Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States, behind New York, LA, and Chicago. Over 2 million people live in the city of Houston and over 5 million in the metro area. The Kinder Institute at Rice University [http://kinder.rice.edu/] asserts that the Houston metropolitan area is the most racially/ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the nation. The cost of living is 22% below other large metro areas. Visit [www.har.com](http://www.har.com).

The climate in Houston allows residents to enjoy outdoor activities year round but still appreciate a mild change of seasons. Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, the Bayou Trails, and Rice University provide open green space near the Texas Medical Center: [www.houstontx.gov/parks](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks).

The Texas Medical Center is the largest medical center in the United States. Major contributors to TMC are:

- University of Texas/Memorial Hermann Hospital
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Texas Children's Hospital
- St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Shriners Hospital for Children

The opportunities to interact with patients with complex diseases from diverse backgrounds and participate in world-class research are unparalleled.

Sports fans love Houston, which has professional baseball, basketball, football, and soccer. Houstonians are passionate about college sports as well. Major sporting events come to Houston too, such as the NCAA final four and the Super Bowl.
Houston has a rich arts tradition:

- World-class, year-round resident companies in all of the major performing arts: symphony, opera, drama, and ballet
  [www.downtownhouston.org/district/theater/](http://www.downtownhouston.org/district/theater/)
- Leading visual arts collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and The Menil Collection
  [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org)
- Multiple music venues that attract top acts from across the country
- Great, affordable concerts at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo each spring

Shopping favorites include the Galleria, with over 375 stores such as Nordstrom, J Crew, Ann Taylor, Kate Spade, and Tory Burch, and Highland Village, with outdoor shopping at Crate and Barrel, Pottery Barn, and West Elm, plus fashion conscious Rice Village with Lot 8, Urban Outfitters and more....

The Houston metro area has over 7600 restaurants and eateries, and 600 bars and nightclubs

Do not miss nearby favorites in Rice Village adjacent to Rice University:
[www.ricevillage.org](http://www.ricevillage.org)

Houston also has eclectic neighborhood cafes and fine dining establishments that have won accolades from Food & Wine and Travel & Leisure, among others.

Come visit!