https://www.heritagesociety.org/>

Freedman's Town – The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in 1863. However, it wasn't until June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas that the last slaves were freed. General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and read General Order No. 3, which informed all the enslaved people that they were now free. Freedmen's Town is a living testament to the struggles and perseverance of Black Americans and their yearning to be full participants in the American story. <https://houstonfreedmentown.org/>

Museums

Houston's primary museum district is just 2.5 miles down Main Street adjacent to Herman Park and the Houston Zoo. There are 19 museums in four walkable zones. <https://houmuse.org/> Check out Lucille's Restaurant (<https://lucilleshouston.com/>) in the heart of the museum district while you are there.

Houston Museum of Natural Science – from Egyptian artifacts to dinosaurs to precious gems this world class museum has something for everybody <https://www.hmns.org/>

Houston Children's Museum – Did you bring the kids this year? The Houston children's museum is a great space to learn and play and well worth a trip <https://www.cmhouston.org/>

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston – this art museum complex offers over 70,000 works of art created throughout the world, from antiquity to the present <https://www.mfah.org/>

Bayou Bend – Nestled in River Oaks and surrounded by an elaborate garden, this house museum offers an extensive collection of American decorative arts and paintings. <https://www.mfah.org/visit/bayou-bend-collection-and-gardens>

The Menil Collection – a unique art museum including four buildings spanning 30 acres. <https://www.menil.org/>

Children's Museum – A kids heaven that has a great outdoor water feature area. [Children's Museum Houston - Can Your Mind Come Out To Play?](#)

Things to Do

Tours and Attractions

Self-guided Driving Tour of Houston – A two-hour guided driving tour – purchase the app that will guide you to see everything that makes Houston special, from historic districts to stunning parks and, of course, the famous Space Center! <https://actiontourguide.com/place/the-ultimate-self-guided-driving-tour-of-houston/>

Downtown Underground - check out the shops and restaurants along 6 miles of pedestrian tunnels 20 feet below the streets of downtown Houston. Access is generally through the ground floor of office buildings on the tunnel route. <https://www.downtownhouston.org/district/downtown-tunnels/>

Houston Botanic Garden – At the Houston Botanic Garden, visitors commune with nature, and each other, while engaging all of their senses in a serene oasis just minutes from downtown Houston. <https://hbg.org/>

Houston Zoo – The Houston Zoo, 6200 Hermann Drive, offers a 55-acre lush tropical landscape for more than 6,000 permanent animal residents. More than 1.86 million guests visit the zoo each year to enjoy learning about a wide variety of animals and the ecosystems they live in. <https://www.hermannpark.org/poi/22/>

Downtown Aquarium – Part attraction, part restaurant, the 500,000-gallon Downtown Aquarium complex is multi-functional destination boasting a Ferris wheel, an aquatic carousel, Shark Voyage, a white tiger exhibit and a restaurant. The spectacular wall-to-wall aquarium view complements the surf-and-turf menu. Parents can dig into silky lobster bisque and crabmeat-topped Gulf red snapper, while the little ones nosh on popcorn shrimp, 'sand dollar' pizza and 'Captain's' grilled cheese. During dinner, keep an eye out for scuba divers feeding fish in the restaurant-set tank. aquariumrestaurants.com

Hermann Park – With over 445 acres, there's lots to do in Hermann Park, including the Japanese Gardens, Koi Ponds, Pedal Boats, Carousel, Miniature Train, The Mound, and Golf Course. The park also features The Commons – a super cool playground and water feature (great for kids!). <https://www.hermannpark.org/>

Memorial Park – Memorial Park's size (1,500 acres, nearly twice the size of Central Park) and central location – in the heart of Houston – make it distinctive nationally. Further distinguishing Memorial Park is its cultural history as a former WWI training camp – Camp Logan – where 70,000 soldiers trained for battle. It is the only such camp remaining in the United States that has not been developed and is an archeologically protected site because of its role in WWI and the archeological features that remain. Memorial Park is where the sport of jogging was popularized nationally by Seymour Lieberman, the namesake for the Park's locally-popular and nationally-acclaimed jogging trail. <https://www.memorialparkconservancy.org/>

The Orange Show – a favorite eclectic visionary arts center capturing the artist in everyone – also check out Houston's Beer can House part of the Orange show menagerie <https://orangeshow.org/>
www.full.orangeshow.org/beer-can-house

Houston's Graffiti Park – A small gem deemed the Houston Graffiti Park sits on the corner of Leeland and Emanuel. Every inch of this City block is covered in art. [A Day in Houston's Graffiti Park – UP MAGAZINE](#)

Houston Water Experience

After all, it is Texas Water 2025! The City has some unique water experience offerings that get you near or on our most precious resource

Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern – explore one of Houston's original underground water reservoirs in a unique water experience <https://buffalobayou.org/visit/destination/the-cistern/>

Waterwall Park – enjoy this unique water display and setting near the Galleria
<https://uptown-houston.com/experience/parks/waterwall-park/>

Bayou City Adventures - come outside, rent a kayak or canoe and enjoy Houston's waterways
<https://bayoucityadventures.org/>

Buffalo Bayou Boat Tours – Kayaks not your thing, try a larger pontoon boat ride on Buffalo Bayou
<https://buffalobayou.org/boat-tours/>

Herman Park - just down Main St., Herman Park has a great Zoo, a neat train and pedal boats to rent
<https://www.hermannpark.org/visit/train-pedal-boats/>

Shopping

The Highlight – Formerly The Shops at Houston Center, The Highlight is developing the next generation of convenience and connection in downtown Houston. With dining, entertainment, shopping, and wellness all just steps from one another, this is the ideal space to relax, collaborate, and even check a couple “to-do’s” off your list. As a plus, this is only a few blocks away from the GRB! <https://thehighlighthouston.com/>

Galleria – This iconic Houston Mall has been the go-to shopping destination in Houston for over 50 years and even has its own ice rink in the middle! It features over 300 stores and restaurants from the basic to the ultra-luxurious www.simon.com/mall/the-galleria

River Oaks District – a new up-scale outdoor shopping area from with great restaurants and entertainment <https://www.riveroaksdistrict.com/>

Nearby Outlet Malls – these are a drive from downtown but if you are looking of outlet malls here are two:

Houston Premium Outlets (Cypress – northwest Houston) www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/houston

Tanger Houston (Texas City – South of Houston) <https://www.tanger.com/houston>

Shopping Harwin Drive – for the more adventurous shopping along the four mile stretch of discount stores on Harwin Drive has a lot to offer if you know where to look, check out Clic2Houston guide www.click2houston.com/consumer/2019/05/06/harwin-101-the-5-best-shops-on-houstons-bargain-shopping-strip/

Sports

Houston is home to five professional major league teams: the Houston Astros (MLB), Houston Texans (NFL), Houston Rockets (NBA), Houston Dynamo FC (MLS), and Houston Dash (NWSL). Unfortunately, Texas Water 2025 lands during the off season for all teams. However, some of their facilities are open for tours and a visit to the team store for merch.

Minute Maid Park – Minute Maid Park (home to the Houston Astros – who are in Spring Training in Florida) is just a few blocks from the convention center will have a variety of daily tours available during the conference.

<https://www.mlb.com/astros/ballpark/tours>

Shell Energy Stadium – Shell Energy Stadium is a state-of-the-art, open-air stadium designed to host Houston Dynamo FC matches, Houston Dash matches and Texas Southern University football games as well as additional professional, collegiate and community sporting events, concerts, exhibitions, conventions and special events.

Rodeo Houston – The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo held at NRG The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage and provides year-round educational support within the community. <https://www.rodeohouston.com/>

2025 Rodeo Houston Visitor’s Guide: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/66d536f9-6ddf-4fde-87b4-91a02bd45226>



ENTERTAINER LINEUP

MARCH 4 - 23

2025



WARREN ZEIDERS

Sat., March 15



GRUPO FRONTERA

Sun., March 16

Go Tejano Day, presented
by Fiesta Mart



**CHARLEY
CROCKETT**

Mon., March 17



POST MALONE

Tues., March 18



OLD DOMINION

Wed., March 19



CODY JINKS

Thurs., March 20



**PARKER
MCCOLLUM**

Fri., March 21



BROOKS & DUNN

Sat., March 22



LUKE BRYAN

Sun., March 23



<https://www.rodeohouston.com/plan-your-visit/>

Daily Recurring Events

AGVENTURE, presented by OXY

Daily: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Birthing Center • Breed Row Barn • Corn Exhibit • Honeybees • Horticulture • Milking Parlor Demonstrations (every hour) • Petting Zoo • Pony Rides • Poultry Exhibits • Quilt Exhibits • Rabbit Exhibits • School Art Hayloft Gallery Display • We're Small Y'all Barn

VIRTUAL CHUCKWAGONS, sponsored by Verizon

Daily: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Champion Wine Garden, presented by Frost

Monday – Thursday: 4 – 11 p.m.

Friday: 2 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Carnival, presented by First community

Monday – Thursday: 4 – 11 p.m.

Friday: 2 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

The Junction, presented by woodside energy

Born to Buck, presented by OXY: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Fun on the Farm: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The Junction Carnival:

Monday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Mutton Bustin', presented by H-E-B: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Starts every hour)

Petting Zoo: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Pig Races, sponsored by HEYDUDE: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Shopping & Dining | NRG Arena, NRG Center & NRG Park

Daily 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Where to Eat

Houston has a diverse food scene with many restaurants representing cuisines from over 70 countries. The city's food is known for its flavors that fuse traditional dishes with other influences. Billed as the Culinary & Cultural Capital of the South, Houston delivers on its reputation. From hole-in-the-wall favorites to headline-grabbing dining experiences, and many delicious reasons to visit in between, this city has you covered.

The Houston Chronicle publishes a top 100 Restaurant guide for Houston and its surrounding suburbs. This is a great go-to guide for the adventurous in this remarkable foodie City.

[The 100 best restaurants in Houston in 2024](#)

Near-By

In addition to the restaurants on the Avenida De Las Americas there are lots of food choices in Downtown Houston.

Irma's Original – long time Houston favorite Tex-Mex near the ballpark <https://irmasoriginal.com/>

Kim Son – great traditional Vietnamese restaurant <https://kimson.com/>

Xochi - James Beard award winning chef Hugo Ortega Oaxaca inspired <https://www.xochihouston.com/>

The Original Ninfa's – where Tex-Mex boomed in Houston <https://ninfas.com/>

Biggio's – Vegas style super sports bar. Would be good if there's a specific sports game that you want to catch [Home \(biggioshouston.com\)](https://biggioshouston.com/)

Phoenicia Specialty Foods – Phoenicia Specialty Foods Downtown is an award-winning cultural and foodie experience at the heart of Downtown, just blocks from the GRB. <https://phoeniciafoods.com/locations/downtown-market/>

Hearsay On The Green – A modern space featuring industrial elements turns out Southern-style takes on New American dishes. <https://hearsaygastrolounge.com/>

Guard and Grace - Hipper and newer in downtown [Menu | Guard and Grace in Houston, TX](#)

Potente – Jim Crane's restaurant next to Minute Maid.. [Menu - Potente \(potentehouston.com\)](#)

Osso & Kristalla – also near Minute Maid.. [Home - Osso-Kristalla \(ossoandkristalla.com\)](#)

Nancy's Hustle – Exclusive, small and very Houston funky. Uber across the highway to EADO [Nancy's Hustle \(nancyshustle.com\)](#)

Indianola - Exclusive, small and very Houston funky . Uber across the highway to EADO [Indianola — Agricole Hospitality](#)

8th Wonder Brewery - (they have food trucks) Fun CASUAL outdoor vibes a close Uber ride away - [8th Wonder Brewery & Distillery](#)

Truck Yard - Fun CASUAL outdoor vibes a close Uber ride away: [Truck Yard Houston](#)

Rodeo Goat - Fun CASUAL outdoor vibes a close Uber ride away: <https://www.rodeogoat.com/houston/>

The Rustic - Fun CASUAL outdoor vibes a close Uber ride away: [Home - The Rustic](#)

Don't Miss

Check out a couple of our planning committee favorites while you are here!

Teotihuacan Casual eatery with vibrant decor & a menu of classic Tex-Mex plates from breakfast through dinner. 1511 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77009

Pinkertons in the Heights.

Hamsa – modern Israeli cuisine <https://hamsahtx.com/>

Ku Ba - Vietnamese-Cajun Comfort Food www.kaubakitchen.com

Lucilles - refined Southern cuisine <https://lucilleshouston.com/>

Truth BBQ – from the original in Brenham <https://www.truthbbq.com/>

Roegels BBQ – one of Houston's favorites <https://roegelsbarbecue.com/>

Brennan's Houston – New Orleans with a Texas flare www.brennanshouston.com

Amalfi – Italy's west coast comes to Houston <https://www.amalfihouston.com/>

Brenner's on the Bayou – www.brennerssteakhouse.com/location/brenners-on-the-bayou/

The Breakfast Klub – a Houston favorite <https://thebreakfastklub.com/>

Coltivare – pizza and garden www.agricolehospitality.com/coltivare

Trill Burger – Co-founded by legendary Houston Rapper Bunn B's <https://www.trill-burgers.com/>

Frenchy's Chicken – Houston's favorite chicken - serving H-town since 1969 with many locations. <https://frenchyschicken.com/>

Costa Brava – Spanish and French cuisine www.costabravabistro.com

Crawfish and noodles – Viet-Cajun cuisine <https://www.crawfishandnoodles.com/>

Eunice – Oysters and a touch of Louisiana in Houston - <https://www.eunicerestaurant.com/>

Mein - a Chinatown favorite <https://eatmein.com/>

Ragin Cajun – it is crawfish season - <https://ragin-cajun.com/>

West Alabama Ice House and Tierra Caliente Tacos: West Alabama Ice House is one of the oldest establishments in the City, and Tierra Caliente is consistently on the list of Houston's best tacos. They're located across the street from each other on West Alabama near Shepherd in Montrose.

Neils Bahr – The “nerd bar” in EaDo. Has gaming consoles, board games, and plays Simpsons and Futurama on loop. Appeals to engineers.

Truth BBQ Washington at Yale St and

Pappas restaurant group: Pappasito's, Pappadeaux, Pappa's BBQ, Pappa's Seafood, Pappa's Steaks various locations around Houston

Houston's first Michelin-starred restaurants

For the first time, the Michelin guide announced that Fifteen Texas restaurants received a highly acclaimed Michelin star. Michelin's rating system, which is often considered the gold standard among restaurant ratings, goes up to three stars, indicating the most outstanding cooking that transcends into an art form.

BCN Taste & Tradition



Chef Luis Roger's Spanish-inspired menu at this Montrose spot "cooks with both flair and familiarity." Chronicle critics couldn't agree more and described dishes like the crackling suckling pig and the impressive gin selection that "airlift you to Barcelona." 4210 Roseland

CorkScrew BBQ



The perpetual lines form at this Spring barbecue favorite for "some of the finest brisket and beef ribs in the state," according to Michelin. The Chronicle's barbecue columnist J.C. Reid describes the joint from Will and Nichole Buckman as a "small-town Texas barbecue experience within an urban sprawl." 26608 Keith Street; Spring

Le Jardinier



This French-leaning restaurant inside the Museum of Fine Arts is the third location of the concept from Bastion Collection's culinary director Alain Verzeroli. Joining the Manhattan and Miami outlets, Houston also garnered a Michelin star for "verdant, stylish cooking." The inspector notes also acknowledged the "highly professional and personable team." *5500 Main*

March



Goodnight Hospitality's north star for fine dining was mentioned in nearly every conversation about which Houston restaurant would receive a star. The "ambitious" cooking sets the Montrose restaurant apart, but so does the refined service and attention to detail. "From the beginning to end, gorgeously plated dishes show refinement and creativity, so sit back and enjoy the show," advised Michelin. *1624 Westheimer*

Musaafer



This stylish Galleria restaurant's grandiose room delivers on more traditional and modern Indian fare. Despite being overlooked when it opened in the early days of the pandemic, Musaafer has finally caught on. The team, lead by chef Mayank Istwal, is also currently working on opening a location in New York City. 5115 Westheimer

Tatemó



This jewel box-sized dining room topped the Chronicle's 2024 Top 100 guide for its impressive tasting menu centered on heirloom corn. Chef Emmanuel Chavez is no stranger to accolades, from James Beard nominations to national magazine kudos, but Michelin recognition has been in his sights since the beginning: a Michelin man statue is kept in the kitchen. 4740 Dacoma