Houston Tourist Attractions

Houston is known as a center of business, but the fourth largest city in the United States has a fun side, too. No matter what your interests, Houston probably has something for you. Enjoy shopping, the arts, six professional sports teams, parks, museums and dining. To see it all you'll want a car – this city of 2.2 million people is spread out over 600 square miles.

If you just have a few days and would like to stay downtown, the Theatre District offers quality hotels, restaurants and night life...and outstanding performing arts. Houston is rated second in the country for number of theatre seats concentrated in a downtown area, and is one of only five cities with permanent performing arts companies in the four major disciplines: ballet, music, opera and theatre.

Houston's museums are highly acclaimed and 18 of them are located within a 1.5 mile radius. Within the Museum District you can visit the zoo, enjoy numerous fine arts museums, or learn about the Buffalo Soldiers, natural science, weather, the Holocaust, Czech culture and more. The Children's Museum is a favorite of many. The Museum of Fine Arts is located between downtown and uptown – not far from the other museums. Just south of the city is NASA's Johnson Space Center, featuring interactive exhibits and tours.

The universities and businesses of Houston have attracted people from all over the world, and at least 90 languages are spoken here. The diversity of people in Houston is celebrated in its variety of restaurants, and also through a range of festivals. These include the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Art Car Parade, the International Festival, Fiesta Patrias, the Westheimer Street Festival, the Children's Festival, and a variety of holiday celebrations.

A short car trip opens up a world of shopping options – from the classy Galleria and other malls...to cozy specialty shops...to enormous outdoor flea markets. Come and spend a day or a week to get a taste of what Houston has to offer!

Source(s):

http://www.cityvisitorsguide.com/Houston__Texas.html

http://www.houstontheaterdistrict.org/

http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston

Author(s):

Written by Susan G. Scott, Lecturer in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, as part of a National Park Service Trails and Rails project funded by Amtrak, 2009.