



## HOUSTON, TEXAS - Did you know...?<sup>1</sup>

The Houston City Statistical Area (CSA) covers 12,476 square miles, an area larger than Maryland (12,297 square miles). It is larger than 13 states in the Union.

The Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers 10,062 square miles, an area slightly smaller than Maryland but larger than Massachusetts (9,241 square miles).

Harris County covers 1,778 square miles, an area nearly half again as large as Rhode Island (1,231 square miles).

At 634 square miles, the City of Houston could contain the cities of New York, Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis and Miami.

The Museum District's cultural institutions and exhibits attract more than 7 million visitors a year. Notable facilities include The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Holocaust Museum Houston, and the Houston Zoo. Located near the Museum District are The Menil Collection, Rothko Chapel, and the Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum.

Houston has an active visual and performing arts scene in the Houston Theater District and is one of few U.S. cities that offer year-round resident companies in all major performing arts (Ballet, Opera, Orchestra & Theater).

Houston rates first among the nation's 10 most populous cities in total acreage of parkland. Houston has 56,405 acres of total park space, with 27.2 acres per 1,000 residents. The national average is 18.8 acres per 1,000 residents.

The City of Houston maintains more than 100 miles of hike and bike trails.

The 155-acre Houston Arboretum and Nature Center is located in central Houston between downtown and the Galleria area. Visitors can enjoy more than 5 miles of nature trails, including forest, pond, wetland and meadow habitats.

In the past seven years, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership has raised and leveraged more than \$45 million for improvements along a 10-mile stretch of Buffalo Bayou (which runs 52 miles through the city) from Shepherd Dr. to the Turning Basin. These improvements have included a 20-year master plan, three miles of hike and bike trails east of downtown, Sesquicentennial Park, the North Side Trail and the purchase of more than 35 acres of land in the East End for park lands.

The Millie Bush Dog Park was voted No. 1 in the nation by *Dog Fancy* magazine in June 2005.

Houston has sports teams for every major professional league except the NHL.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference – Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, [www.visithouston.com](http://www.visithouston.com)



More than 165 public and private golf courses are located in the Greater Houston area.

In *Golf Digest's* 2006 listing of America's Greatest Golf Hometowns, Spring-Conroe ranked second, and Houston ranked third. *Golf Digest* used golf and non-golf criteria for the rankings, such as number and quality of golf courses, golf days per year, golf course congestion, crime rates, airport access and cost of living.

Blackhorse Golf Club was rated in the top 10 of America's 100 best courses for \$100 or less by *Travel and Leisure Golf* magazine.

The Tournament Course at Redstone Golf Club is the new home to the Shell Houston Open, the PGA's 10<sup>th</sup> oldest tournament.

Located 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Houston is a destination for avid fishermen. An estimated 3 million Texas fisherman spend more than 9 million days fishing each year on the 1.5 million acres of lakes and 80,000 miles of rivers, streams and bayous of Texas. They fish for sport and for food, avidly seeking such long-time favorites as large-mouth bass, crappie, sunfish, white bass and various species of catfish. Sport fishing offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and in the inshore waters of the Texas coast has long been a favorite recreational pursuit of both Texans and visitors. Catches include tarpon, kingfish, red snapper, wahoo, ling, bonito and yellow-finned tuna. Eighty miles offshore from Galveston is some of the country's best bill fishing, with catches of blue and white marlin and sailfish.

The array of wildlife found in Texas allows hunters to take deer, turkey, javelina, antelope, aoudad sheep and all small game and migratory game birds. Duck, goose and dove hunting are extremely popular. Other small game includes quail, squirrel, pheasant and waterfowl.

Houston is located 30 minutes from Clear Lake, a 2,000-acre destination for boating enthusiasts. Considered to be the nation's "third coast," Clear Lake has one of the greatest concentrations of sailboats, yachts and pleasure craft in the U.S.

Houston's temperate climate sustains tropical vegetation and allows the city's residents and visitors an enviable outdoor lifestyle.

- Houston averages only 18.0 days per year with temperatures of 32°F or less and 99.6 days with high temperatures of 90°F or more. Temperatures rarely reach 100°F.
- Houston has had only 14 measurable snowfalls since 1939.
- Prevailing wind in Houston is south-southeasterly at a mean speed of 7.4 mph.

Average Temperatures:

January	62/41°F	July	94/74
February	67/44	August	94/73
March	73/51	September	89/68
April	79/57	October	82/59
May	86/66	November	72/50
June	91/72	December	65/43