

why
HOUSTON?

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MD Anderson
~~Cancer~~ Center

Making Cancer History®

No matter what you may know about Houston, there's probably a lot more you'll be surprised to learn.

In addition to being the largest city in Texas, there's the sunshine. Being able to play golf nearly 365 days a year. International dining. A truly diverse culture. Great education opportunities. Friendly people.

From career opportunities to recreation, from culture to haute cuisine, the Houston region has it all.

But this is only a fraction of what makes Houston a great place to call home. Living in the region will make you part of a global metropolis where ideas, vision and imagination are welcomed and embraced.

There's so much more to know about the city. What follows are quick snapshots of points of pride.

For details about these and other aspects of Houston, check the Greater Houston Partnership website at www.houston.org.

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HOUSTON:



- 1 It's the fourth most populous city in the nation (trailing only New York, Los Angeles and Chicago), with an estimated population of more than 2 million within the city limits and more than 5 million in the Greater Houston metro area.
- 2 With a median age of 32.9, it has the second youngest age distribution group among most populous cities (Riverside, Calif., is first).
- 3 If it were an independent nation, Houston would rank as the world's 30th largest economy.
- 4 Aided by the absence of a city or state income tax, the Greater Houston area has the lowest overall cost of living of the 27 largest metro areas in the country of at least 2 million residents.
- 5 Because Houston opens its arms to all newcomers (after all, "Texas" means "friend"), it has an amazingly diverse population from many countries, with more than 90 languages spoken. The city boasts restaurants, shops, neighborhoods and festivals that reflect its many international cultures.
- 6 Houston is home to the Texas Medical Center, the largest such center in the world, with a regional annual economic impact of \$14 billion. More than 93,000 people work within its facilities, including more than 18,000 at MD Anderson alone. Altogether, 6 million patients visit TMC institutions each year, 105,000 of them at MD Anderson.
- 7 Houston has more than 40 colleges, universities and institutions offering higher education options to suit all interests.
- 8 Houston's economy has a broad industrial base in energy, aeronautics and technology. It ranks second among U.S. cities with the most Fortune 500 headquarters.
- 9 With the 10th largest port in the world, Houston ranks first in the United States in international waterborne tonnage handled and second in total cargo tonnage.
- 10 Two major airports serve the area: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). IAH provides nonstop service to approximately 170 destinations — third in the nation behind only Atlanta and Chicago's O'Hare.





CULTURAL AMENITIES

- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, houses nearly 60,000 works from antiquity to the present.
- The Houston Museum of Natural Science is home to Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham IMAX Theatre and more.
- Houston has internationally acclaimed resident companies in drama, ballet, opera and orchestra.
- A 17-block Downtown Theater District features internationally recognized performing arts organizations. It's second only to New York City with its concentration of seats in one geographic area.
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is the largest rodeo in the world and attracts more than 2.2 million visitors each year.
- The 130,000-square-foot Bayou Place entertainment complex includes a variety of restaurants, movie theaters, plazas and parks.
- With more than 11,000 food services and drinking establishments — featuring outstanding regional and traditional American dishes and diverse international cuisine — Houstonians eat out more than any other major U.S. city.



"The Virtuoso" by David Adickes



"Tolerance" by Jaume Plensa




The Beer Can House



Mecom Fountain



Discovery Green

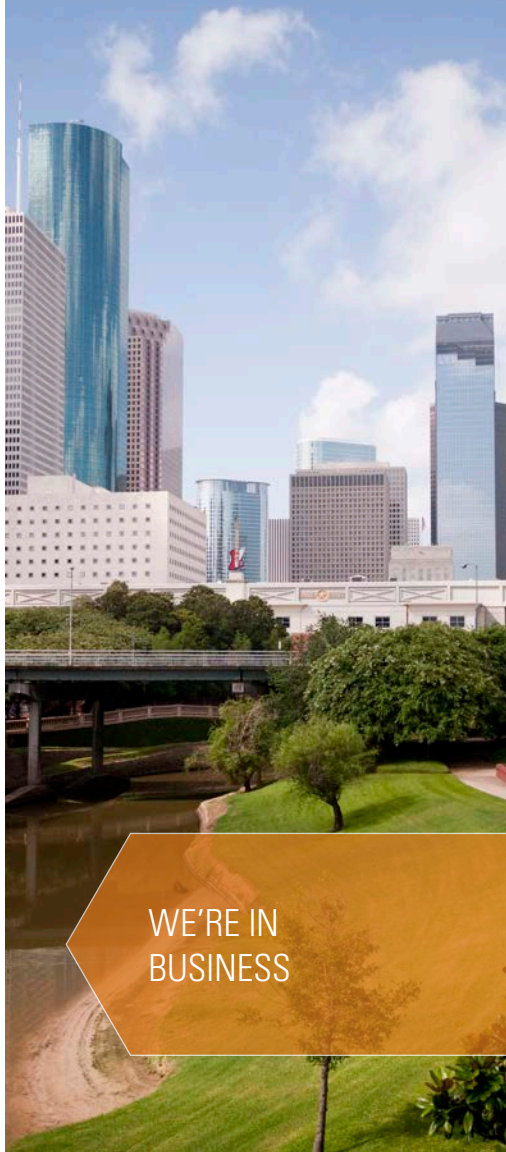


WE LIKE
BEING
GREEN

Discovery Green

- Houston has been named one of the country's top 10 cities for green technology innovation.
- The Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership hails Houston as the No. 1 municipal purchaser of green power in the nation and a crucial leader in the alternative energy trend.
- The city prides itself for being on the cutting edge of new technologies and innovations in architecture and design. This includes the NFL's first football stadium with a retractable roof and Discovery Green, a 12-acre downtown park designed as a multi-use, eco-friendly environment.
- With more than 300 municipal parks and an additional 200 open-space areas, Houston ranks third in the nation in green space.

- Houston ranks among the top-performing U.S. metro areas for business, even as the effects of the economic recession continue to be felt globally. It's recognized among the most competitive in the nation for corporate relocation and expansion activity.
- The city's employment sector has weathered the recession better than most major metro areas. The downturn here was short-lived and the Houston metro area began recovering jobs sooner than most.
- Forbes magazine ranks Houston No. 5 among the largest U.S. metro areas poised to grow and prosper in the coming decade, based on job growth, demographic factors and attractiveness as a place to settle, make money and start a business.
- Houston's economy is diverse with a mix of public and private employment, companies of all sizes and a dynamic not-for-profit community. Once dominated by oil-related jobs, all other sectors account for 71% of Houston's net job growth since 1986.
- Houston is a global leader in manufacturing petrochemicals, with the \$15 billion Houston Ship Channel recognized as the largest petrochemical complex in the nation.
- NASA's Johnson Space Center is a \$1.5 billion complex occupying 1,620 acres.



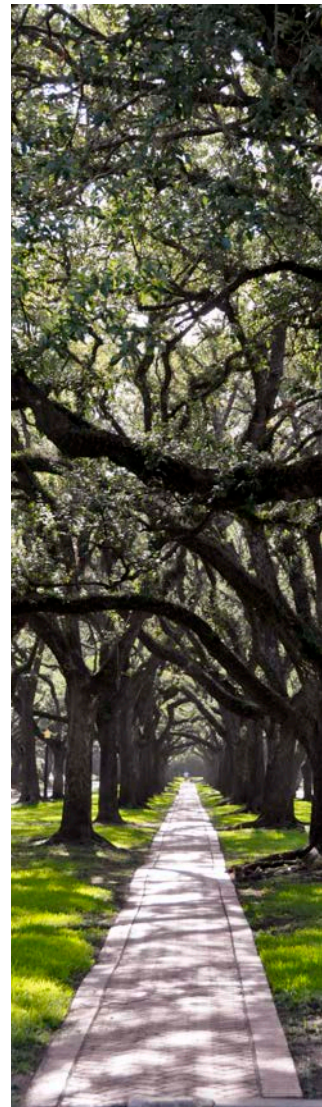
WE'RE IN
BUSINESS



MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME

Historic Heights

- Houston excels at providing a broad range of competitive housing options. Housing costs are more than 21% lower than the national average and 38% lower than the average of 27 other metro areas of more than 2 million residents.
- Houston's overall living costs are 9% below the nationwide average for places of all sizes and 19% below the large-metro average.





MD Anderson School of Health Professions

- First-rate education in Houston can be found through quality public, private and parochial primary schools, dozens of local community colleges, several four-year universities and colleges, and other specialized training options.
- Houston Independent School District is the seventh largest in the country, with enrollment of more than 200,000 students.
- The metro area contains 66 school districts and 50 charter schools with total enrollment of more than 1 million students, as well as a range of private and parochial schools.



TOP OF THE CLASS



BIOSCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

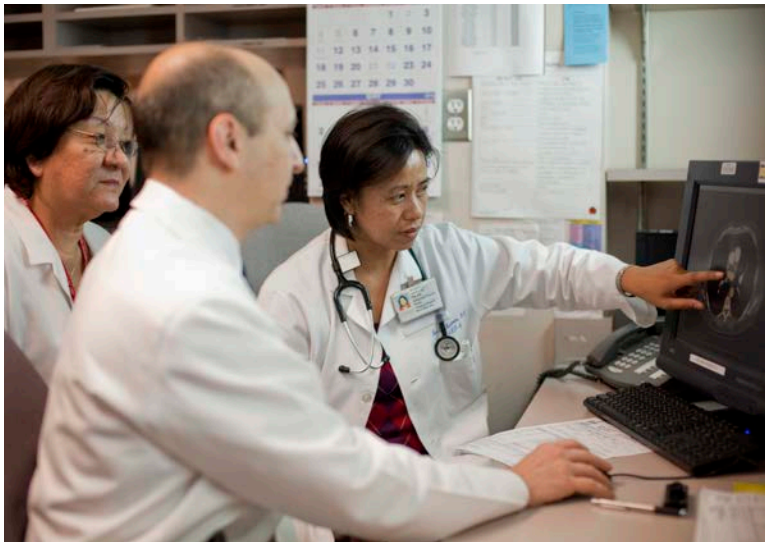
- Biotechnology and the life science industry continue expanding in the Houston region. More than 100 institutions and companies attract in excess of \$1.5 billion in research and development funding annually.
- Leading research efforts include nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, genetics/genomics, biodefense and infectious diseases, stem cell research and oncology.
- BioHouston Inc. is a non-profit corporation that helps connect scientists working toward commercializing their discoveries with the funding and development expertise required to turn great ideas into marketable products.
- Genesis Biotechnology Park, located just south of MD Anderson, comprises 16 innovative life science companies and researchers.
- The 1,000-acre Research Forest located in The Woodlands, 30 miles north of downtown Houston, is a major research center designed for scientific, research and biotechnology companies.



Galveston

FUN IN
THE SUN

- Houston’s cooperative weather allows for outdoor activities year-round. The city has normal daily temperatures ranging from the 40s to 60s in January and the 70s to 90s in July.
- Houston averages only 18 days per year with low temperatures of 32 degrees or below.
- Galveston Island beaches are just 50 miles southeast of Houston, making it easy to take advantage of the weather conditions.



MD Anderson Cancer Center





TO YOUR
HEALTH

- The Houston area has more than 13,000 physicians and 120 hospitals, with more than 20,000 total beds.
- MD Anderson has consistently ranked first in cancer care in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" survey, earning the top spot eight times in the past 10 years.
- Harris County Hospital District provides more than 1 million health care visits each year to low-income and uninsured residents of Harris County.
- Every medical specialty is represented in the Houston region, and clinics, nursing homes and assisted-living facilities are plentiful.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Minute Maid Park

- Houston is home to a variety of professional sports teams, including the Astros (baseball), Texans (football), Rockets (basketball), Dynamo (soccer) and Aeros (hockey).
- The Shell Houston Open is the lead-in tournament for the Masters Golf Tournament.
- Racing facilities include Sam Houston Race Park (horses) and Gulf Greyhound Park (dogs).
- The City of Houston Bikeway Program is a 345-mile interconnected network of on-street and off-road paths, with more in development. City parks offer an additional 80 miles of hike-and-bike and natural trails.
- Sam Houston National Forest, one of four national forests in Texas, is 50 miles north of Houston.
- There are several Texas National Wildlife Refuges in the metro area. More than 620 plant species and 400 vertebrate species have been observed in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Recognized by Parents magazine as one of the nation's Ten Best Zoos for Kids, the nonprofit Houston Zoo serves more than 1.6 million visitors each year. It's home to more than 4,500 exotic animals and 800 species.



Heights Hike and Bike Trail



Jamail Skatepark



Buffalo Bayou kayaks



Brazos Bend State Park



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

www.mdanderson.org/careers/working-in-houston

Produced by MD Anderson Communications Office 9/11