

A NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Around 819 East 33rd

Barbecue, trails, Airline Drive and the history of Independence Heights in Houston



DISTANCES FROM THE FRONT DOOR



1.2 MI

Heights MKT trail
PAGE 21



1.3 MI

Barbecue on Airline Drive
PAGE 17



4.5 MI

Memorial Park
PAGE 27



50.2 MI

Galveston
PAGE 41

Groceries, food, parks, history, art and a year of events inside. Straight-line miles.

Life around East 33rd Street

The house sits in Independence Heights, where the City of Houston and TxDOT call it the first African American municipality in Texas. Next door is the Houston Heights, and in this booklet "the Heights" means that neighbor.

This booklet heads out the front door the way I would on a tour: groceries and errands, places to eat, parks and trails, history, art and the bigger Houston outings. A year of events, two easy days, move-in basics and getting around close it out. Nearby, that means the Houston Farmers Market on Airline Drive, the Heights MKT trail, Pinkerton's and White Oak Music Hall.

Every distance in this booklet is measured in a straight line from the house, so the actual drive runs a little longer. Scan the codes beside each place to open its own page and, on most entries, to get directions. Hours change, so check with the place before you go.



The house under construction (listing photo)

NEAR THE FRONT DOOR

Independence Heights Park	0.2 mi
McCullough Park	0.4 mi
The Original Connie's Seafood Market	0.5 mi
El Bolillo Bakery	0.6 mi
Whole Foods Market (Independence Heights)	0.6 mi

IN THIS BOOKLET

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START HERE

Three ways into the neighborhood

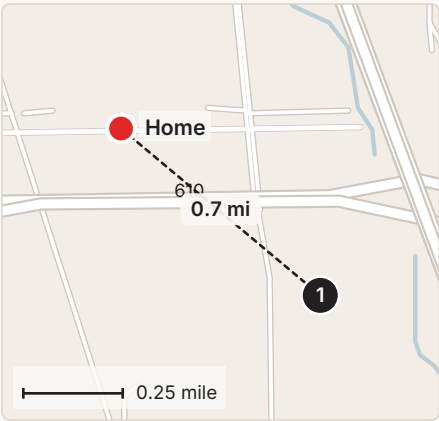
Short on time? These three give a good first feel for the area: groceries, a trail and a night of live music.

1 EVERYDAY STOP

Houston Farmers Market

2520 Airline Drive · 0.7 miles

Weekly groceries get more interesting at the Houston Farmers Market, with produce stands, chiles, spices, eggs and Texas craft meats from individual merchants. Bring small bills; the stalls are run by merchants who mostly prefer cash, though some take cards.



Hours and FAQs



Directions

2 OUTDOORS

Heights MKT Hike and Bike Trail

Nicholson Street and West 26th Street · 1.2 miles

Locals walk and ride the Heights MKT Hike and Bike Trail, which follows an old rail line. Hop on at its north end on Nicholson Street.



Trail & greenway



Directions

3 WEEKEND AND CULTURE

White Oak Music Hall

2915 North Main Street · 2.5 miles

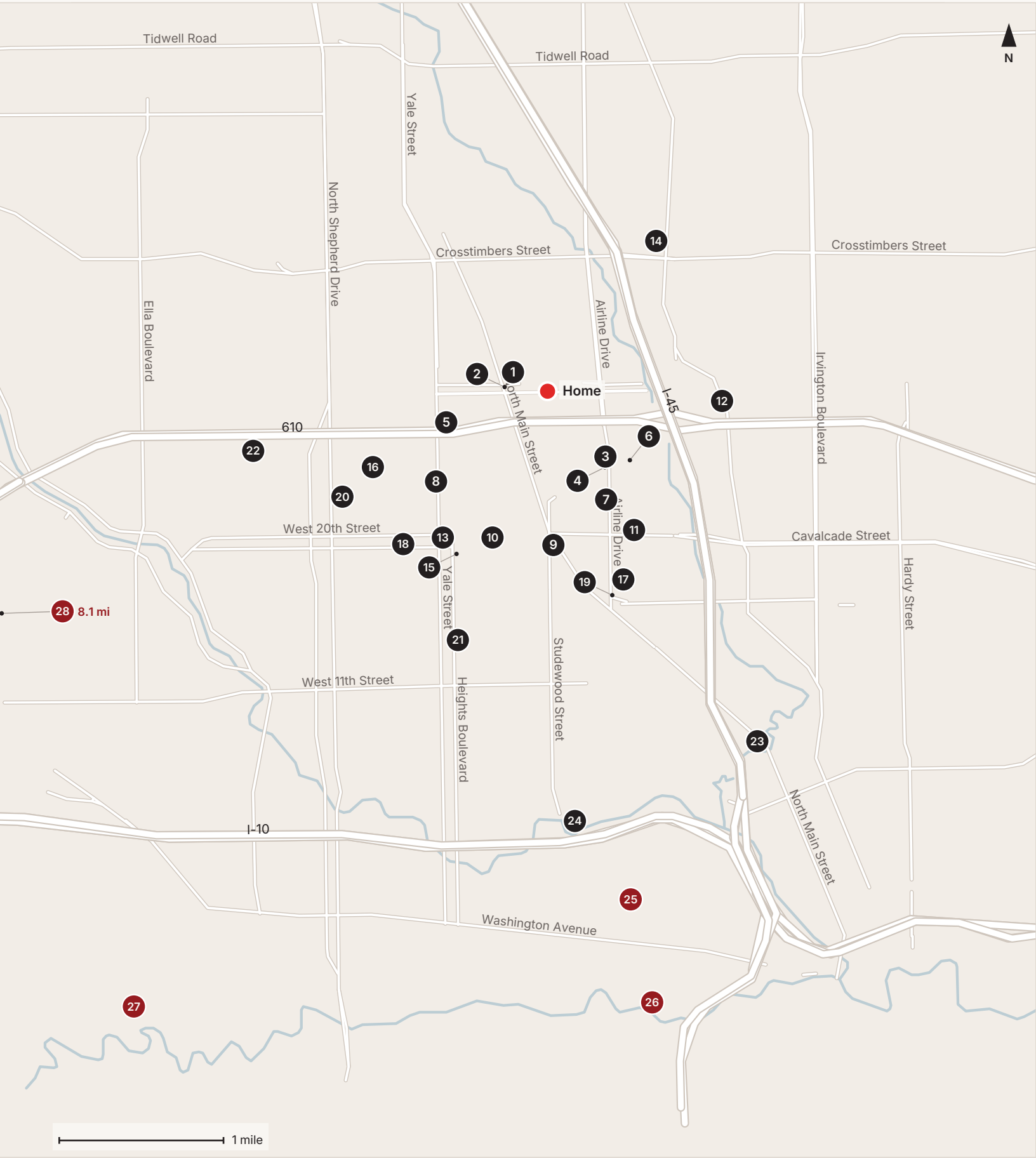
For a night out, start with brisket at Pinkerton's on Airline Drive, then catch a show at White Oak Music Hall.



See the show calendar



Directions



AROUND YOU

What's close to the house

Here is what's around the house on one map. Each numbered place lists its distance from the house and the page with the full story.

1	Independence Heights Park	0.2 mi	15	Heights Boulevard Esplanade	1.1 mi
PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 22			HISTORY · PAGE 31		
2	Centennial marker	0.3 mi	16	Heights MKT trail	1.2 mi
HISTORY · PAGE 30			PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 21		
3	Connie's Seafood	0.5 mi	17	Montie Beach Park	1.2 mi
GROCERIES · PAGE 7			PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 23		
4	El Bolillo	0.6 mi	18	Heights Theater	1.3 mi
GROCERIES · PAGE 7			ART AND CULTURE · PAGE 32		
5	Whole Foods	0.6 mi	19	Pinkerton's	1.3 mi
GROCERIES · PAGE 6			EAT AND DRINK · PAGE 17		
6	Houston Farmers Market	0.7 mi	20	Heights H-E-B	1.4 mi
GROCERIES · PAGE 7			GROCERIES · PAGE 6		
7	Houston Dairymaids	0.7 mi	21	Heights Library	1.6 mi
GROCERIES · PAGE 7			GETTING AROUND · PAGE 50		
8	Grogan Building Supply	0.9 mi	22	The Home Depot (North Loop)	1.8 mi
ERRANDS · PAGE 12			ERRANDS · PAGE 12		
9	Casaema	0.9 mi	23	White Oak Music Hall	2.5 mi
EAT AND DRINK · PAGE 14			ART AND CULTURE · PAGE 34		
10	Third Place	1.0 mi	24	Stude Park	2.6 mi
EAT AND DRINK · PAGE 14			PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 24		
11	Anson Jones Post Office	1.0 mi	25	Sawyer Yards	3.1 mi
ERRANDS · PAGE 11			ART AND CULTURE · PAGE 35		
12	Red Line (Melbourne)	1.1 mi	26	Buffalo Bayou Park	3.8 mi
GETTING AROUND			PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 26		
13	CVS (West 20th Street)	1.1 mi	27	Memorial Park	4.5 mi
ERRANDS · PAGE 11			PARKS AND TRAILS · PAGE 27		
14	Walmart (Crosstimbers)	1.1 mi	28	H Mart	8.1 mi
ERRANDS · PAGE 12			GROCERIES · PAGE 10		

Shaded rows are within about a mile and a quarter of the house.

Streets from U.S. Census Bureau TIGER data; waterways from the USGS National Hydrography Dataset. Places beyond the frame sit at its edge with their distance. Dark red markers are worth-the-drive outings.

GROCERIES

The weekly run

Whole Foods, H-E-B, ALDI and Fiesta cover the weekly shop, and all four are nearby.

Whole Foods Market (Independence Heights)

WHERE 101 North Loop W | **FROM HOME** 0.6 miles ¹⁹

HOURS daily, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

At the Whole Foods on the North Loop, a hot and salad bar with seasonal entrées, salads and sides handles the nights nobody feels like cooking.



Store hours



Directions

The Heights H-E-B

WHERE 2300 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 1.4 miles ⁶²

At the Heights H-E-B, look up for a permanent art piece by Houston sculptor Elaine Bradford, a flock of chickens in crocheted sweaters above the second-story entry!



Store hours



Directions

ALDI (North Shepherd)

WHERE 3938 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 1.4 miles ⁸⁴

ALDI on North Shepherd Drive stocks produce, meat and seafood, deli items, baked goods and frozen foods, plus home goods and limited-time items. Keep a coin handy for the shopping carts that take a quarter deposit.



Store hours



Directions

Fiesta Mart (Airline Drive)

WHERE 4711 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 1.4 miles ⁸⁵

HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Airline Drive store is a Fiesta Mart, the Texas grocery chain that pitches fresh products, value and Texas pride.



Store hours



Directions

GROCERIES

On Airline Drive

Produce stalls, a panadería, a cheese shop and a seafood market, all on one stretch of Airline Drive.

Houston Farmers Market

WHERE 2520 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 0.7 miles ^{1,2,21}

HOURS every day, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., though individual merchants keep their own hours

Plan a slow morning at an 18-acre market on Airline Drive in the Greater Northside, with produce stands, chiles, spices, eggs and Texas craft meats from individual merchants.



Hours and FAQs



Directions

El Bolillo Bakery

WHERE 2517 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 0.6 miles ^{16,17}

HOURS daily, 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

El Bolillo bakes about 150 kinds of pan dulce, pan salado, pastries and desserts, all handmade daily. Take a box home for Saturday breakfast.



Hours and location



Directions

Houston Dairymaids

WHERE 2201 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 0.7 miles ^{22,23}

HOURS Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday

Houston Dairymaids stocks more than 150 cheeses, mostly American-made with an emphasis on Texas, cut and wrapped fresh each day, and there's a free tasting of five cheeses each day the shop is open.



Cheese shop



Directions

The Original Connie's Seafood Market

WHERE 2525 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 0.5 miles ¹³

HOURS open Sunday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Connie's opened on Airline Drive in 1979 and serves seafood plates with Mexican and Asian influences, a fresh seafood market counter, fried rice, Vuelve a la Vida soup and micheladas.



Menu & hours



Directions

GROCERIES

Pharmacy counters and gas

Two Krogers with fuel centers and pharmacies, a Walmart Supercenter and a Sprouts on Yale Street.

Kroger (Shepherd)

WHERE 1035 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 2.3 miles ⁸⁶
HOURS daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

On North Shepherd Drive, this Kroger has a fuel center open daily 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. plus drive-thru and walk-up pharmacy windows. Fill the tank and pick up a prescription in one stop.



Store hours



Directions

Kroger (Oak Forest)

WHERE 1352 West 43rd Street | **FROM HOME** 2.8 miles ⁸⁷
HOURS daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Over in Oak Forest, this Kroger has a fuel center open daily 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and a drive-thru pharmacy, and it goes past the basics with a Murray's Cheese counter, an olive bar, sushi and a tortillería among its departments.



Store hours



Directions

Walmart Supercenter (Crosstimbers)

WHERE 4412 North Freeway | **FROM HOME** 1.1 miles ⁸⁸
HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Walmart on the North Freeway sells groceries and household basics, plus hardware, paint and a garden center.



Store hours



Directions

Sprouts Farmers Market (The Heights)

WHERE 195 Yale Street | **FROM HOME** 3.0 miles ⁸⁹
HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sprouts on Yale Street fills in the rest of the list with fresh sushi, Boar's Head meats and cheeses, beer and wine, and deli catering trays.



Store hours



Directions

GROCERIES

A butcher, a bakery and more

An old-school meat market and two more Fiesta Marts for the regular run, plus a French bakery farther out.

1 B&W Meat Company

WHERE 4801 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 1.9 miles ⁹⁰
HOURS Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

B&W Meat Company has been a family-owned meat market since 1959. Ask the counter for custom-cut steaks and roasts, homemade sausages, seafood, spices and smoking supplies.



Hours and meats



Directions

2 Magnol French Baking WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1500 North Post Oak Road | **FROM HOME** 4.3 miles ⁹¹
HOURS Tuesday–Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Monday

Magnol on North Post Oak Road is an organic French bakery. Get a loaf for the week and something from the pastry case.



Bakery hours



Directions

3 Fiesta Mart (Fulton Street)

WHERE 4114 Fulton Street | **FROM HOME** 1.8 miles ⁹²
HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Another Fiesta Mart, this one on Fulton Street, for days when Airline Drive isn't on the way.



Store hours



Directions

4 Fiesta Mart (Quitman Street)

WHERE 1020 Quitman Street | **FROM HOME** 3.0 miles ⁹³
HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

And a third Fiesta Mart, on Quitman Street.

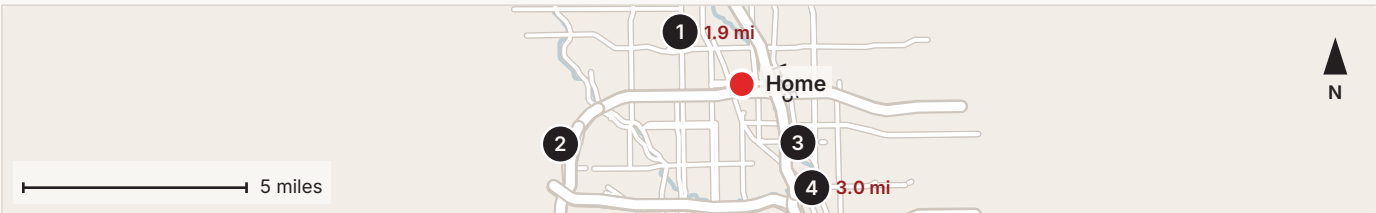


Store hours



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE



GROCERIES

H Mart, 99 Ranch and more

Two big Asian supermarkets on Blalock Road, plus Costco on Bunker Hill Road and Trader Joe's on South Shepherd Drive.

H Mart (Blalock) WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1302 Blalock Road | **FROM HOME** 8.1 miles ⁸³

H Mart on Blalock Road carries a full line of Asian foods plus a broad range of Western groceries, as the chain describes its stores.



Store hours



Directions

99 Ranch Market (Blalock) WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1005 Blalock Road | **FROM HOME** 8.4 miles ^{94,95}

HOURS Sunday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Before the drive to Blalock Road, look through a weekly ad with sections for perishables, grocery, drinks and snacks, dairy and frozen, and housewares.



Weekly ad



Directions

Costco (Bunker Hill) WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1150 Bunker Hill Road | **FROM HOME** 8.7 miles ⁹⁶

HOURS weekdays 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Gold Star members, with Executive members admitted earlier

Costco on Bunker Hill Road is a warehouse that opened in June 2001, with a gas station, pharmacy, food court, tire center and optical department. Bring your membership card.



Warehouse hours



Directions

Trader Joe's (Alabama Theater) WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 2922 South Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 5.5 miles ⁹⁷

HOURS daily, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Down South Shepherd Drive is a Trader Joe's the company calls its Alabama Theater store, with beer and wine, so a bottle for dinner goes in the same cart.



Store hours



Directions

ERRANDS

Pharmacies, mail and books

Two CVS stores, the Anson Jones Post Office and a used bookstore to lose an afternoon in.

CVS Pharmacy (West 20th Street)

WHERE 110 West 20th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.1 miles ⁴¹

HOURS store and pharmacy open 24 hours every day, with the pharmacy closed for lunch from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

Over in the Heights, this CVS has flu shots and other immunizations, a pharmacy drive-thru, prescription delivery, photo services and a UPS Access Point.



Store hours



Directions

CVS Pharmacy (Irvington Boulevard)

WHERE 4702 Irvington Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 1.9 miles ⁹⁸

HOURS store daily 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; pharmacy weekdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed for lunch 1:30 to 2 p.m.

A second CVS on Irvington Boulevard, with flu shots and other immunizations, prescription delivery, drug disposal, photo services and an ATM inside.



Store hours



Directions

Anson Jones Post Office

WHERE 634 West Cavalcade Street | **FROM HOME** 1.0 miles ³⁷

HOURS weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sunday

The Anson Jones Post Office on West Cavalcade Street has passport services, money orders and other financial services, and lot parking.



Hours and services



Directions

Kaboom Books

WHERE 3116 Houston Avenue | **FROM HOME** 2.3 miles ^{99,100}

HOURS open every day, noon to 6 p.m.

Kaboom holds about 100,000 used books, from current titles to long out-of-print ones, shelved in 84 sections. Bring a box of your own, since the shop buys, sells and trades books.



Hours and visit

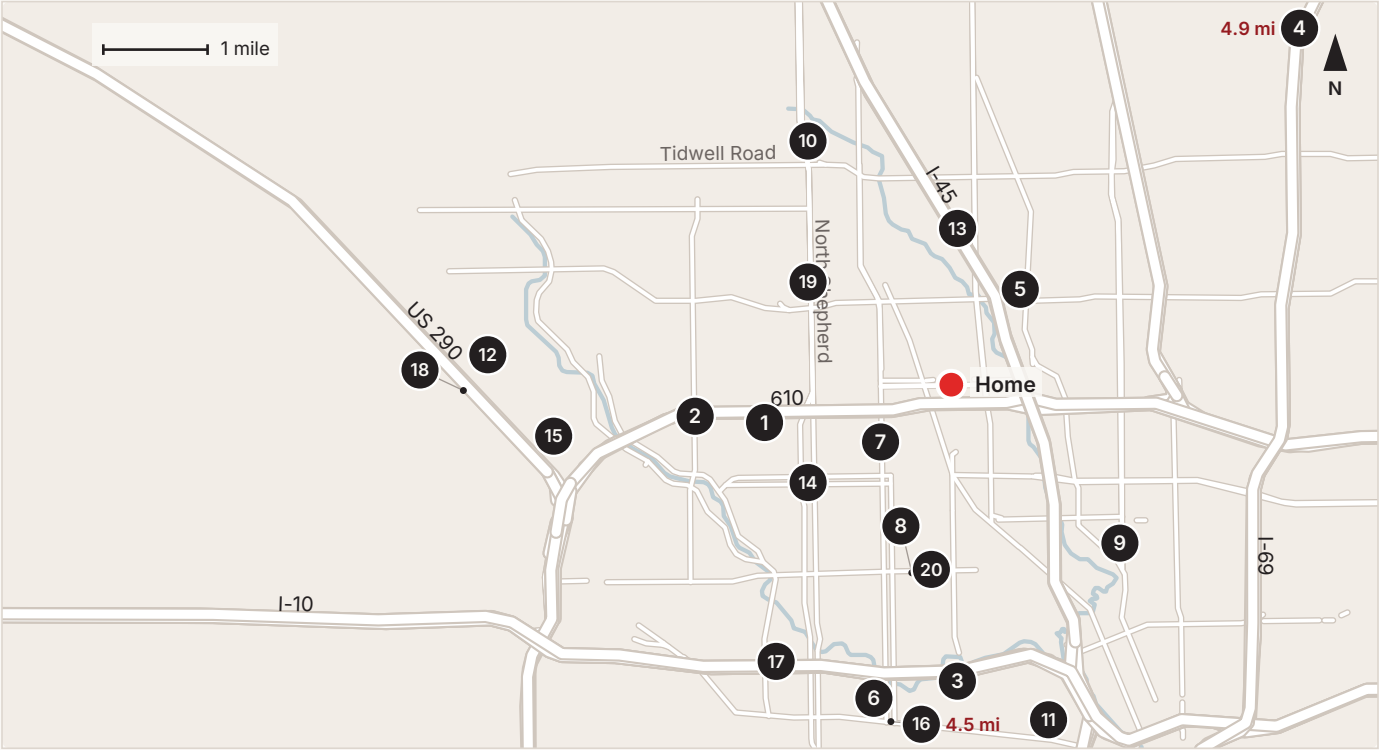


Directions

ERRANDS

Hardware and home projects

Go-to stores for weekend projects: Home Depots, a Lowe's and Walmarts, plus local hardware and lumber, paint, tools and garden centers.



Numbers match the list. Stores beyond the frame sit at its edge with their distance. Roads: U.S. Census Bureau TIGER data.

HOME CENTERS

- 1 The Home Depot (North Loop)** ⁶⁶

999 North Loop West · 1.8 miles

A garden center, a rental center, an expanded flooring showroom and key cutting.
- 2 Lowe's Home Improvement (North Loop)** ¹⁰¹

1521 North Loop West · 2.5 miles

A garden center, key copying, truck rental and in-store or curbside pickup.

- 3 The Home Depot (Katy Freeway)** ¹⁰²

2777 Katy Freeway · 2.8 miles

A garden center, tool and truck rental and propane exchange.

- 4 The Home Depot (Little York)** ¹⁰³

10600 Eastex Freeway · 4.9 miles

A garden center, a rental center for tools, equipment and trucks, and home services.

WALMART SUPERCENTERS

- 5 Walmart (Crosstimbers)** ⁴³

4412 North Freeway · 1.1 miles

HOURS daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Hardware, paint and a garden center.

- 6 Walmart Supercenter (Yale Street)** ¹⁰⁴

111 Yale Street · 3.1 miles

HOURS daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Hardware, paint and garden departments plus furniture assembly.

HARDWARE AND LUMBER

- 7 Grogan Building Supply** ²⁵

2419 Yale Street · 0.9 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday

A family-owned Heights hardware store and lumber yard that also supplies windows and doors.

- 8 C & D Hardware & Gifts** ¹⁰⁵

314 East 11th Street · 1.8 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A Do it Best hardware store on East 11th Street with home improvement and lawn-and-garden supplies.

- 9 Stokes Hardware & Supply Co.** ¹⁰⁶

3719 Irvington Boulevard · 2.2 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday

A Do it Best hardware store on Irvington Boulevard with home improvement and lawn-and-garden supplies.

- 10 Montalbano Lumber (Shepherd Drive)** ¹⁰⁷

5850 North Shepherd Drive · 2.7 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. to noon, closed Sunday

The yard on North Shepherd: lumber and building supplies.

- 11 Montalbano Lumber (Houston Avenue)** ¹⁰⁷

1309 Houston Avenue · 3.3 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., closed Sunday

The Houston Avenue yard: lumber and building supplies.

- 12 Houston Hardwoods** ¹⁰⁸

4910 West 34th Street · 4.5 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hardwoods, exotic woods, plywood, mouldings and custom milling, with marine-grade plywood a specialty.

PAINT AND FLOORING

- 13 Sherwin-Williams (North Freeway)** ¹⁰⁹

4940 North Freeway · 1.5 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Paint, paint supplies and stains, on the North Freeway.

- 14 Southwestern Paint (The Heights)** ¹¹⁰

721 West 19th Street · 1.7 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Sunday

Benjamin Moore paints and supplies, with color consultation.

- 15 Floor & Decor** ¹¹¹

4330 Dacoma Street · 3.8 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Design services, installation materials and curbside pickup.

- 16 Southwestern Paint (Downtown/Midtown)** ¹¹²

1902 Taft Street · 4.5 miles

HOURS Monday–Friday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday

Benjamin Moore paints plus stains, clear coats, wallpapers, tapes and adhesives, on Taft Street.

TOOLS AND BEARINGS

- 17 Houston Bearing & Supply** ¹¹³

5311 Cornish Street · 3.1 miles

HOURS call ahead; the shop lists 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without days

Bearings, V-belts, sheaves, couplings, roller chain, seals and electric motors.

- 18 Harbor Freight Tools (Northwest Freeway)** ¹¹⁴

10911 Northwest Freeway · 4.7 miles

HOURS Monday–Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Harbor Freight tools on the Northwest Freeway.

GARDEN CENTERS

- 19 Wabash Feed & Garden** ¹¹⁵

4537 North Shepherd Drive · 1.7 miles

HOURS Monday–Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Organic garden supplies, plants, seeds, tools, beekeeping gear and backyard chickens.
- 20 Buchanan's Native Plants** ¹¹⁶

611 East 11th Street · 1.8 miles

HOURS daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Texas native plants, perennials, herbs, vegetables, trees and organic garden supplies.

Coffee close to home

Four coffee stops nearby, from pan dulce on North Main to a roastery.

Casaema

WHERE 5307 North Main Street | **FROM HOME** 0.9 miles ^{26,27,28}

HOURS Tuesday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (full menu from 10 a.m.), Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Monday

Casaema is a pan dulce bakery and coffee bar with breakfast and lunch, where the kitchen works with heirloom corn masa. Order the suadero chilaquiles, hoja santa French toast and a breakfast sandwich on house-made sesame cemita bread.



Hours & location



Directions

Third Place

WHERE 420 East 20th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.0 miles ³⁵

HOURS Monday and Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Tuesday

Third Place is a daytime cafe that hosts a rotating lineup of guest chefs for lunch, with coffee, matcha drinks and pastries all day.



Cafe menu



Directions

Boomtown Coffee (Heights)

WHERE 242 West 19th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.2 miles ^{117,118}

HOURS cafe open daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; kitchen weekdays 6:30 to 11 a.m., weekends 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Boomtown is the original location of a Houston roaster that roasts its own beans, in the middle of the 19th Street shops. Take your cup for a walk down the block.



Hours & location



Directions

Luce Avenue Coffee Roasters

WHERE 1717 West 34th Street | **FROM HOME** 2.4 miles ^{119,120}

HOURS call ahead at 832.962.8902

Luce Avenue Coffee Roasters is a cafe where you can watch the coffee being roasted on site, and it also teaches coffee courses. Order a cup, then ask about the next course.



Location



Directions

On 19th and 20th Streets

Four dinner spots in the Heights: an Asian American diner, an Italian lounge in a hotel, a relaxed European kitchen and a menu built on Houston's mix of cultures.

Agnes and Sherman

WHERE 250 West 19th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.2 miles ^{121,122}

HOURS open Wednesday through Sunday, with lunch Wednesday to Friday 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., brunch Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday

Agnes and Sherman is an Asian American diner named for the chef's parents, with dishes like savory scallion waffles, crawfish egg foo young with gumbo gravy and cheeseburger fried rice.



Menu



Directions

Hypsi

WHERE 347 West 20th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.3 miles ¹²³

HOURS breakfast daily 7 to 11 a.m., lunch weekdays and brunch weekends 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner daily 5 to 10 p.m.

Hypsi is an Italian restaurant and lounge in Hotel Daphne with aperitivo, cocktails and housemade pasta, led by chef Terrence Gallivan.



Menu



Directions

Squable

WHERE 632 West 19th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.6 miles ¹²⁴

HOURS dinner Tuesday through Sunday 4 to 10 p.m. and brunch Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Squable serves casual European food with American influences, with dinner most nights and brunch on weekends.



Menus & hours



Directions

JŪN

WHERE 420 East 20th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.0 miles ^{125,126,127}

HOURS dinner 5 to 10 p.m. every day except Tuesday

At JŪN, expect a dinner menu from chefs Evelyn Garcia and Henry Lu that celebrates Houston's mix of cultures, with dishes like Gulf shrimp aguachile, peanut-curry brisket and heirloom grits with carne seca gravy.



Menu



Directions



Kolaches (illustrative photo) Photo: Missvain, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

EAT AND DRINK

Breakfast and kolaches

Three morning stops for sourdough, breakfast plates and kolaches.

Jane Wild Bakehouse

WHERE 4721 North Main Street | **FROM HOME** 1.3 miles ¹²⁸
HOURS autumn hours Monday, Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Tuesday and Wednesday

Jane Wild is a scratch bakery on North Main Street. Stop in for coffee and a hand pie, breakfast sandwiches on its signature sourdough, and locally milled flour to take home.



Hours & menu



Directions

Dandelion Cafe

WHERE 611 West 22nd Street | **FROM HOME** 1.4 miles ^{129,130}
HOURS Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dandelion Cafe is a locally owned spot in the Heights. Order the Dandy Classic with two eggs and roasted hashbrowns, avocado toast on focaccia, and breakfast tacos with house-made salsa.



Heights menu



Directions

Kolache Shoppe (Heights)

WHERE 1031 Heights Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 1.9 miles ^{131,132,133}
HOURS Tuesday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Monday

At Kolache Shoppe on Heights Boulevard, pick from brisket, egg and cheddar with Pinkerton's brisket, Prasek's venison sausage and cheese, and fruit and cream cheese kolaches. It's an old Houston name, and the shop first opened in 1970 on Richmond Avenue.



Heights menu



Directions



Texas brisket (illustrative photo) Photo: Gatorfan252525, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

EAT AND DRINK

Barbecue

Brisket three ways: Pinkerton's on Airline Drive, Gatlin's on Ella Boulevard and Truth BBQ on Heights Boulevard.

Pinkerton's Barbecue

WHERE 1504 Airline Drive | **FROM HOME** 1.3 miles ^{54,55}
HOURS open Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., or until sold out; closed Monday

Line up for prime brisket smoked over post oak and mesquite, sticky glazed pork ribs and duck-and-sausage jambalaya. This Airline Drive spot is the one where Grant Pinkerton opened the original Heights restaurant in 2016.



Menu & hours



Directions

Gatlin's BBQ

WHERE 3510 Ella Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 2.4 miles ¹³⁴
HOURS Monday–Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday

On Ella Boulevard, Gatlin's BBQ serves brisket, baby back ribs, pulled pork and grits, with Southern sides like biscuits, fried okra and mac and cheese.



Menu



Directions

Truth BBQ

WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 110 South Heights Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 3.3 miles ^{135,136}
HOURS lunch Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. and dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m., until sold out

The Houston location opened in the Heights in January 2019. Expect barbecue in the Central Texas style, from 18-hour cooks on wood-burning offset smokers, with sides and desserts made from scratch daily.



Hours & location



Directions

EAT AND DRINK

Soul food, Cajun and burgers

Oxtails and gumbo, Viet-Cajun crawfish, burgers made fresh to order, and sand volleyball with a cold draft.

Esther's Cajun Cafe and Soul Food

WHERE 5007 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 2.1 miles ^{137,138}

HOURS open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Esther's serves home-style Cajun and soul food such as oxtails, mustard greens and sweet potatoes, with weekend gumbo, crawfish and shrimp étouffée and Cajun fried chicken.



Hours & location



Directions

Crawfish Cafe (Heights)

WHERE 1026 North Shepherd Drive | **FROM HOME** 2.3 miles ^{139,140}

HOURS daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Grab a table at Crawfish Cafe for boiled crawfish, shrimp and crab in Viet-Cajun house sauce blends, plus Cajun classics like chargrilled oysters, étouffée and garlic noodles.



Menu



Directions

Stanton's City Bites WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1420 Edwards Street | **FROM HOME** 3.3 miles ^{141,142}

HOURS open Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Monday

Stanton's City Bites began in 1961 as a small grocery store in the First Ward, and it still turns out burgers and sandwiches made fresh to order.



Menu



Directions

Wakefield Crowbar

WHERE 954 Wakefield Drive | **FROM HOME** 2.1 miles ¹⁴³

HOURS Monday–Wednesday 11 a.m. to midnight, Thursday–Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to midnight

Wakefield Crowbar has three sand volleyball courts, 30-plus drafts and a kids' play area, and it's 21 and up after 10 p.m.



Menu



Directions

EAT AND DRINK

A night out

Four special-occasion tables, from a garden-driven Italian kitchen to a corn tasting menu.

Coltivare

WHERE 3320 White Oak Drive | **FROM HOME** 2.4 miles ¹⁴⁴

HOURS dinner nightly except Tuesday, 5 to 10 p.m. (to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, to 9 p.m. Sunday)

Dinner at Coltivare on White Oak Drive means rustic Italian cooking with a Gulf Coast perspective, guided by Houston's growing seasons and the restaurant's backyard garden.



Menus & hours



Directions

Theodore Rex WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1302 Nance Street | **FROM HOME** 3.9 miles ¹⁴⁵

HOURS call ahead or check the website for current hours

Book Theodore Rex for a birthday or an anniversary. It's relaxed fine dining with a French touch and a lot of local ingredients, in the Warehouse District.



Hours & menu



Directions

Tatemó WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 4740 Dacoma Street | **FROM HOME** 4.4 miles ¹⁴⁶

Tatemó serves a BYOB Mexican tasting menu built around corn. Seats go by reservation on Tock, so book ahead and bring a bottle.



Menu



Directions

Josephine's Gulf Coast Tradition

WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 318 Gray Street | **FROM HOME** 4.5 miles ^{147,148,149}

HOURS lunch weekdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m., open straight through 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday

At Josephine's Gulf Coast Tradition, the menu runs to seafood from the Gulf Coast, made with locally sourced ingredients, like smoked redfish dip, Gulf oysters and peel-and-eat shrimp.



Menu



Directions

EAT AND DRINK

Beer, wine and late nights

Four spots to sit outside with a drink: a brewery, a beer garden, a cocktail lounge and a backyard patio.

Eureka Heights Brew Co.

WHERE 941 West 18th Street | **WHEN** general trivia on Wednesday nights and a run club on Thursday evenings | **FROM HOME** 2.0 miles ¹⁵⁰

HOURS Tuesday 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 10 p.m., Friday 3 to 10 p.m., Saturday noon to 10 p.m., Sunday noon to 8 p.m.; closed Monday

Eureka Heights Brew Co. is a brewery taproom with a dog-friendly patio, more than 26 pinball machines and a different food truck most days. Grab a pint and see who's cooking.



Taproom hours



Directions

Heights Bier Garten

WHERE 1433 North Shepherd Drive | **WHEN** happy hour weekdays 4 to 6 p.m. | **FROM HOME** 1.9 miles ¹⁵¹

HOURS weekdays 3 p.m. to 2 a.m., weekends 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Bring the dog to Heights Bier Garten on North Shepherd Drive, a family- and pet-friendly beer garden with a big tap list and a cocktail bar in its Annex.



Hours & location



Directions

Starduster Lounge

WHERE 3921 North Main Street | **FROM HOME** 1.8 miles ¹⁵²

Starduster Lounge is a neighborhood cocktail bar pouring West Texas-inspired drinks built on tequila, mezcal and sotol, with frozen margaritas, ranch waters and a big back patio with TVs.



About & FAQ



Directions

Plonk! Bistro and Wine Cellar

WHERE 1214 West 43rd Street | **FROM HOME** 2.7 miles ¹⁵³

HOURS Sunday–Thursday 4 to 10 p.m., Friday–Saturday 4 to 11 p.m.

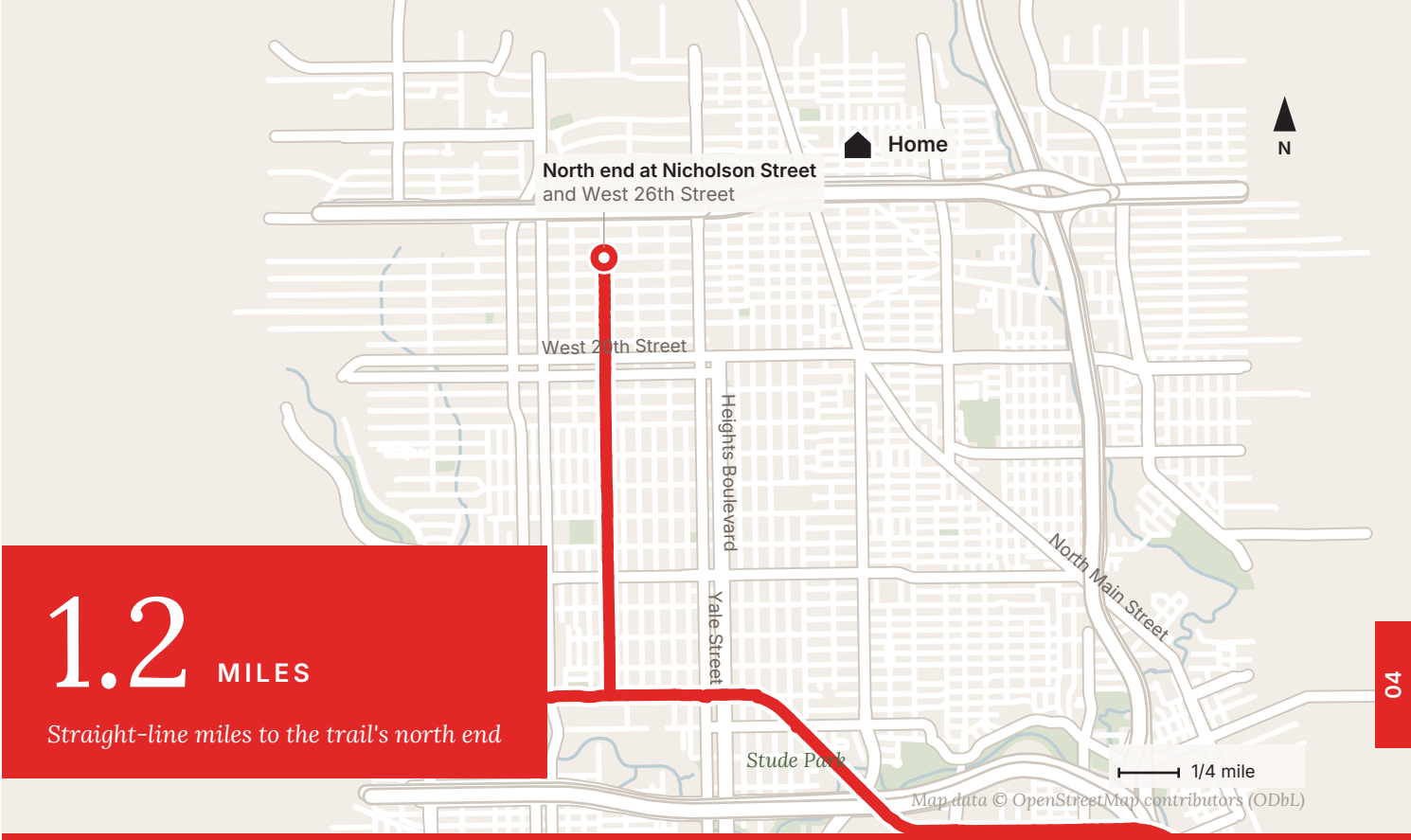
Settle in at Plonk!, where the tables sit on a multi-tiered, dog-friendly backyard patio with occasional live music and tastings.



Menu



Directions



1.2 MILES

Straight-line miles to the trail's north end

04 · PARKS AND TRAILS

Heights MKT Hike and Bike Trail

For walks, runs and bike rides, start here. It follows an old rail line through the Heights.

The upper stretch is a Nicholson Street leg that runs from the MKT Trail north to West 26th Street. The distance on this page is measured to the top of that leg.

Farther south the path makes three junctions with the White Oak Bayou Greenway through the Heights and Woodland Heights, so a quick ride can turn into a long one along the bayou. Bring water on summer mornings.

WHERE
Nicholson Street and West 26th Street

FROM HOME
1.2 miles

Sources ^{3,47}

GOOD TO KNOW
Start at the north end on Nicholson Street and head south. The red line on the map is the trail.



Trail & greenway



Directions

PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks close to home

Four neighborhood parks nearby, each with a playground and swings.

1 Independence Heights Park

WHERE 601 East 35th Street | **FROM HOME** 0.2 miles ^{6,7}

Independence Heights Park has a 0.31-mile concrete walking loop and a playground with play equipment and swings.



Pool season



Directions

2 McCullough Park

WHERE 901 East 40th Street | **FROM HOME** 0.4 miles ^{5,6}

McCullough Park is a small neighborhood park with a playground and swings on about 1.9 acres, just north of the house.



Park list



Directions

3 Halbert Park

WHERE 200 East 23rd Street | **FROM HOME** 0.8 miles ^{6,154}

At about 1.8 acres, Halbert Park is a small Heights park with a playground and swings.



Park list



Directions

4 Kerr Park

WHERE 4620 Arlington Street | **FROM HOME** 1.2 miles ^{5,6,7}

On Arlington Street, Kerr Park is a six-acre park with a playground, swings and a short walking trail.

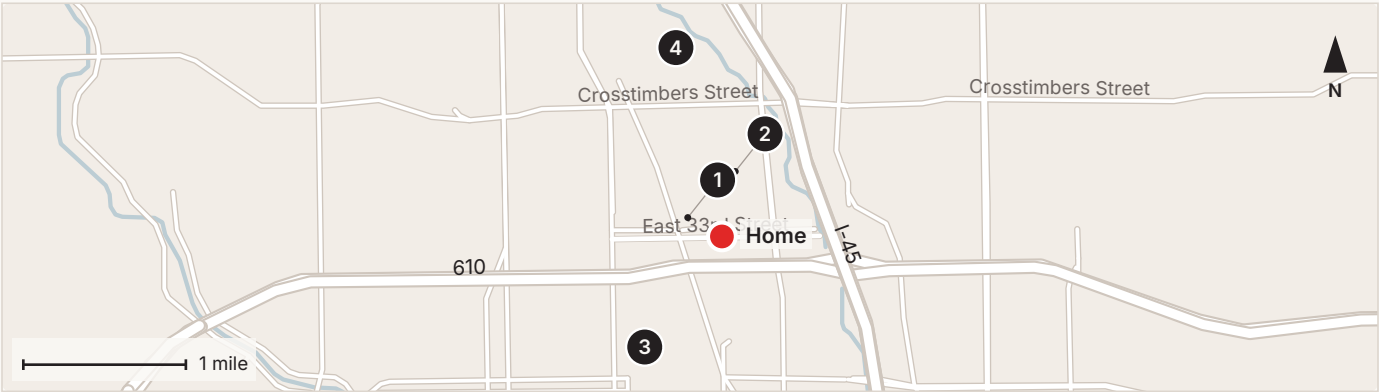


Park list



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE



PARKS AND TRAILS

A splash pad and playgrounds

A beach-themed sprayground at Montie Beach Park, and a playground at every park on this page.

1 Montie Beach Park

WHERE 915 Northwood Street | **FROM HOME** 1.2 miles ^{5,10,49}

HOURS community center fall and spring hours Monday–Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed weekends

Montie Beach Park is a 22.5-acre park with a beach-themed sprayground, a playground and a City community center, so plan hot afternoons around it.



Sprayground



Directions

2 Graham Park

WHERE 540 West 34th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.2 miles ^{6,154}

Graham Park is a 2.5-acre park on West 34th Street with a playground and swings.



Park list



Directions

3 Victoria Gardens Park

WHERE 4830 Werner Street | **FROM HOME** 1.5 miles ^{5,69}

Victoria Gardens Park is a small park on Werner Street with a playground and swings.



Park list



Directions

4 Shepherd Park

WHERE 4725 Brinkman Street | **FROM HOME** 2.1 miles ^{5,69,70}

Out on Brinkman Street, Shepherd Park is a park of nearly eight acres with a playground, swings and a quarter-mile crushed-granite loop.



Park list



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE



PARKS AND TRAILS

Pools, gyms and a big park

City pools at Love and Stude, community center gyms and a big Northside park on Fulton Street.

Love Park

WHERE 1000 West 12th Street | **FROM HOME** 2.0 miles ^{6,8,10,71,154}

HOURS community center fall and spring hours Monday–Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sunday

Love Park is a seven-acre Heights park with a City pool, a playground and a community center with a gym and a weight room. The gym is open all year, and the pool is open for the summer season.



Center hours



Directions

Stude Park

WHERE 1031 Stude Street | **FROM HOME** 2.6 miles ^{3,5,8,10,69,70,71}

HOURS community center fall and spring hours Monday–Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sunday

Stude Park is a 33.6-acre park on White Oak Bayou with a City pool, a playground, a community center gym and a 0.7-mile asphalt loop, and it's a stop on the White Oak Bayou Greenway.



Center hours



Directions

Woodland Park

WHERE 212 Parkview Street | **FROM HOME** 2.6 miles ^{5,69,70,71}

There's room to spread out at Woodland Park, a park of nearly 20 acres with a playground, a walking loop and a community center gym.



Friends of the park



Directions

Moody Park

WHERE 3725 Fulton Street | **FROM HOME** 2.1 miles ^{5,6}

Moody Park is a 34.9-acre Northside park on Fulton Street with a playground.



Park list



Directions

PARKS AND TRAILS

Rec centers and the Esplanade

Three parks with community centers, plus the walking path down the middle of Heights Boulevard.

1 Proctor Plaza Park

WHERE 803 West Temple Street | **FROM HOME** 1.7 miles ^{5,10,69}

HOURS community center open Monday–Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed weekends

Proctor Plaza Park is a 2.3-acre Woodland Heights park with a playground, swings and a small community center.



Center hours



Directions

2 Milroy Park

WHERE 1205 Yale Street | **FROM HOME** 1.8 miles ^{6,10,154}

HOURS community center fall and spring hours Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed weekends

Milroy Park is a Heights park on Yale Street with a playground, swings and a small community center.



Center hours



Directions

3 Clark Park

WHERE 9718 Clark Road | **FROM HOME** 2.4 miles ^{5,155,156}

HOURS community center fall and spring hours Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed weekends

North of the house on Clark Road, Clark Park is a 12-acre park with a playground and a City community center.



Center hours



Directions

4 Heights Boulevard esplanade trail

WHERE 400–1800 Heights Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 1.0 miles ⁷

For a longer walk, try a two-mile crushed-granite path along the Heights Boulevard esplanade, from the 400 to the 1800 block. It makes an easy out-and-back.

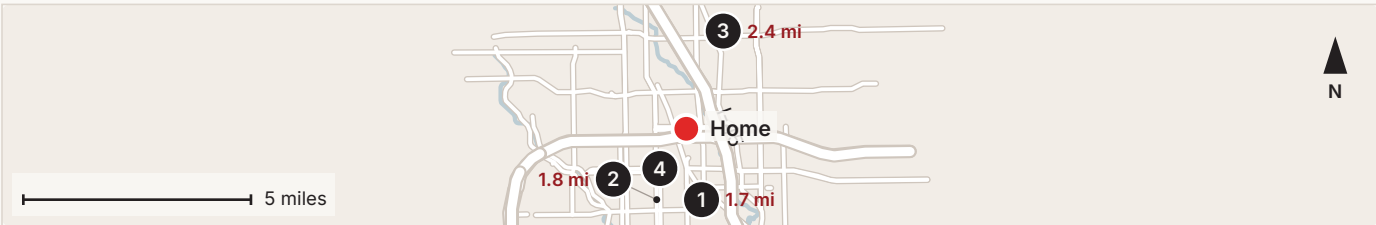


Trail list



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE





PARKS AND TRAILS • WORTH THE DRIVE

Bayous and big parks

The Sabine Street Bridge at Buffalo Bayou Park

Photo: Ed Uthman, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

Bayou trails, two big wooded parks and a bridge where bats fly out at dusk.

1 Buffalo Bayou Park

WHERE Visitor Center at The Water Works, 105-B Sabine Street | **FROM HOME** 3.8 miles ^{77,157}
HOURS daily; lighted areas 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., other areas dawn to dusk



Plan a park visit



Directions

Buffalo Bayou Park is 160 acres of green space just west of Downtown, from Shepherd Drive to Sabine Street between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive.

Walk the bayou in the afternoon, then stay until dusk for more than 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats that emerge every evening from the Waugh Drive Bridge.

Paths include the 10-foot-wide concrete Sandy Reed Memorial Trail and the 5-foot-wide asphalt Kinder Footpath for walkers and joggers only.

2 White Oak Bayou Greenway

WHERE Trail access at T.C. Jester Park, 4200 West T.C. Jester Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 4.1 miles ¹⁵⁸



Explore the greenway

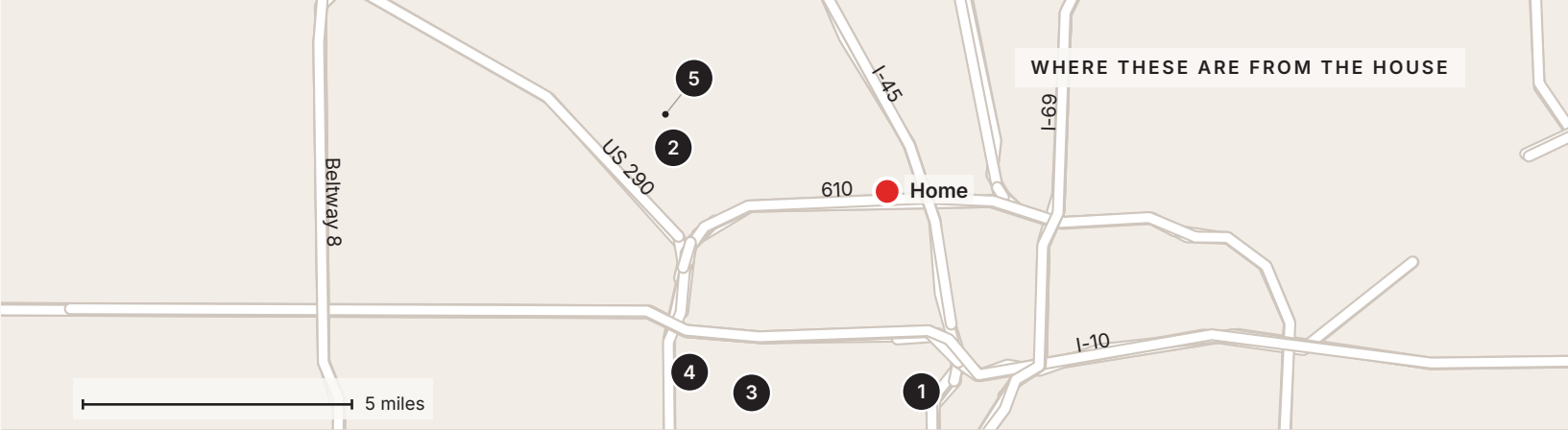


Directions

The White Oak Bayou Greenway is more than 18 miles of public greenspace and hike-and-bike trails inside city limits, from northwest Harris County to Allen's Landing Downtown.

Closer to home, the trail crosses the Heights MKT Hike and Bike Trail three times, passing through the Heights and Woodland Heights.

Watonga Parkway Park, T.C. Jester Park, Stude Park, White Oak Park and Hogg Park all sit along it.



3 Memorial Park

WHERE 6501 Memorial Drive | **COST** free, with free and paid parking throughout the park | **FROM HOME** 4.5 miles ^{78,159}



Plan a park visit



Directions

Memorial Park's showpiece is a 35-foot-tall Land Bridge topped by two mounds with views of the Uptown and Downtown skylines.
Run or walk the 3-mile Seymour Lieberman Trail, then spread out a picnic under the trees.

4 Houston Arboretum and Nature Center

WHERE 4501 Woodway Drive | **COST** free admission; parking is \$6.50, free on Thursdays and the second Sunday of each month | **FROM HOME** 5.0 miles ^{160,161,162,163}
HOURS grounds and trails daily, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. March–October and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. November–February



Hours and parking



Directions

The Houston Arboretum and Nature Center holds 155 acres of prairie, savanna, wetland and woodland, with 5 miles of nature trails and eight ponds.

The trails include the Outer Loop (1.76 miles), the Ravine Trail (0.5 mile, with bridges) and the Couch Birding Trail out to a platform over Buffalo Bayou.

5 Watonga Boulevard bat bridge

WHERE 4721 Watonga Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 4.4 miles ^{164,165}



Bat viewing tips



Directions

At this bayou crossing on Watonga Boulevard, about 100,000 Mexican free-tailed bats live under the bridge. The bats can travel up to 30 miles in one night, eating thousands of mosquitoes, moths and beetles.

They fly out at sunset, though usually not when sunset temperatures are near 50 degrees or below. To watch, park on Watonga Boulevard heading south, across from De Milo Drive.



Houses in the Independence Heights Residential Historic District

Photo: Ed Uthman, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

A town of its own

A town that Black families settled, built and governed for themselves before it became part of Houston.

Promoted by the Wright Land Company, the community took shape in the early 1900s as Black families bought lots and built their own homes. The Handbook of Texas describes the original town as running from Thirtieth Avenue north to Fortieth Avenue and from Yale Street east to Airline Drive, and most of its houses and churches were built by contractors who lived in the community.

Independence Heights incorporated as a city, and the City of Houston and TxDOT call it the first African American municipality in Texas. The young city shell-paved its streets, laid plank sidewalks and installed its own water system. O. L. Hubbard served as mayor from 1919 to 1925, and Arthur L. McCullough from 1925 to 1928 as the last of the town's three mayors.

The community's early congregations include New Hope Missionary Baptist, Green Chapel AME, St. Paul CME, Ebenezer ME, Concord Missionary Baptist and North Main Church of God in Christ. North Main Street, the old business street, was lined with about 40 Black-owned businesses, from grocery stores to a blacksmith shop and law offices.

TIMELINE

- **Early 1900s**
The Wright Land Company financed the lots itself, so families with small incomes could become homeowners.
- **1911**
A school opened in 1911.
- **1915**
Residents voted to incorporate in 1915 and elected George O. Burgess, a lawyer, as the first mayor.
- **1917**
Concord Missionary Baptist Church was founded in Independence Heights in 1917 by the Rev. L. G. Alexander.
- **1929**
Houston annexed Independence Heights on December 26, 1929.

HISTORY

The Loop, the Register and the Heights next door

How a freeway and a National Register listing shaped the old town, and how the Houston Heights got its own start.

When Loop construction came through, the Delco House was one home moved out of its way. The Independence Heights Residential Historic District joined the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, and the 1997 listing counted 125 commercial, religious and residential buildings as historically significant.

There's newer freeway work on the books, too. TxDOT's I-45 rebuild plans list commitments for Independence Heights, including sound walls, flood-risk work, community signage and documentation of historic assets.

The Houston Heights next door has its own story. Work on Houston Heights began in 1892, with streets named for American colleges and universities, and Houston Heights voters agreed to annexation by Houston in 1918, seeking a broader tax base for their public schools.

TIMELINE

- **1950s**
Loop 610 was built through the community in the 1950s, and at least one family had to move its house out of the way.
- **1997**
The residential district joined the National Register.
- **2001**
The City recognized Independence Heights as Super Neighborhood 13 in 2001.
- **2007**
The Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, founded in 2007, works on community development and on preserving the neighborhood's history.
- **2012**
The City of Houston designated the Carroll House a historic landmark in 2012.

HISTORY

Where you can still see it

Four stops on and near North Main, from a granite marker to a bungalow moved for the freeway.

Independence Heights centennial marker

WHERE 7300 block of North Main Street at East 34th Street | **FROM HOME** 0.3 miles ¹¹

The marker is titled A Portrait of a Historic Neighborhood and covers the years 1905 to 2005, and it tells the story of the Wright Land Company lots, the 1911 school, the 1915 incorporation and the 1929 annexation. Stop and read it on a walk up North Main.



Read the
marker



Directions

Concord Missionary Baptist Church building

WHERE 7506 North Main Street | **FROM HOME** 0.3 miles ^{166,167}

Concord Missionary Baptist Church was founded in Independence Heights in 1917 by the Rev. L. G. Alexander, and the present building went up in 1951 to hold a growing congregation. Look for the paired corner towers and big gable roof that mark a James M. Thomas church. The congregation has since left the building; view it from the street.



Neighborhood
history



Directions

Delco House

WHERE 807 North Loop | **FROM HOME** 0.1 miles ¹⁶⁸

The bungalow was built by the early 1930s and owned by Nelson and Pauline Delco. It stood at 6916 North Main until 1958, when it was moved here as Loop 610 was built. It's a private home, so view it from the sidewalk.



Read the house
history



Directions

Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

WHERE 7818 North Main Street | **FROM HOME** 0.5 miles ^{167,169,170,171,172}

The New Hope Missionary Baptist congregation was founded on this corner of North Main in 1912. A Texas Historical Commission marker was placed on the church grounds to mark the site of the old city, but that marker has since been reported missing, so read its text online rather than expecting a plaque on the grounds.



Read the
marker text



Directions

HISTORY

More history to see

Two stops in Independence Heights and two in the Houston Heights, from a family cottage to the old Heights city hall.

Carroll House

WHERE 309 East 32nd Street | **FROM HOME** 0.4 miles ^{172,173,174}

The cottage was built around 1910, after Andrew and Polly Carroll bought the land from the Wright Land Company. Born enslaved, Andrew Carroll taught himself to read and write and became a farmer and minister, and the Carroll family held the house for more than a century. It's a private home, so view it from the sidewalk.



Read the house
history



Directions

Independence Heights Residential Historic District

WHERE East 34th Street and North Yale Street ¹⁷⁵

The National Register looked at more than single houses here. The listing recognizes its architecture, its community planning and its Black heritage, with Bungalow and Craftsman houses.



See the district
record



Directions

Heights Boulevard Esplanade and Marmion Park

WHERE 1802 Heights Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 1.1 miles ⁴⁵

Daniel Denton Cooley, later called the father of the Houston Heights, laid out Heights Boulevard and built his home on this site in 1892 and 1893.



See the
National
Register listing



Directions

Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station

WHERE 107 West 12th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.8 miles ¹⁷⁶

Completed in 1914, it served as city hall only until 1918, when Houston annexed Houston Heights. The building then became Houston Fire Department Station No. 14 and stayed in service until 1995.



Read the
landmark
marker



Directions

Stages and studios

A historic theater, a volunteer playhouse and art in rice silos.

1 The Heights Theater

WHERE 339 West 19th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.3 miles ^{50,51,52}
HOURS open for scheduled shows only, generally Thursday through Saturday, 6 p.m. to midnight
The Heights Theater is a historic theater on 19th Street with a full concert calendar. Book dinner nearby before the show.



See upcoming shows



Directions

2 Theatre Suburbia WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 5201 Mitchelldale Street | **WHEN** each play runs Fridays and Saturdays for five weekends (six for the mellerdrammer), with two Sunday matinees | **FROM HOME** 4.7 miles ^{177,178}
HOURS Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m., select Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.
On the northwest side, Theatre Suburbia puts on seven plays a year, from classics and mysteries to original scripts and a summer mellerdrammer.



See this season's plays



Directions

3 The Silos at Sawyer Yards WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1502 Sawyer Street | **FROM HOME** 3.1 miles ¹⁷⁹
HOURS Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Silos at Sawyer Yards hold 97 workspaces for more than 100 artists in a former rice-silo complex. The site is also home to SITE Gallery Houston, an alternative art space inside its 34 rice silos.



The Silos at Sawyer Yards



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE



Studios and galleries

Galleries and working studios, from a nonprofit gallery in the Heights to a community arts center.

1 Redbud Arts Center

WHERE 303 East 11th Street | **FROM HOME** 1.8 miles ¹⁸⁰
HOURS Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m., or by appointment
Redbud is a nonprofit fine arts center in the historic Houston Heights, with rotating shows in its East and West galleries.



See current exhibitions



Directions

2 Silver Street Studios WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 2000 Edwards Street | **WHEN** open art studios on the third Saturday of the month, noon to 5 p.m. | **FROM HOME** 3.2 miles ¹⁸¹
HOURS Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Silver Street Studios is an arts and events complex, once home to Silver Eagle Distribution, with 68 workspaces for more than 80 artists. It also has a 20,000-square-foot warehouse venue that hosts festivals and markets.



Silver Street Studios



Directions

3 MECA WORTH THE DRIVE

WHERE 1900 Kane Street | **FROM HOME** 3.6 miles ^{182,183}
HOURS open to the public Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
MECA is a community arts center offering music, dance and visual art classes for kids and adults, with class fees on a sliding scale by family size and income.



Classes at MECA



Directions

WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE



3

STAGES

Upstairs, Downstairs and the Lawn

ART AND CULTURE

White Oak Music Hall

White Oak Music Hall is a five-acre live music complex with three stages, indoors and out, just north of Downtown. It books over 400 live music events a year, from rock and country to hip-hop and R&B, so there's usually something on the calendar.

Shows land in three spaces. Upstairs, a smaller room for crowds of about 200. Downstairs, the main music hall with a mezzanine and two outdoor balconies, for 300 to 1,000-plus. Big shows go out to the Lawn, an outdoor amphitheater for crowds of 3,000-plus.

On big nights, skip the lot. The hall sits a short walk from the Quitman stop on the METRORail Red Line, and there are about 320 off-street spaces in three lots, with parking very limited on Lawn nights.

WHERE

2915 North Main Street

HOURS

open for scheduled shows; check the show calendar

FROM HOME

2.5 miles

Sources 4,67,68

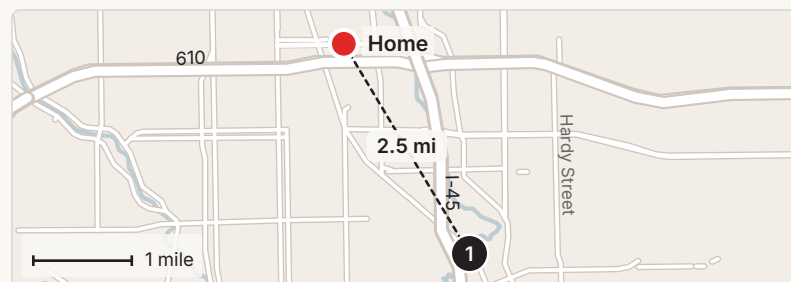


See the show calendar



Directions

FROM THE FRONT DOOR



400

ARTISTS

More than 400 working artists

ART AND CULTURE

WORTH THE DRIVE

Sawyer Yards

With more than 400 working artists, Sawyer Yards is a First Ward arts campus of artist studios, galleries, breweries and restaurants spread over several city blocks. It began in 2005, when a 75,000-square-foot warehouse beside a working rail yard became Winter Street Studios.

Today the campus counts 55 acres and 27 buildings, including 7 art studio buildings and 11 public exhibition spaces, with more than 80 art exhibitions and opening receptions a year. Start at Winter Street Studios, a former furniture factory with 83 art studios and its own gallery.

Come on an open-studio day and walk the studio buildings, where the artists work and show.

WHERE

2101 Winter Street

HOURS

studio buildings open to see art Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHEN

open studios and conversations with artists on Second Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.

FROM HOME

3.1 miles

Sources 72,73,74,75

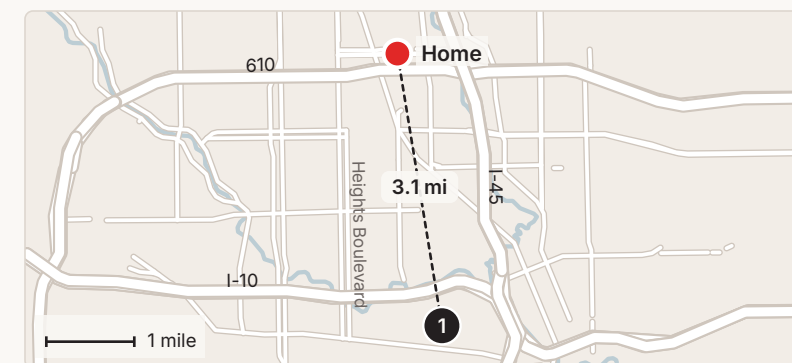


Second Saturday open studios



Directions

FROM THE FRONT DOOR





ART AND CULTURE · WORTH THE DRIVE

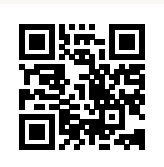
The Museum District and Hermann Park

The Menil Collection Photo: Francisco Anzola, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

Two art museums, the natural science and children's museums, then Hermann Park and the zoo.

1 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

WHERE 1001 Bissonnet Street | **COST** adults \$24, 12 and under free, and the permanent collections are free to everyone on Thursdays | **FROM HOME** 6.3 miles ^{184,185,186,187}
HOURS Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday–Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 12:30 to 6 p.m.; closed Monday–Tuesday



Hours and tickets



Directions

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston covers a 14-acre campus with three gallery buildings and a collection spanning more than 5,000 years.
Isamu Noguchi designed the sculpture garden, which opened in 1986.

2 The Menil Collection

WHERE 1533 Sul Ross Street | **COST** always free | **FROM HOME** 5.5 miles ^{188,189,190}
HOURS Wednesday–Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Visit the Menil



Directions

The Menil Collection holds more than 25,000 works, with galleries of African art, antiquities, Byzantine, Surrealist and modern art.
Inside, 30,000 square feet of galleries are filled with natural light that changes with the weather, the time of day and the season.

3 Houston Museum of Natural Science

WHERE 5555 Hermann Park Drive | **COST** adults \$25, children 3–11 \$16; free on Tuesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. | **FROM HOME** 6.6 miles ^{191,192,193}
HOURS Monday–Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday–Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

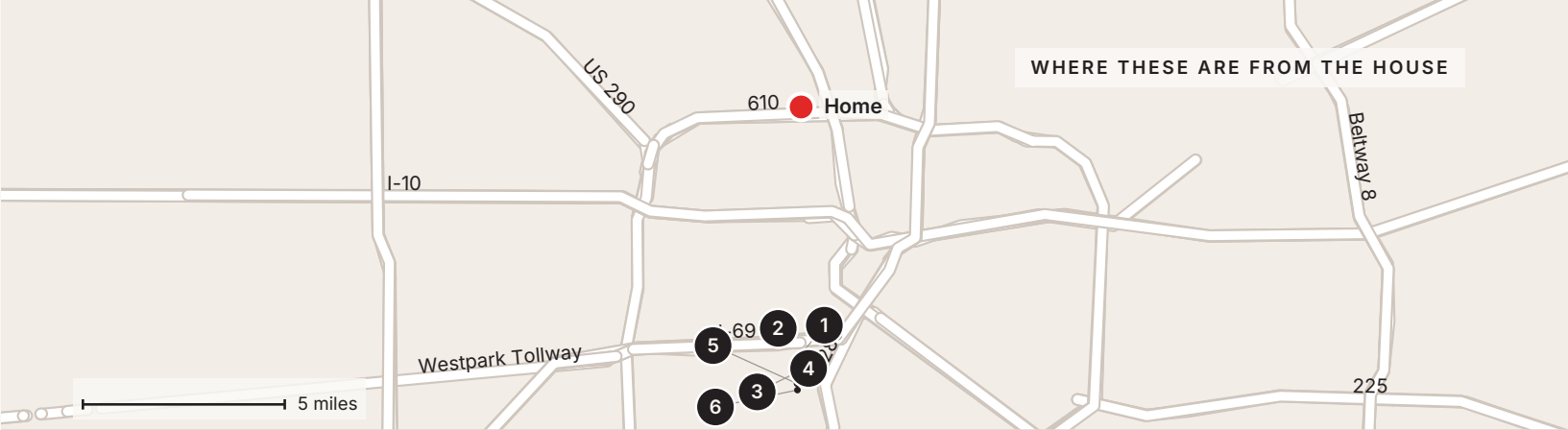


Hours and admission



Directions

Start with the dinosaurs in the Morian Hall of Paleontology, home of the T. rex “Wyrex”.
Save time for the Cockrell Butterfly Center, a three-story glass rainforest conservatory with a 50-foot waterfall and 1,500 butterflies.



WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE

4 Children's Museum Houston

WHERE 1500 Binz Street | **COST** ages 1 and up \$21.95 online or \$23.95 onsite; seniors 65+ and military \$19.95 online or \$21.95 onsite; under 1 free | **FROM HOME** 6.5 miles ^{194,195,196,197,198}
HOURS Tuesday–Wednesday and Friday–Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Monday



Hours and admission



Directions

Children's Museum Houston packs 90,000 square feet of exhibits, starting with Kidtropolis, USA, a kid-run city with nine businesses and more than two dozen jobs.
Bring a towel for FlowWorks water play, with an 18-foot Cauldron and boat races (plan on wet hands), then take on PowerPlay's climbing Power Tower and three levels of physical challenges.

5 Hermann Park

WHERE 6100 Hermann Park Drive | **FROM HOME** 6.9 miles ^{199,200,201}
HOURS park daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Park hours



Directions

Hermann Park covers 445 acres with McGovern Lake, the Japanese Garden, McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Hermann Park Railroad.
Miller Outdoor Theatre, always free, runs an eight-month season of classical, jazz, ballet, Shakespeare, musicals and classic films, so pack a blanket for an evening show.

6 Houston Zoo

WHERE 6200 Hermann Park Drive | **COST** timed tickets sold online only, with children and seniors 20% off | **FROM HOME** 7.0 miles ^{202,203,204,205,206}
HOURS daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., last entry 4 p.m.



Plan a zoo visit



Directions

At the Houston Zoo, start with the Galápagos Islands exhibit, with tortoises, sea lions, penguins and a 270,000-gallon ocean habitat.
Then walk over to the McNair Elephant Habitat, home to eight Asian elephants and a 160,000-gallon pool. After that, head on to the African Forest, with gorillas, chimpanzees, giraffes and white rhinos.



Discovery Green

Photo: Daderot, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

07 · BIGGER OUTINGS · WORTH THE DRIVE

Downtown, a short drive south

Two parks, an aquarium, an old drinking-water reservoir, the theater stages and the Astros' ballpark, all a short drive south.

1 Discovery Green

WHERE 1500 McKinney Street | **COST** free to visit; groups of 20 or more need a reservation | **FROM HOME** 4.7 miles ^{207,208}
HOURS daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; restrooms open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Hours and parking



Directions

Discovery Green is a 12-acre village green at the heart of Downtown, with two restaurants, a water park for kids, a 1-acre lake, dog runs, an amphitheater and an event lawn.

The park hosts more than 600 free events a year, so check the calendar before you head Downtown.

2 Downtown Aquarium

WHERE 410 Bagby Street | **COST** the All Day Adventure Pass, covering the exhibit, Stingray Reef and every ride, is \$25.99 for adults and \$24.99 for children under 42 inches; exhibit-only tickets start at \$14.99 | **FROM HOME** 3.8 miles ^{209,210,211}
HOURS exhibit open Sunday–Thursday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday–Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



See the exhibits



Directions

The Downtown Aquarium holds more than 500,000 gallons of tanks, themed as a shipwreck, a sunken temple, an offshore rig, a rainforest and a Texas bayou.

Inside, the Shark Voyage train rides through the center of a 200,000-gallon shark tank.

3 Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern

WHERE The Water Works, 105-B Sabine Street | **FROM HOME** 3.8 miles ²¹²
HOURS Wednesday–Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; reservations recommended

Once a drinking-water reservoir built for the City of Houston in 1926, the Cistern holds 221 slender concrete columns, each 25 feet tall.

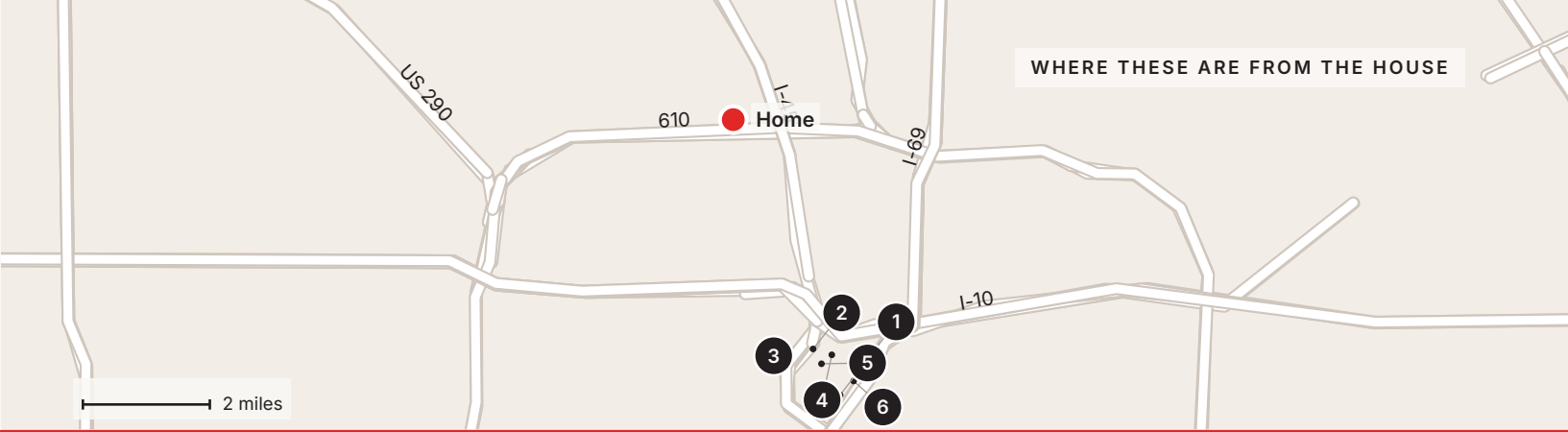
Stand still and listen for a 17-second echo. Keep in mind that visitors must be 9 or older.



Cistern hours and tours



Directions



WHERE THESE ARE FROM THE HOUSE

4 Market Square Park

WHERE 301 Milam Street | **FROM HOME** 4.0 miles ²¹³
HOURS daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The square held four City Hall buildings and then a parking lot before it became a green space in the 1970s.

Look for Points of View, a 25-foot-tall sculpture by Texas artist James Surls, dedicated in 1992. The park also has a dog run, the Lauren's Garden memorial and walking paths under mature live oaks.



Park hours and map



Directions

5 Houston Theater District

WHERE Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana Street | **FROM HOME** 4.1 miles ^{214,215,216}
HOURS Jones Hall opens for performances, so times vary by show

Houston is one of five U.S. cities with permanent professional resident companies in ballet, opera, symphony and theater, and the Theater District is their home.

Between shows, try 713Walks, 3-mile guided walks through the district with performances by artists from the resident companies.



See what's playing



Directions

6 Daikin Park (Houston Astros)

WHERE 501 Crawford Street | **COST** Classic Tour tickets are \$18.56 for adults, \$15.22 for seniors 65 and up and military, and \$13 for children 3–14 | **FROM HOME** 4.5 miles ^{217,218}

Daikin Park has been home to the Houston Astros since 2000. Go Astros!

On a non-game day, the 1-hour Classic Tour runs Monday through Saturday, with stops at the press box, the center field warning track and Hall of Fame Alley. The ballpark site, beside historic Union Station, was once a neighborhood known as Quality Hill.



Ballpark guide



Directions



BIGGER OUTINGS · WORTH THE DRIVE

Gardens, rockets and the beach

Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier

Photo: Tony Webster, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

A botanic garden, a bayou nature preserve, the space center and three ways to spend a day in Galveston. Start early.

1 Houston Botanic Garden

WHERE One Botanic Lane, Houston | **COST** adults \$12; ages 3–17, students, seniors and military \$8; under 3 free; cashless | **FROM HOME** 11.2 miles ^{219,220,221}
HOURS daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., last entry 30 minutes before closing



Hours and tickets



Directions

The Houston Botanic Garden takes up 132 acres wrapped by Sims Bayou, with Global, Culinary, Stormwater Wetlands and Coastal Prairie gardens.

Head for the Family Discovery Garden, with water machines and a boardwalk maze around a lagoon, and pack a change of clothes.

2 Armand Bayou Nature Center

WHERE 8500 Bay Area Boulevard | **COST** \$7 ages 13–59; \$5 ages 4–12, 60 and over, and college students, teachers, active-duty military and first responders with ID; 3 and under free | **FROM HOME** 24.1 miles ^{222,223}
HOURS Wednesday–Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m. (last entry 4 p.m.); closed Monday and Tuesday



Hours and admission



Directions

Armand Bayou Nature Center protects more than 4,300 acres of wetlands forest, prairie and marsh, home to more than 370 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, with a bison viewing platform.

See the preserve up close on pontoon cruises, guided kayak tours and owl prowls (no pets).

3 Space Center Houston

WHERE 1601 East NASA Parkway | **FROM HOME** 25.4 miles ^{224,225,226}
HOURS Monday–Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Inside Space Center Houston are more than 400 artifacts, exhibits and experiences in a 250,000-square-foot complex.

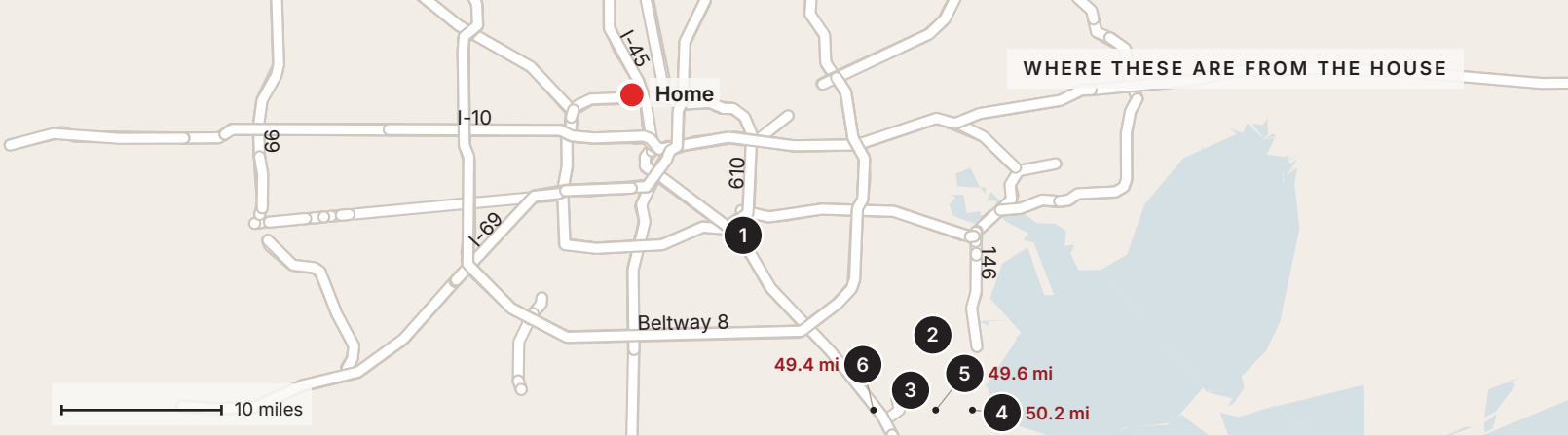
Plan on the tram tours to the Astronaut Training Facility and to Rocket Park's Saturn V, both free with general admission.



Space Center hours



Directions



4 Galveston Island

WHERE Visitor Center, 2228 Mechanic Street | **FROM HOME** 50.2 miles ^{227,228}

Galveston Island makes a full day out, with 32 miles of shoreline, Victorian architecture, museums and the cruise port.

For a lighter afternoon, Pleasure Pier has rides including the Iron Shark roller coaster, plus midway games and food.



Plan a Galveston day



Directions

5 Moody Gardens

WHERE 1 Hope Boulevard | **COST** the One-Day Value Pass covers the Aquarium and Rainforest Pyramids, the Discovery Museum, the ropes course and zip line, and the 3D and 4D theaters | **FROM HOME** 49.6 miles ^{229,230,231}

Moody Gardens is built around three glass pyramids: the Aquarium Pyramid, the Rainforest Pyramid and the Discovery Pyramid.

Make time for a 10-story rainforest with free-roaming birds and giant river otters.



Daily hours



Directions

6 Galveston Island State Park

WHERE 14901 FM 3005 | **COST** \$5 adults; 12 and under free | **FROM HOME** 49.4 miles ²³²

Galveston Island State Park has beach and bay sides, with four miles of trails, boardwalks over dunes and marshes, and paddling trails.

You don't need a fishing license to fish from shore, and there are beach wheelchairs to borrow for sandy areas.



Park info and day passes



Directions

A year of big events: fall

Fall packs Houston's weekends with art, food, races and festivals. Dates shift each year, so check each organizer's calendar before you go.

Fall

- EARLY OCTOBER ●
- Original Greek Festival ²³³
Come hungry, because the food is the main event at the Original Greek Festival at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, with music and dancing too.
- OCTOBER ●
- Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park ²³⁴
The festival brings about 300 juried artists in 19 categories to Memorial Park for a weekend of browsing.
- EVERY FALL ●
- Heights Fun Run ²³⁵
A neighborhood tradition of 5K, 10K and Kids 1K races down Heights Boulevard, benefiting Houston Heights community projects.
- FALL ●
- Houston Arboretum Fall Plant Sale ²³⁶
The Arboretum sells native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, so fall planting can start with a cart full of natives.
- FALL WEEKENDS ●
- Texas Renaissance Festival ²³⁷
Expect themed weekends at the festival grounds in Todd Mission, and costumes are optional.
- DÍA DE MUERTOS ●
- MECA Día de Muertos Festival ²³⁸
MECA throws a free celebration of Latin American folk art, with an ofrenda exhibition, children's art, artisan vendors, food and three performance stages.



Heights Fun Run
houstonheights.org/events/funrun



Art festival dates
bayoucityartfestival.com



Hermann Park, home of the Houston Zoo

Photo: Yinan Chen, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

EVENTS

Late fall and the holidays

From the parade downtown to the holiday lights, late fall fills the calendar.



City event calendar
houston.tx.gov/specialevents

Late fall

- EVERY FALL ●
- Wings Over Houston Airshow ²³⁹
Look up for an airshow presented by volunteers of the Commemorative Air Force at Ellington Airport.
- NOVEMBER ●
- Nutcracker Market ²⁴⁰
Get a head start on holiday shopping with more than 280 merchants, mostly local Houston vendors, with proceeds supporting Houston Ballet's community programs.
- THANKSGIVING MORNING ●
- H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade ²⁴¹
The parade starts in Downtown Houston at 9 a.m., so get to the curb early.

Holidays

- EARLY DECEMBER ●
- Deck the Hall (City Hall holiday celebration) ²⁴¹
Houston rings in the holiday season with one of the City's signature annual events.
- HOLIDAY SEASON ●
- TXU Energy presents Zoo Lights ²⁴²
Zoo Lights is a holiday light path with animal-themed displays; tickets are dated, so buy for a specific night.

EVENTS

Winter and spring

Winter and spring bring race weekend, Lunar New Year and the Rodeo.

Winter

- EVERY JANUARY ●
- Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon** ²⁴³
Race weekend brings the Chevron Houston Marathon, the Aramco Houston Half Marathon and the We Are Houston 5K.
- LUNAR NEW YEAR ●
- Asia Society Texas Lunar New Year Festival** ²⁴⁴
Ring in the new year a second time at a free, all-ages festival with music and dance performances and zodiac-inspired activities. Bring the whole crew.

Spring

- EVERY MARCH ●
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** ²⁴⁵
Pull on your boots for 20 days of rodeo competition, concerts, educational exhibits and auctions, and pick your concert nights early.
- SPRING ●
- Houston Arboretum Spring Plant Sale** ²³⁶
Round two of the Arboretum's plant sales, this time for spring planting.
- EVERY APRIL ●
- Houston Art Car Parade** ²⁴⁶
The parade brings more than 250 “mobile masterpieces” along Allen Parkway and Downtown, produced by the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art.
- SPRING ●
- Nutcracker Market Spring** ²⁴⁷
Come back to shop at the spring sister show to the holiday Nutcracker Market, benefiting Houston Ballet.



Rodeo dates
rodeohouston.com



Art Car Parade
thehoustonartcarparade.com



Downtown Houston from Buffalo Bayou

Photo: Ed Uthman, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

EVENTS

Summer

Pride, Juneteenth, Independence Day fireworks and a Japanese festival fill out the summer.

Summer

- EVERY JUNE ●
- Houston Pride Celebration (festival and parade)** ²⁴⁸
This is the official Houston LGBT Pride Celebration, organized every year by Pride Houston.
- JUNETEENTH ●
- Juneteenth Celebration at Emancipation Park** ²⁴⁹
The park itself was bought for this day. In 1872 a church-organized festival association bought the 10-acre site as a permanent home for Houston's Juneteenth celebration.
- FOURTH OF JULY ●
- Shell Freedom Over Texas** ²⁵⁰
Spread a blanket early for an afternoon-to-night celebration with concert stages at Eleanor Tinsley and Sam Houston Parks, ending in a choreographed fireworks finale.
- A SEPTEMBER WEEKEND ●
- Japan Festival Houston** ²⁵¹
Spend an afternoon taking in Japanese music, dance, martial arts, food, ikebana, tea ceremony, origami and bonsai in Hermann Park.



Emancipation Park calendar
epconservancy.org/calendar



Freedom Over Texas
houstontx.gov/july4

Two easy days: Saturday

A Saturday close to home: the farmers market, coffee, a trail ride, barbecue and a show.

Saturday

- MORNING
- 1
- Houston Farmers Market** ^{2,21}
2520 Airline Drive · 0.7 miles
- Go early with small bills, and take your time at the chile and produce stands.
- COFFEE
- 2
- Casaema** ^{26,28}
5307 North Main Street · 0.9 miles
- Coffee from the bar and a pan dulce to go with it.
- MIDDAY
- 3
- Heights MKT Hike and Bike Trail** ^{3,47}
Nicholson Street and West 26th Street · 1.2 miles
- Walk or ride the trail south from its north end on Nicholson Street.
- LUNCH
- 4
- Pinkerton's Barbecue** ^{54,55}
1504 Airline Drive · 1.3 miles
- Brisket and ribs for lunch, with the jambalaya on the side.
- EVENING
- 5
- White Oak Music Hall** ^{4,68}
2915 North Main Street · 2.5 miles
- Check the show calendar, then end the day with live music, indoors or out.

Then home to East 33rd Street.



Numbers follow the day in order. The dashed line shows the order of stops, not a driving route.

DIRECTIONS TO EACH STOP



1 • Farmers Market
Google Maps



2 • Casaema
Google Maps



3 • Trail
Google Maps



4 • Pinkerton's
Google Maps



5 • White Oak
Google Maps

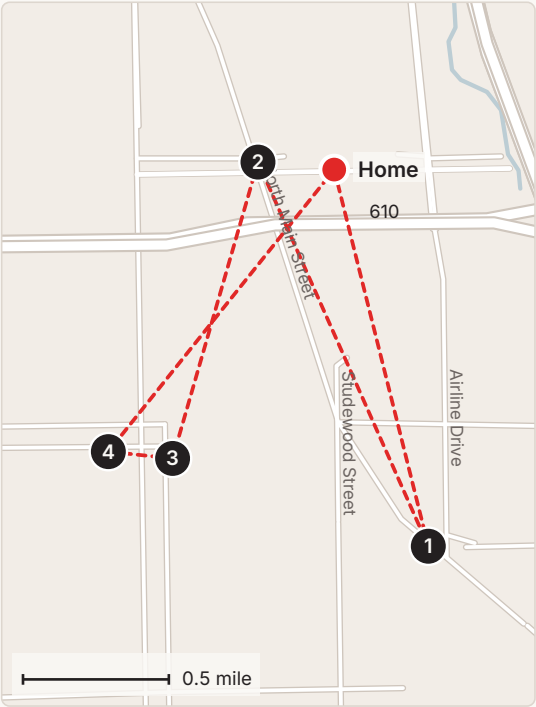
Two easy days: Sunday

A Sunday close to home: breakfast, a history walk, the Esplanade and dinner in the Heights.

Sunday

- BREAKFAST
- 1
- Jane Wild Bakehouse** ¹²⁸
4721 North Main Street · 1.3 miles
- Coffee and a hand pie to start the day.
- MORNING
- 2
- Independence Heights centennial marker** ¹¹
7300 block of North Main Street at East 34th Street · 0.3 miles
- Read the granite marker, then walk a few blocks of North Main, the town's old business street.
- AFTERNOON
- 3
- Heights Boulevard Esplanade and Marmion Park** ⁴⁵
1802 Heights Boulevard · 1.1 miles
- Walk the Heights Boulevard esplanade trail, then sit a while in Marmion Park.
- DINNER
- 4
- Agnes and Sherman** ^{121,122}
250 West 19th Street · 1.2 miles
- Close the weekend with crawfish egg foo young in gumbo gravy.

Then back to East 33rd Street.



Numbers follow the day in order. The dashed line shows the order of stops, not a driving route.

DIRECTIONS TO EACH STOP



1 • Jane Wild
Google Maps



2 • History walk
Google Maps



3 • Esplanade
Google Maps



4 • Agnes and Sherman
Google Maps

House and utilities

Homestead filing, power, water and trash pickup.

Harris Central Appraisal District (HCAD) ^{252,253,254}

File with HCAD, the county appraisal district, to claim a \$140,000 homestead exemption on school taxes, using the HCAD Info and Exemptions mobile app, with your date of occupancy and your Texas driver license. Timing matters: buyers who close after January 1 can apply that same year, before the first anniversary of buying, as long as the prior owner did not claim the exemption.



File for homestead



Exemption FAQs

Power to Choose (Public Utility Commission of Texas) ^{255,256}

In Houston you pick your own electric company. Shop plans on Power to Choose, the Public Utility Commission's site for comparing electric rates. CenterPoint Energy delivers the electricity whichever one you choose.



Choosing a plan



Compare electric plans

Houston Public Works Utility Billing (City water and sewer) ²⁵⁷

Water and sewer come from the City, so start or transfer water service online before move-in.



Start water service



Water account

City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department ²⁵⁸

Garbage goes out once a week in a 96-gallon cart, between 6 p.m. the night before and 6 a.m. on collection day. Find your days with the City's service lookup tool or the HTX App.



Trash and recycling



Collection day app

License, plates and voting

Houston's help line comes first, then the Texas driver license, vehicle plates and registration, and a voter card.

Houston 311 ²⁵⁹

For potholes, missed trash pickups and water leaks, dial 311, or 713.837.0311 from a cell phone or outside Houston.



About Houston 311



Submit a request

Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Division ²⁶⁰

Moving from another state? New residents can drive on a valid out-of-state license for up to 90 days, then apply in person at a driver license office.



New-resident license



Book an appointment

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles ²⁶¹

You have 30 days from your move to register your vehicle; pass an emissions inspection first, then take Form 130-U, your insurance card and proof of ownership to the county tax office.



Register your vehicle



County tax office

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar ²⁶²

The county tax office also registers voters, and it pays to get on the rolls early because your application must be submitted 30 days before an election. Questions go to 713.274.8200.



Register to vote



Voter FAQs

GETTING AROUND

Red Line, buses and libraries

The Red Line, METRO's local buses and two library branches with a free library card.

METRORail Red Line (Northline Transit Center)

FROM HOME 1.3 miles ⁴⁰

Heading south from Northline, the Red Line stops at Melbourne / North Lindale, Lindale Park, Cavalcade and Moody Park. Red Line trains run about every 6 minutes on weekdays and every 12 minutes on weekends for most operating hours.



Red Line stations



Fares



Local bus routes



Fares

Heights Neighborhood Library

WHERE 1302 Heights Boulevard | **FROM HOME** 1.6 miles ⁶⁴

HOURS Monday and Thursday noon to 8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday

The Heights library began as the Baptist Temple Library in 1909, moved to Heights High School in 1918, and the current building was dedicated on March 18, 1926.



Hours and branches



Directions

Oak Forest Neighborhood Library

WHERE 1349 West 43rd Street | **FROM HOME** 2.8 miles ⁶⁴

HOURS Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Friday 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday

The MYLink card is free to any Texas resident: apply online for an instant digital card for eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and music, then pick up the physical card at any branch with a photo ID.



Hours and branches



Directions

SOURCES

Sources and credits

Each small number points to a source below. Hours, dates and prices change, so confirm with each place before you go.

PHOTOS, MAPS AND TYPE

Listing photos (cover, page 2, back cover): the listing's own photo set.

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