

WHAT TO DO IN HOUSTON DURING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 28 – 30, 2011

For Shopaholics -

HOUSTON is the fourth largest city in the US and is arguably the style capital of the South!

- **THE GALLERIA** has 375-plus stores and grand ice rink and is flanked by Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Macy's. Shops like Louis Vuitton, Montblanc, Chanel, Gucci, Ferragamo, Tory Burch, Betsey Johnson, J. Crew, Charming Charlie's and Aveda among other quality retailers.
- **HARWIN** is a treasure trove of designer look-a-likes. This no-frills shopping area is in the southwest part of town. You will find lots of bags, shades, perfumes, electronics and more in this mall.
- **HOUSTON PREMIUM OUTLETS** is a designer discount haven in the Cypress suburb, just off Highway 290. Minutes outside of Houston, it has 120 big-name outlet stores waiting for YOU!
- **KATY MILLS MALL** is a mammoth mall with a whopping 1.3 square feet of retail space and is only 25 miles west of downtown.

Got Food?

Calabar Cuisine *

9755 South Kirkwood Rd
Houston, Texas 77099
281-530-2600

Lagos Island Café

6802 Highway 6 South @ Bellaire
Houston, Texas 77083

Finger Licking Bukateria

9817 Bissonnet Street
Houston, Texas 77036
713-270-7070

Addisaba Ethiopian Restaurant

Address: 7668 De Moss Drive
Houston TX, 77036
Phone: 713-995-0333

Reggae Hut – Jamaican Restaurant

Address: 4814 Almeda Rd

Houston TX, 77004
Phone: 713-520-7171

Narin's Bombay Brasserie

Address: 3005 West Loop South Freeway
Houston TX, 77027
Phone: (713) 622-2005

Cafe Piquet – Cuban Restaurant

Address: 5757 Bissonnet St.
Bellaire TX, 77401
Phone: 713-664-1031

This Is it (Soul Food)

Address: 2712 Blodgett St
Houston TX, 77004
Phone: 713-520-8444

The Breakfast Klub (Soul Food)

Address: 3711 Travis
Houston TX, 77002
Phone: 713-528-8561

Sightseeing Options -

- The Houston Zoo
6200 Hermann Park Drive (formerly Golf Course Drive)
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 533-6500

Houston Zoo Pricing: Children 0-1 Free / 2-11 \$8.00 / Adults 12-64 \$12.00

- Children's Museum of Houston
Address: 1500 Binz
Houston TX, 77004
Phone: 713-522-1138
Link: <http://www.cmhouston.org>

The Children's Museum of Houston is rated the No. 1 children's museum in the U.S. by Parents magazine. The Museum is packed with 90,000 square feet of innovative, interactive bilingual exhibits for kids (birth - 12 years).

- Buffalo Soldiers National Museum
- Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum
- Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
- Czech Cultural Center Houston

- The Health Museum
- Holocaust Museum Houston
- Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
- Houston Center for Photography
- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Must See Spots -

Galveston Beach – Galveston Texas

Galveston Beach is the coolest and biggest beach in Texas. Famous for its great beach parties, East Beach has major outdoor concerts, special events, promotions, bikini contests, live bands, and other activities. **Interstate 1-45 South**

The Strand

Address: 2100 Strand

Galveston TX, 77550

Link: <http://www.thestrand.com/>

Galveston's Historic Strand District, or The Strand, is the heart of the island and a great place to shop, dine and be entertained.

Market Square Park

Address: 301 Milam

Houston TX, 77002

Link: [http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/ourparks/marketsquarepark....](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/ourparks/marketsquarepark...)

Nestled in Houston's Historic District, Market Square Park actually sits on the site of the original City Hall (and the three iterations that followed), providing a place for entertainment, dining, public art and—yes—green space.

Miller Outdoor Theatre

Address: 100 Concert Drive

Hermann Park

Houston TX, 77030

Phone: 281-FREE-FUN

Link: <http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com>

Miller Outdoor Theatre is Houston's premier outdoor theater for the performing arts. Free performances run March through October. Miller Outdoor Theatre's BYOB policy allows guests to bring their own beverages and food to performances. *Glass containers and bottles are prohibited.

Space Center Houston

Address: 1601 NASA Parkway

Houston TX, 77058

Phone: 281-244-2100

Link: <http://www.spacecenter.org>

Space Center Houston, the official visitor's center for NASA's Johnson Space Center, is the only place on earth where guests can embark on an out-of-this-world journey through human adventures in space. Space Center Houston features a multitude of permanent exhibits, attractions and theaters. In addition, the venue presents an array of traveling exhibits and events created exclusively by Space Center Houston's creative exhibit team

Space Center Permanent Exhibits:

Blast Off

Blast-Off is an unparalleled multi-media sensory experience. Visitors encounter a dramatic high-definition audio/video extravaganza culminating in a dynamic space shuttle blast off.

Living in Space

Living in Space is a hands-on exhibit where guests can test their skills at landing the shuttle or retrieving a satellite through interactive computer simulators. A Mission Briefing Officer receives help from an audience participant in a live presentation showing how astronauts handle daily activities like showering, sleeping and preparing meals in space.

The NASA Tram Tour

With this behind-the-scenes journey through NASA's Johnson Space Center, you may visit the Historic Mission Control Center, the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility or the current Mission Control Center. Before returning to Space Center Houston, you can visit the "all new" Saturn V Complex at Rocket Park. Occasionally, the tour may visit other facilities, such as the Sonny Carter Training Facility or Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. You may even get to see astronauts training for upcoming missions.

The Astronaut Gallery

This unparalleled exhibit features spacesuits dating back to the first American trip to space and a wall that contains portraits and crew photos of every U.S. astronaut who has flown in space.

Mission Status

Mission briefing officers provide live updates on current space flights and astronaut training activities. Guests can listen to communications between Mission Control and astronaut crews aboard the space shuttle. A live video shows a behind-the-scenes view of activities in the Johnson Space Center and a satellite link of a shuttle launch via Kennedy Space Center of Florida.

The Martian Matrix

Four stories of out-of-this-world fun for kids, Pepsi's Martian Matrix is an action-packed play

area with a space theme. Slides, swings and foam ball battles are just a few of the featured activities.

Kids Space Place

Interactive stations and themed areas give children a chance to explore and investigate the different aspects of space exploration. Jumping on the Moon, manning the space shuttle, building a rocket and flying in space are all a part of the growing exhibit.

Starship Gallery

On Human Destiny is shown in the Starship Gallery, which highlights great moments in space exploration. The gallery contains artifacts and hardware from the Mercury program through Apollo-Soyuz, including a special Lunar Vault. The New Explorers video wall shares the visions of today's NASA engineers and scientists.

Getting Around Houston -

METRO's Airport Direct

METRO's Airport Direct offers a convenient, reliable service directly from the downtown Airport Direct Passenger Plaza (815 Pierce) to George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) Terminal C.

The Airport Direct Passenger Plaza is a short walk from the Downtown Transit Center METRORail station. For just \$15 one way and with departures every 30 minutes, traveling has never been easier!

Call (713) 635-4000 or www.ridemetro.org

Rail System

METRORail offers convenient accessible service within the heart of the city between downtown Houston and Reliant Park, including the Museum District and Texas Medical Center.

Bus System

METRO offers several types of bus service in Houston.

Local service runs mostly on city streets, stopping at every other corner along its route. One-way fare is \$1.25; a day pass with unlimited use of local service for 24 hours is \$2.

Express service travels up to six miles along its route with no stops. One-way fare is \$1.50 during morning peak hours (5-9 a.m.), \$1 for midday service (9 a.m.-3 p.m.), \$1.50 during afternoon peak hours (3-7 p.m.) and \$1 for evening service (after 7 p.m.)

Park & Ride service is for long-distance commuting. METRO's 25 Park & Ride lots provide bus service to key destinations in the service area. One-way fare ranges from \$1 to \$3.50, depending on distance.

Taxis

✓ **\$6 Cab Fare Anywhere Downtown**

✓ **Approximate cab fares from George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)**

Downtown - \$45

Reliant Park Area - \$54

Texas Medical Center - \$50

Uptown/Galleria - \$45

Greenway Plaza - \$50

✓ **Approximate cab fares from William P. Hobby Airport:**

Downtown \$22

Reliant Park Area \$27

Texas Medical Center \$27

Uptown/Galleria \$45

Greenway Plaza \$32

***Above rates include up to four people per cab**

✓ **Rental Cars**

Houston has a fleet of 30,000 rental cars with every major rental car company represented