

NEIGHBORHOOD NUANCES

As the largest business district in Houston, the area is flooded with people who want more than just a place to work. Downtown's division into districts or a more friendly term, neighborhoods, makes the sprawling, 1,178-acre space feel more accessible. Each district has a unique flavor and feeling that sets it apart from its neighbor.

Historic Market Square

A favorite destination for downtowners and visitors alike, Historic Market Square makes you want to stay awhile. Perched on the northern edge of downtown, you'll see quaint and historic building facades lining the streets, each one more delightful than the next. With a high concentration of residential buildings, Historic Market Square feels like a neighborhood despite the skyscrapers just a few blocks away. At the heart is Market Square Park. Local residents love the park for its dog run, green space, live music, movie nights and authentic Greek and American café. Old collides with new just across the street, where swanky new bistros, coffee shops and small nightclubs nestle nicely next to cozy, historic bars – many of which have been quenching our collective thirst for more than 30 years. Rounding out the neighborhood is Allen's Landing at Buffalo Bayou, Houston's "Plymouth Rock" and home of the newly restored Sunset Coffee Building.



Convention District



Houston's premier meeting place, the George R. Brown Convention Center draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. The convention center is conveniently connected to two mega-hotels and is equal walking distance to Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center. Discovery Green is immediately outside the Brown's front doors hosting hundreds of events, from large-scale festivals to intimate concerts, free exercise classes and much more. The neighborhood surrounding the George R. Brown Convention Center is being transformed into a pedestrian-friendly place called Avenida, with restaurants at street level of the Brown and additional eateries within walking distance. The former boulevard fronting the GRB has been streamlined into a plaza tailored for foot traffic, featuring wider sidewalks, fountains and whimsical works of art.

Shopping District

Live music junkies and counting-down-the-minutes-to-lunch professionals gravitate to this area for its entertainment venues and vast variety of eateries. There's a restaurant for everyone in the expansive GreenStreet, where even the pickiest of office mates can find a dish that will strike their fancy. The Shops at Houston Center offers a great line-up of fast casual restaurants, stores, and services within walking distance for the downtown on-the-go. And downtown's capital of yum, Phoenicia Specialty Foods, is conveniently located making grocery shopping a breeze for downtown dwellers and visitors. Located at the epicenter of downtown is Main Street Square which offers a change of pace and scenery from the office. Shopping is its first name, but this district has so much more to offer with pop up performances, interactive experiences and community festivals complementing the spirit of the district.



Theater District



The Theater District is the height of class, sophistication and any other word one would associate with a night at the theater. Downtown's premier theater venues, Alley Theatre, Jones Hall and Wortham Theater Center, all sit within a block from one another with the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts located just a hop, skip and a jump away. Downtown destinations Bayou Place, Sundance Cinemas and family-favorite Downtown Aquarium are also located within just a few blocks of the major theaters and many dining destinations abound leaving you confident you won't miss the curtain call. An abundance of parks, fountains and bayou trails invite passers-by to ditch their high heels (or penny loafers) and strap on some running shoes. A day of exercise or a night of fancy frivolity can both be achieved here!



DESTINATIONS

Attractions & Sights

- 1 Buffalo Bayou
- 2 Discovery Green
- 3 Downtown Aquarium
- 4 George H. Bush & James A. Baker, III Monuments
- 5 George R. Brown Convention Center
- 6 Historic Market Square
- 7 Main Street Square
- 8 Saint Arnold Brewing Company
- 9 Union Station at Minute Maid Park

Eat & Drink

- 10 Ballpark District
- 11 Bayou Place/Theater District
- 12 Discovery Green
- 13 Downtown Aquarium
- 14 Historic Market Square
- 15 GreenStreet
- 16 The Shops at Houston Center
- 17 Warehouse District

City, County & Federal

- 18 Bob Casey Federal Courthouse
- 19 City Hall/City Hall Annex
- 20 Harris County Court Complex

Institutions

- 21 Houston College of Law
- 22 Incarnate Word Academy
- 23 University of Houston Downtown
- 24 St. Joseph Medical Center

Religious/Spiritual

- 25 Antioch Baptist Church
- 26 Annunciation Catholic Church
- 27 Christ Church Cathedral
- 28 First United Methodist Church
- 29 Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer
- 30 Holy Cross Chapel
- 31 Islamic Dawah Center
- 32 Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral

Museums & Libraries

- 33 Houston Central Library
- 34 Julia Ideson Library
- 35 Heritage Society Museum
- 36 Museum District (via METRORail)

Music Venues

- 37 House of Blues
- 38 Last Concert
- 39 Revention Music Center

Parks

- 40 Allen's Landing
- 41 Discovery Green
- 42 Halliburton Plaza
- 43 Hermann Square
- 44 Market Square Park
- 45 Root Memorial Square
- 46 Sabine Promenade
- 47 Sam Houston Park
- 48 Sesquicentennial Park
- 49 Sisters of Charity Park
- 50 Tranquility Park

Recreation

- 51 Buffalo Bayou (hike, bike & jogging trail, canoe & kayak)
- 52 Discovery Green (fitness classes, bocce ball & putting green)
- 53 Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark
- 54 Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes
- 55 Root Memorial Square (basketball court)
- 56 Sunset Coffee Building (bike, kayak & canoe rentals)
- 57 Houston Bicycle

Shopping

- 57 GreenStreet
- 58 The Shops at Houston Center
- 59 CVS/Pharmacy
- 60 Phoenicia Specialty Foods
- 61 Posh Liquors
- 62 Wolfe's Cleaners

Sports

- 63 BBVA Compass Stadium
- 64 Minute Maid Park
- 65 Toyota Center

Theater

- 66 Alley Theatre
- 67 Hobby Center
- 68 Jones Hall
- 69 Jones Plaza
- 70 The Kaleidoscope Theatre Company
- 71 The Landing Theatre Company
- 72 Prohibition Supper Club
- 73 Rec Room
- 74 Wortham Theater Center

Film

- 75 Sundance Cinemas at Bayou Place

Transit

- 76 Downtown Transit Center
- 77 Greenlink-Green Route (Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6:30 pm)
- 78 Greenlink-Orange Route (Thurs-Fri 6:30 pm-Midnight, Sat 9 am-Midnight, Sun 9 am-6 pm)
- 79 METRORail-North Line
- 80 METRORail-East End/Southeast Lines
- 81 Houston BCycle

Visitor Information

- 81 Explore Houston: GRBCC

Tours

- 100 Buffalo Bayou Boat Tours
- 101 The Cistern
- 102 Heritage Society Historic Homes Tour
- 103 Minute Maid Park Tour
- 104 Saint Arnold Brewery Tour
- 105 Toyota Center Backstage Tour

MAP KEY



OVER 100 SIGHTS TO SEE

With a fusion of culture, lifestyles and commerce, life around here is anything but typical. Look up and discover soaring skyscrapers designed by icons like Philip Johnson and I.M. Pei. Turn a corner and bump into Houston's historic past or uncover a piece of contemporary public art. Major league sports, world-class theater, innovative chefs, funky hotspots, movies in the park, sidewalk cafes, outdoor festivals, pontoon boat tours and more. Welcome to Downtown Houston!

NEIGHBORHOODS / DISTRICTS

	Historic Market Square		Ballpark
	Convention District		Skyline District
	Shopping District		Civic
	Theater District		Southern
	Warehouse District		County

Warehouse District



Art is alive and thriving in this funky, eclectic part of downtown. Once purely industrial buildings, converted warehouses now serve as lofts, restaurants, offices, art studios and galleries. It's not surprising to find every inch of unused space is eventually repurposed to serve a greater artistic good. Large scale, collaborative art events like ArtCrawl and FotoFest Biennial were born in this district and create a wonderful sense of community throughout. You'll also find original loft living set amongst artists' studios. Art lovers come hither; this district is the place for you.

Ballpark

The heartbeat of the Ballpark District is of course the amazing Minute Maid Park. Located in downtown's old Union Station, Minute Maid Park is home to the Houston Astros and features a larger-than-life replica locomotive that runs along the left-field wall, retractable roof and a truly classic atmosphere complete with red brick masonry and natural grass. Surrounding the ballpark is an array of iconic restaurants and old warehouse buildings that have been converted to lofts, unique office space and quirky arts venues.



Skyline District

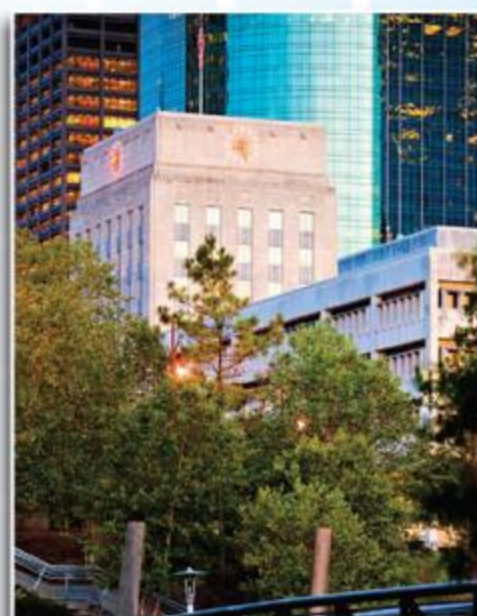


One of the largest skylines in the country, downtown is very proud of its world-renown architecture by I.M. Pei and Philip Johnson, a diverse mix of post-modern, art deco and Italian renaissance. These buildings are home to the headquarters of various multinational businesses and financial institutions. Most of the buildings in the Skyline District are connected by an intricate

Pedestrian Tunnel and Skywalk System more than six miles long. Having started out years ago as a tunnel between two downtown movie theaters, today it includes restaurants and service retail between connecting buildings. Please note that the tunnels are open weekdays only and are closed after 6 p.m.

Civic

Under the leadership of Mayor Sylvester Turner, the core of Houston's government is located in downtown's Civic Center. In addition to the running of the City, the footprint around City Hall is home to many of Houston's signature events and festivals. Located next door is Houston Public Library's Central Library which includes the historic Julia Ideson wing, home to the well-known Texas Room. You will also find Sam Houston Park, Houston's only outdoor museum operated by the Heritage Society, which includes ten historic structures dating from 1823 to 1905. The park is an idyllic place to relax on a blanket, throw a Frisbee with your friend, or have a picnic with your family.



Southern



The southern area of downtown is considered an exciting emerging neighborhood with nine new residential properties open, under construction or in the planning stages. In addition, Houston's first hospital, St. Joseph Medical Center (founded in 1887), offers an extensive list of medical and surgical services in multiple health areas. Southern Downtown is also home to the stunning Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral campus.

County

With more than 4 million residents, Harris County is the most populous county in Texas and the third most populous county in the United States. Its county seat is Houston and the core of the Harris County government resides in the Harris County Campus in downtown Houston. Thousands of Houstonians come to the downtown campus daily for jury duty or other legal reasons.

