

HOUSTON

Located in southeast Texas at the Port of Houston, 50 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, Houston (or “Space City,” as it likes to be known) is the country’s fourth largest city. The city’s moniker refers not only to it being the home of the Johnson Space Center but also to the city’s enormous size and decentralized commercial centers.

Houston is both an international business hub and the energy capital of the world, although oil and gas now comprise only about 50% of the local economy. Other major industries include finance, health care, petrochemical works, and computer manufacturing.

Houston’s eight major business centers are spread throughout its sprawling 8,779 square mile metropolitan area. Because freeways act as boundary lines for most of Houston neighborhoods, locales are generally referred to as being either “inside the Loop” (Interstate 610, an area with a 5 to 6 mile radius around downtown Houston), or “outside the Beltway” or “inside the Beltway” (the Sam Houston Tollway, which runs a 10 to 12 mile radius around downtown).

Business centers considered inside the Loop are the downtown **Central Business District (CBD)**, the **Texas Medical Center** area, the **Greenway Plaza** district, and the **Uptown/Galleria** area. To the west of downtown, the **Westchase** area spans the Beltway. Houston’s **Energy Corridor** and the **Greenspoint** and **Woodlands** districts are located outside the Beltway.

Houston’s **Central Business District** has experienced a revitalization in recent years. The area is populated with trendy restaurants and new hotels, and is also the location of several of the city’s luxury hotels. Louisiana Street is the area’s main corporate drag and power center (no pun intended); El Paso Energy, DYNegy, and CenterPoint Energy all have headquarters there. The massive George R. Brown Convention Center is located on the city’s east side.

The **Greenway Plaza** district, a diversified business area, is located a few miles east of the Central Business District. This area is home to the Compaq Center, a sports and entertainment arena.

The **Texas Medical Center** is the largest medical center in the world, with more than 40 hospitals and related clinics, medical and nursing schools, and research facilities. The 675-acre Medical Center is located about 5 miles south of the CBD.

The upscale **Uptown/Galleria** area is considered a “second downtown.” This area is home to the Galleria, an upscale shopping mall with three office towers, two hotels, and a variety of restaurants. The Uptown area claims the largest concentration of hotels in the city.

Westchase is home to more than 1,500 businesses, including major employers such as ChevronTexaco, ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical, and Halliburton. The district is centered west of downtown between the Loop and the Beltway, south of Westheimer Road.

The **Energy Corridor** is also located west of downtown, along I-10 (the Katy Freeway) from the Beltway to Barker-Cypress Road. ConocoPhillips and Exxon Chemical are headquartered there, as are dozens of other major energy firms.

Located north of downtown and west of Intercontinental Airport, **Greenspoint** is home to more than 80 energy-related companies. A few miles northwest of Greenspoint, 14 miles west of Intercontinental Airport, is **The Woodlands**, a master-plan community with a concentration of biotech and medical research companies.

Houston is located in Harris County, Texas.

Fast Facts: Houston

Time Zone: Central

Area Codes: 713, 281, 832

Sales Tax: 8 1/4%

Hotel Taxes: 17%

Rush Hour: Into the city 6:45 a.m.–8:30 a.m.; out of the city 5 p.m.–6 p.m. (Note: Traffic on Interstate 10 is heavy in both directions.)

INFORMATION SOURCES

Visitors bureau: The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau ☎ 713.437.5200 or 800.446.8786

🌐 www.houston-spacecityusa.com

Business information: Greater Houston Partnership ☎ 713.844.3678 🌐 www.houston.org

Local newspaper: *Houston Chronicle*
🌐 www.houstonchronicle.com

Local weather: 🌐 www.houstonchronicle.com

Local traffic: 🌐 www.houstonchronicle.com (includes detailed real-time traffic speeds); 740 AM KTRH news radio 🌐 www.ktrh.com

Restaurant and hotel listings:
🌐 www.houston-spacecityusa.com

GETTING THERE

GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT

Fast Facts: George Bush Intercontinental Airport

Airport Code: IAH

📍 2800 North Terminal Rd., Houston, TX 77032

☎ 281.230.3100

🌐 www.houstonairportsystem.org

Drive time to CBD: 30 minutes (up to an hour during rush hour)

Drive time to the Medical Center/Greenway Plaza area: 35 minutes (up to an hour during rush hour)

Drive time to Uptown/Galleria area: 30 minutes (45 minutes during rush hour)

Drive time to Westchase: 30–40 minutes (up to an hour during rush hour)

Drive time to Energy Corridor: 30–40 minutes (up to 1 1/2 hours during rush hour)

Drive time to The Woodlands: 30 minutes (15 minutes on the Hardy Toll Road)

Drive time to Greenspoint: 15 minutes

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (also known as Intercontinental, Bush, or “The Big Airport”) is located approximately 20 miles north of downtown Houston, near the Sam Houston Tollway. The airport has four passenger terminals (A–D), with the Marriott Hotel located in the center of the facility. Terminal D, the Mickey Leland International Airline Building, serves international flights. The airport recently completed construction of the new terminal A north and south concourses, along with a new parking garage, TerminalLink, and consolidated rental car facility.

There are two entrances into the terminal complex, which helps reduce traffic congestion common to large airports. The entrance most convenient to terminals A and B is off John F. Kennedy Boulevard from the Sam Houston Tollway. Terminals C and D are best reached from the Will Clayton Parkway off U.S. Highway 59. Note, however, that ongoing construction of the new Continental Airlines terminal E (expected completion in 2005) may cause minor traffic delays if you are heading to terminals C and D.

The terminals are connected by a mile-long underground tunnel. An underground interterminal passenger train makes stops at all terminals (and the Marriott Hotel)

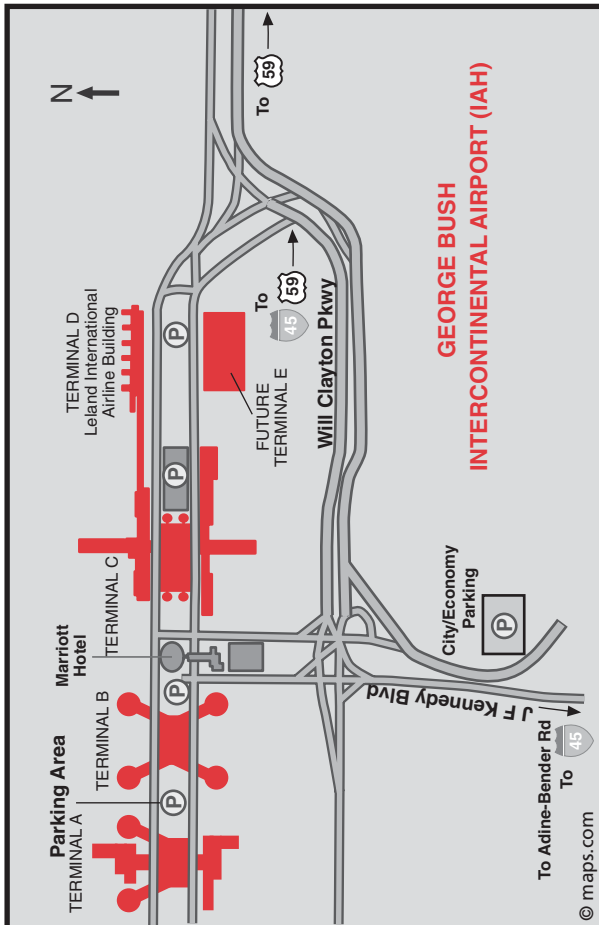
along the tunnel and runs every 3 to 5 minutes. Travel time from terminal A to terminal D (using the train) is about 9 minutes; you can also walk. Another option is the new above-ground interterminal passenger train (TerminalLink), which runs every few minutes between terminals B and C, and will be expanding to service the rest of the terminals.

Full-service restaurants include Bubba's Seafood (terminal C, north and south), Chili's (terminal A, south concourse, and terminal B), and Lefty's Passport Grill (terminal D), as well as the Marriott Hotel restaurants. In addition, each terminal has several fast food/snack establishments and coffee shops. The largest number are in terminal C, both north and south concourses (Pizza Inn, Popeye's,

Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, and Wendy's). Terminal B has fast food establishments, such as McDonald's, and Houston locals Harlon's BBQ and Shipley Donuts. You will find Hudson News locations throughout the airport. Body Shop, the Disney Store, LIDS Headware, and Sunglass Hut have locations in terminal C.

Houston Airport Marriott (☎281.443.2310) is located in the center of the airport. The hotel has two restaurants—Allie's American Grille (open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and CK's Revolving Restaurant (a steakhouse that's open for dinner)—as well as a lounge and coffeehouse. The hotel has meeting facilities and a self-service business center.

AIRPORT MAP



DOMESTIC AIRLINES

Bush International is a Continental Airlines hub.

Airline	Terminal
American Trans Air	A
America West	A
American Airlines	A
Atlantic Southeast Airlines	A
Comair	A
Continental Airlines	C, D
Continental Express	B
Delta Air Lines	A
Frontier Airlines	A
Northwest Airlines	B
SkyWest	A
Southwest Airlines	A
United Airlines	A
US Airways	A

INTERNET ACCESS

Dial-up/data ports: All public phones have data ports. Internet Access Terminals (AT&T P-2000 units) are located within the telephone banks in all terminals. Chair-mounted Internet Access Terminals may also be found in the hold rooms of terminal A (south) and terminal D.

BUSINESS SERVICES

ICE Currency

☛ Terminal C (north and south) and terminal D (currency exchange counters)

Services include currency exchange, sale of money orders/traveler checks, receipt and transmittal of wires of funds, flight insurance, photocopies, facsimile services, and Notary Public services.

Marriott Hotel Self-Service Business Center

☛ Marriott Hotel lobby

Services include computers and workstations with high-speed Internet access, copying, and fax machines. Rates are \$.67/minute for Internet access.

AIRLINE LOUNGES

Continental Airlines Presidents Club

☛ Terminal B (south mezzanine, above Continental Express ticket counter) ☎ 281.553.4208

☎ 5:30 p.m.–10 p.m. Sunday-Friday; 6 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday-Friday

Services include standard amenities plus workstations with dial-up Internet access. This location has two conference rooms; both seat 4-6.

Continental Airlines Presidents Club

☛ Terminal C (north concourse, toward gate C24)
☎ 281.553.1815 ☎ 5:30 a.m.–8:45 p.m. daily

Services include standard amenities plus workstations with dial-up Internet access. This location has three conference rooms—one large (seats 8-10) and two small (each seat 4-6). Locker facilities are available.

Continental Airlines Presidents Club

☛ Terminal C (south concourse, toward gate C33)
☎ 281.553.3600 ☎ 5:30 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday-Friday;
5:30 a.m.–8:45 p.m. Saturday

Services include standard amenities plus workstations with dial-up Internet access. This location has three conference rooms—one large (seats 10) and two small (each seat 5). Two shower rooms are available.

Continental Airlines Presidents Club

☛ Terminal D (between Gates 7 and 8) ☎ 281.553.3663
☎ 6:30 a.m.–8:45 p.m. daily

Services include standard amenities plus workstations with dial-up Internet access.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Ground transportation is available at ground level of all terminals, near the south sides of terminals A, B, and C, and at the west end of terminal D. Your best bet for getting to the Central Business District is cab or car service. If you are inclined to use public transportation, the METRO Bus service will get you to the CBD. (First confirm that one of the two stops is near your destination.) A car is not a necessity if your visit is confined to the CBD area; otherwise, you'll need to rent one.

Rental Cars

The airport has a consolidated rental car facility. Airport buses pick up outside baggage claim; the ride to the facility takes 5 to 10 minutes.

Located at the airport: Advantage, Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty

Taxis

Taxi stands and dispatchers are located outside baggage claim areas. All destinations within Houston's city limits to or from the Airport are charged according to the flat zone rate or the meter rate, whichever is less—plus a \$2.75 airport fee, \$1 fuel surcharge, and a \$1 late night surcharge (8 p.m.-6 a.m.). The approximate one-way fares are \$33.50 to north Houston (zone 1); \$37.50 to downtown/CBD (zone 2); and \$43.50 to the Galleria, Greenway Plaza, and Medical Center (zone 3). Additional zones and rates are listed on the airport Web site.

Limousines

Drivers pick up passengers at the terminal baggage claim area. Extreme Elegance Limousine Houston (☎713.812.8700/866.799.5466 www.extremeelegance.com) services the Houston metro area. The company has Town Cars and 8-10 passenger limousines. The rate to most locations from the airport is about \$50; the company charges \$50 per hour for charter service.

Share-Ride Shuttles

Express Shuttle (☎713.523.8888) provides share-ride shuttle service to the major downtown hotels. The one-way rate to the central business district is \$19. The shuttle leaves hourly 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and picks up outside the baggage claim areas.

Public Transportation

The METRO (☎713.635.4000 www.ridemetro.com) #102 bus offers express service to the central business district, stopping at Milam/Preston and Jefferson/Travis. The buses run every 20 to 40 minutes from about 5:50 a.m. to midnight. The trip is about 50 minutes, and the fare is \$1 to \$1.50. Pickup is outside terminal C baggage claim.

WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT

Fast Facts: Hobby Airport

Airport Code: HOU

📍 7800 Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77061

🌐 www.houstonairportsystem.org

☎713.640.3000

Parking: ☎713.641.7770

Drive time to the Central Business District: 10 minutes (up to 40 minutes during rush hour)

Drive time to the Medical Center/Greenway Plaza district: 10-15 minutes (up to 40 minutes during rush hour)

Drive time to Uptown/Galleria area: 20 minutes (40 minutes during rush hour)

Drive time to Westchase: 25-35 minutes (about an hour during rush hour)

Drive time to Energy Corridor: 30-40 (up to 1 1/2 hours during rush hour)

Drive time to Greenspoint: 30 minutes

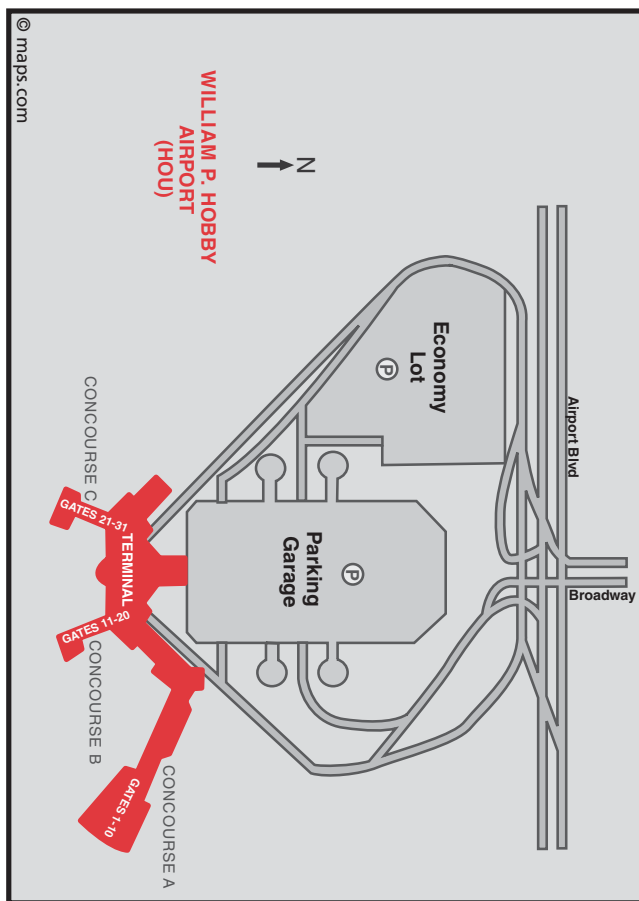
Drive time to The Woodlands: 45 minutes

W. P. Hobby Airport is about 7 miles southeast of the Central Business District, between I-45 (Gulf Freeway) and Texas Highway 35 (Telephone Road). Hobby Airport is a major Southwest Airlines destination, as well as a regional center for corporate and private aviation. Only U.S. destinations are served through Hobby.

At publication, the airport had one terminal with two levels and three concourses (A, B, and C). However, ongoing construction—most of which should be completed by 2004 in anticipation of Super Bowl traffic—is changing the airport's layout and services. The largest aspect of the construction is the consolidation of Southwest Airlines' A and C concourses into one central Y concourse. Most of the airport's eateries and shops are located in the central lobby. New additions are satellite locations of local favorites such as Café Express, the La Trellis Bakery and Café, Papa's Barbecue, and Pappadeaux's Seafood.

Public parking is available in a four-level garage that connects with the terminal building.

AIRPORT MAP



DOMESTIC AIRLINES

Approximately 85% of the airport's traffic is with Southwest Airlines. Note that due to construction, concourse assignments are subject to change.

Airline	Concourse
AirTran Airlines	B
American Airlines	B, C
American Eagle	C
Atlantic Southeast Airlines	C
Comair	C
Delta Air Lines	C
Southwest Airlines	A, C

INTERNET ACCESS

Every public pay phone in the airport has a data port connection.

BUSINESS SERVICES

A small business service center is located at the currency exchange counter and offers currency exchange services, sale of money order/traveler checks, receipt and transmittal of wires of funds, flight insurance, photocopies, facsimile services, and Notary Public services.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Ground transportation is located on the lower level of the building outside baggage claim.

Rental Cars

Rental car counters are located in the baggage claim area in the lower level. Buses and shuttle vans operate between the terminal and the car company sites.

Located at the airport: Advantage, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Hertz, Enterprise, National, and Thrifty

Taxis

Taxicabs and dispatch personnel are available at curb zone 1, outside the baggage claim area on the lower level. Fares are based on zone plus a \$1.25 departure fee and a \$1 fuel surcharge.

Rates to the Medical Center, Ellington Field, and Southeast Houston (zone 1) run \$20.50; to Downtown/CBD (zone 2), \$17.50; to Greenway Plaza (zone 3), \$25.50; to the Galleria (zone 4), \$34.50; to Westchase (zone 6), \$45.50; and to the Energy Corridor (zone 7), \$52.50. Additional zones and rates are listed on the airport Web site.

Limousines

Drivers pick up at the baggage claim. Extreme Elegance Limousine Houston (☎ 713.812.8700/866.799.5466 www.extremeelegance.com) services the Houston metro area. The company has Town Cars and 8-10 passenger limousines. The rate to most locations from the airport is about \$40 to \$50; the company charges \$50 per hour for charter service.

Share-Ride Shuttles

Express Shuttle (☎ 713.523.8888) provides share-ride shuttle service to the major downtown hotels. The one-way rate to the Central Business District is \$19. The shuttle leaves hourly from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and picks up outside the baggage claim areas.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The METRO (☎ 713.635.4000

www.ridemetro.com) #101 bus offers express service to the Central Business District, stopping at Smith/Preston and Smith/St. Joseph Parkway. The buses run every 20 to 40 minutes from about 5:40 a.m. to midnight. The trip is about 40 minutes, and the fare is \$1 to \$1.50. Pick up is at curb zone 8A, outside the baggage claim area on the lower level.

ELLINGTON FIELD

Fast Facts: Ellington Field

Airport Code: EFD

☎ 713.847.4200

www.houstonairportsystem.org

Ellington Field is a joint-use civil/military airport, located approximately 20 miles south of downtown Houston, near I-45/Gulf Freeway. Ellington supports the operations of the United States military, NASA, and general aviation.

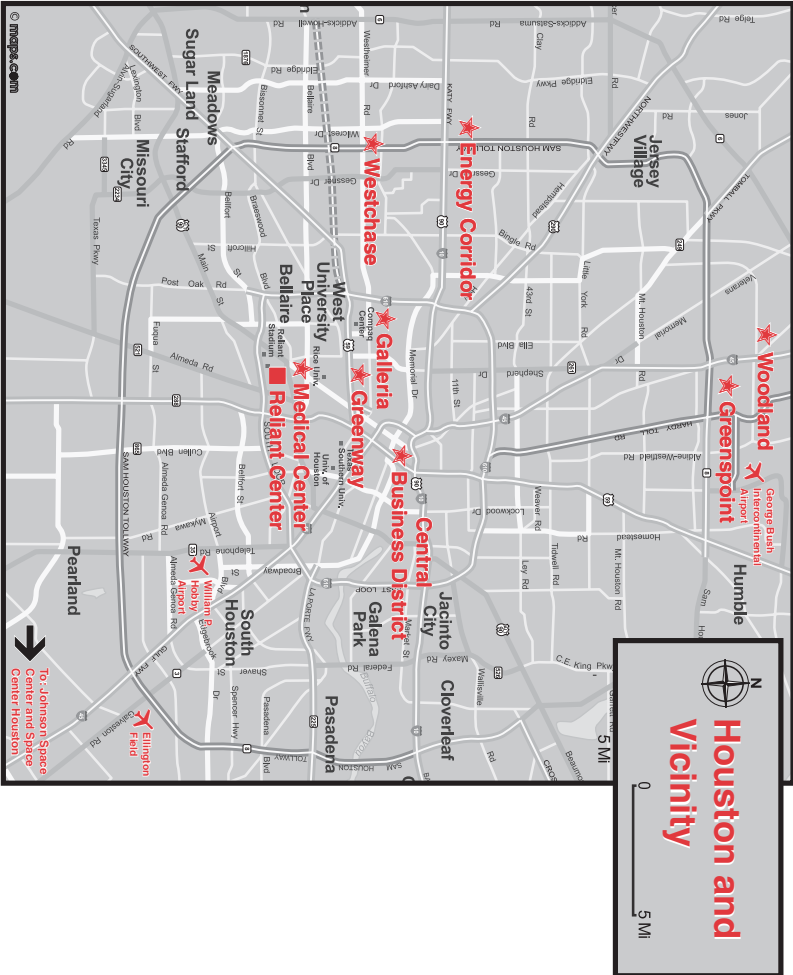
Continental Express runs commercial flights out of Ellington, primarily to Intercontinental Airport. Ellington is also popular for corporate jets and charters. You will need to call for a cab when you arrive—Yellow Cab Company (☎ 713.236.1111)—or arrange another transportation option prior to arrival; ground transportation options are limited.

AMTRAK

Amtrak (☎ 713.224.1577 or 800.872.7245) trains arrive from Florida and California at the old Southern Pacific Station (☛ 902 Washington Ave.). Amtrak's daily Sunset Limited has service to San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Orlando. Amtrak is not recommended for most business travelers in Houston.

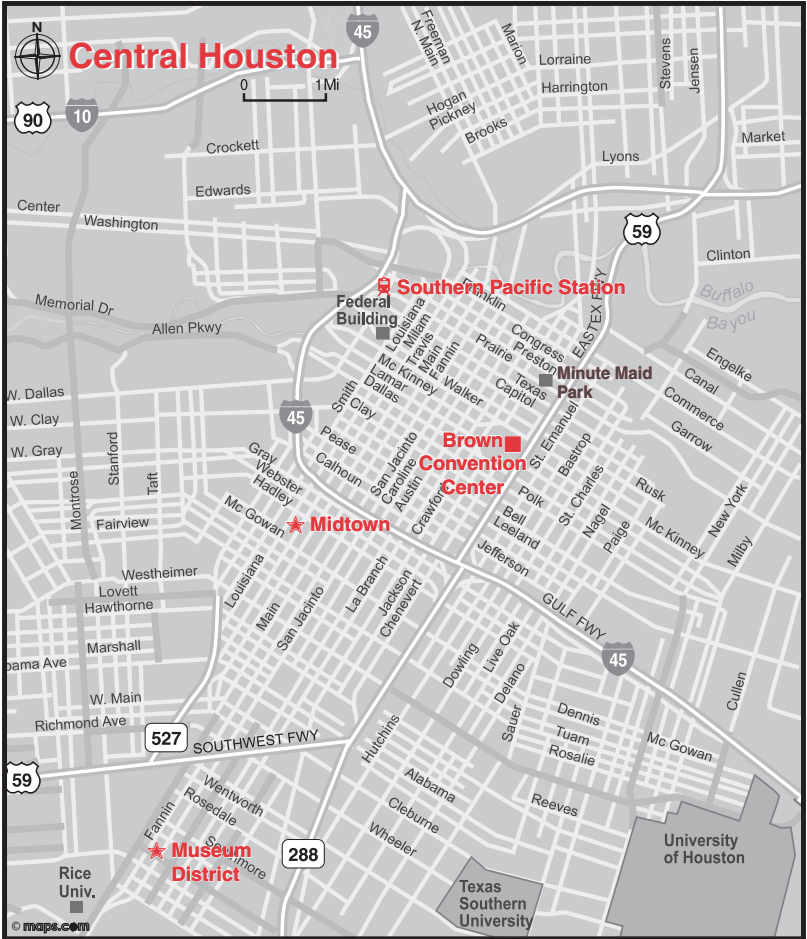
GETTING AROUND

METRO HOUSTON



To: Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston

Houston and Vicinity



DRIVING, PARKING, AND WALKING

If your destination is confined to the Central Business District, you can get around town by walking or by taking a cab, trolley, or the Metro. In addition, most of this area is serviced by 6 miles of underground tunnels and elevated walkways that connect 55 buildings. Shops and restaurants line these tunnels, forming a sort of underground city. (Go to www.tunnelquest.com for a map of the tunnel system.)

The CBD is surprisingly compact. The distance from the Convention Center (on the far east side) to Louisiana Street (on the far west side) is only about a mile. Although the CBD is easy to navigate on foot, driving downtown can be challenging—primarily because of the confounding number of one-way streets. Major streets in the CBD are Louisiana Street and Main Street. The new Metrorail Light Rail System runs along Main Street and will open in January 2004. Metrorail will run from Downtown to the Reliant Center and the Medical Center.

If your destination is outside the CBD, you will want to rent a car. Because of its size, the vast distribution of its commercial/business centers, and the convention of ascribing multiple names to the 10 major highways that traverse the city, orienting yourself in Houston can be challenging. It is a good idea to get a map and be prepared to ask for directions.

Houston's freeways act as boundary lines for most of the major areas in Houston. The Central Business District is contained within routes I-45 and U.S. 59. Moving out from the center, the larger downtown area is ringed by I-610 (called the Loop—often preceded by the modifiers North, South, East, and West), which has a 5 to 6 mile radius from the CBD. The metro area is encircled by the Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Tollway), which has a 10 to 12 mile radius from downtown. Radiating from these rings like spokes of a wheel are I-10, heading east/west; U.S. 59, called the Eastex Freeway heading northeast and the Southwest Freeway heading southwest; and I-45, called the Gulf Freeway heading southeast, the Pierce Elevated through downtown, and the North Freeway heading north. Westheimer, which runs parallel and south of I-10/Katy Freeway, is one of Houston's main drags and runs from the Greenspoint Plaza area through the Uptown/Galleria area and past the Westchase area.

Highway traffic is heavy throughout the day, but the average speed runs around 60 m.p.h., except during rush hour. Inside the Loop, Houston's rush hours are from 6:45 to 8:30 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.. Rush hour is heavier and longer heading in both directions along Interstate 10 (the Energy Corridor) near its intersection with the Loop. Try to avoid this area if possible.

RULES OF THE ROAD

The speed limit on numbered highways in the state of Texas, unless otherwise posted, is 70 m.p.h. The speed limit on highways that are not numbered is 60 m.p.h. Recently, the speed limit on a limited number of highways was increased to 75 m.p.h. At night, the speed limit on highways drops by 5 m.p.h.

The speed limit on urban streets is 30 m.p.h. Headlights are required a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, or any time visibility is less than 1,000 feet. The driver and front-seat passengers must wear seat belts. Violation of the seat belt law is a primary offense.

PARKING

Metered parking is available downtown. Parking garages and parking lots are plentiful. Maximum daily rates usually range from \$6 to \$10. Go to www.tunnelquest.com for a map of the parking facilities in the Central Business District.

TAXIS

The city claims to have the third-largest taxi cab fleet in the U.S. However, odds are you won't be able to flag a cab on the street—but if you call, one should arrive at your location in a few minutes. Cabs are also available at most major hotels. Houston taxis generally cost \$4 for the first mile and \$1.65 for each additional mile.



Major taxi companies are Yellow Cab Company (☎ 713.236.1111), United Cab Company (☎ 713.699.0000), Square Deal Cab Company (☎ 713.659.5105), and Liberty Cab Company (☎ 713.695.6700).

RENTAL CARS

Most major rental companies have multiple locations throughout the Houston metro area. Enterprise has a whopping 60+ locations. Both Hertz and Avis have downtown and Galleria locations. Cars rented at

Intercontinental Airport can run 50% more than a similar car rented at a local location (not at an airport or hotel) in part because of airport concession fees.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Houston METRO transportation system ( 713.635.4000  www.ridemetro.org) has a free trolley system with six different routes that service the downtown area. Trains run every 7 minutes. Trolley stops are marked by signs on the street corners.

The METRO Light Rail project is currently under construction, with completion scheduled for January 2004. The rail line will connect downtown Houston to the Texas Medical Center, Reliant Park, and the Central Business District.

IN TOWN

CONVENTION CENTERS

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER

The George R. Brown Convention Center is located off Highway 59 in the center of Houston's Convention and Sports District, a few blocks south of Minute Maid Park and about a mile west of Louisiana Street. Each of the Convention Center's five main exhibit halls (A-E) has its own entrance and lobby areas, all accessed from the ground level off Avenida de las Americas. Level 2 is the location of registration, conference rooms, show offices, and a Starbucks. Exhibit halls F and G, the Grand Ballroom, the General Assembly Hall Theatre, and a cafe next to exhibit hall G are all located on level 3. Other concession areas are located at the front and rear of all halls. The Business Center and computer room with high-speed Internet access are also located on the third level.

The Convention Center is currently undergoing construction, which should be completed by 2004. In addition to nearly doubling the size of the facility, the expansion will connect the center, via skybridge on levels 2 and 3, to a new 1,200-room convention headquarters hotel, the Hilton Americas-Houston. Other hotels within walking distance of the Center include the Four Seasons and Holiday Inn Express.

Shuttle buses and cabs pick up outside each of the main exhibit hall entrances on Avenida de las Americas. In addition, a free trolley transports people to other destinations in the downtown and Central Business

District; it stops every 10 minutes at the front of the Center.

The Convention Center is surrounded by multiple parking lots. A parking garage, connected to both the Center and the Hilton, is located on the south end of the building near exhibit hall E. Event day parking costs about \$5. During large events, the Center shares a parking lot with Minute Maid Park and runs shuttles back and forth.

The Center's busiest seasons are spring and fall. During these busier times, hotels in the Galleria area, 7 miles from the Center, serve as alternatives to downtown hotels.

 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, TX 77010

 713.853.8000/800.427.4697


 www.houstonconventionctr.com

RELIANT CENTER

The Reliant Center is located in the Reliant Park complex, within the Loop (I-610) between Kirby and Fannin Streets. The main entrance is on the facility's south side, on Reliant Parkway. The Center has five exhibit halls (A-E), all located on ground level. The majority of the meeting rooms are on the mezzanine level.

The North Kirby parking lot (off Kirby Drive) and the North Fannin parking lots (off Fannin Street) are next to the Center. Additional lots are located on the west side of Kirby Street. The METRO station is located in the northeast corner of the North Fannin Parking Lot.

 One Reliant Park Houston, TX 77054  832.667.1400

 www.reliantpark.com

HOTELS


CENTRAL/GREENWAY PLAZA/MEDICAL CENTER

Houston Marriott Medical Center

Overlooking the world-famous Texas Medical Center, this hotel is frequented by visiting medical professionals and families with loved ones making use of the nearby facilities. This 26-floor hotel includes an executive floor, 15 meeting rooms, and air-conditioned walkways to nearby hospitals and medical schools. Its 386 rooms are decorated with the busy business-medical specialist in mind; whether staying a day or a month, guests will find everything they need for a smooth visit. Work desks,

speakerphones, voice mail, and data ports make this an office on the road, and wet bars and kitchens in some rooms provide convenience and a homey touch.


📍 6580 Fannin St., Houston, TX 77030 📞 713.796.0080
 🌐 www.marriott.com

Singles and doubles, \$89-\$199 

Kilworth Manor

For a change from the standard business hotel try the Kilworth Manor. A Civil War soldier and Texas senator built this three-story Greek Revival home in 1910. Current owner Mark Kilworth purchased the home in 1996, restoring its original look and maintaining many antiques from a previous proprietor. The home includes a guesthouse with two bedrooms, kitchenette, and bathroom, and two spacious suites. The second floor suite features a beautiful, enclosed veranda, and the third-floor suite is actually a full-size apartment, complete with living room, full kitchen, bathroom, and three bedrooms. The latter is often booked by people relocating to the area. (A note on persistence: the telephone number defaults to the owner's cell phone, and it may take you a while to get through.)


📍 109 Stratford St., Houston, TX 77006 📞 713.520.5526
 🌐 www.kilworthmanor.com

Singles and doubles, \$95-\$250; suites, \$225-\$250 

Radisson Hotel Astrodome Convention Center

Built in tandem with the Astrodome, this 630-room, 26-suite hotel sits on 22 tree-studded acres within walking distance of America's first domed stadium. This Texas landmark has undergone a \$32 million renovation that has returned it to its original modern glory. The hotel is home to Houston's largest hotel ballroom, the 18,750-square-foot Sam Houston, and 55,000 square feet of meeting space. The comfortably appointed rooms come with sea-blue carpeting and bedspreads, comfortable padded chairs, and light-colored wooden desks and entertainment centers. The Radisson offers standard amenities (coffeemaker and hair dryer), along with in-room data ports and video checkout.


📍 8686 Kirby Dr., Houston, TX 77054 📞 713.748.3221
 🌐 www.hotel-houston.com

Singles and doubles, \$109-\$139; suites, \$226-\$326


Renaissance Houston Hotel

The Renaissance Houston Hotel—with its white columns and black, metallic façade—is perfectly situated for travelers doing business in the nearby Greenway Plaza corporate complex. Greenway Plaza is located near several corporate headquarters and is next to the Compaq Center Sports and Entertainment Complex. This 20-floor hotel overlooks a Houston freeway, making it a short drive to many city attractions. The 338 guest rooms have been designed with comfort and convenience in mind, and rooms cater to workaholics—amenities include work desks and two-line telephones with speakerphones and data ports. Concierge services, a safe deposit box, and a hair salon/barber shop are available.

📍 6 Greenway Plaza E., Houston, TX 77046
 📞 713.629.1200 🌐 www.marriott.com


Singles and doubles, \$89-\$219 

DOWNTOWN

Crowne Plaza

This member of the Crowne Plaza hotel group is located in the heart of downtown Houston, 12 blocks from the George R. Brown Convention Center. The Crowne Plaza offers 259 rooms, 18 junior suites, and one governor's suite decorated with recently updated classical dark wood desks, tables, and headboard.


📍 1700 Smith St., Houston, TX 77002 📞 713.739.8800
 🌐 www.sixcontinentshotels.com

Singles and doubles, \$169-\$245; suites, \$199-\$275


Doubletree Hotel Houston—Allen Center

This centrally located hotel began its life as the French-built Meridian, and to this day retains a touch of the European in both style and elegance. The property is connected to the Allen Center, a downtown office building, by a glass overhead ramp. There are 350 guest rooms and suites; standard rooms include one king or two double beds, a work desk, coffeemaker, WebTV, and more. Executive rooms also offer a spacious corner room and a living area.

📍 400 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77002 📞 713.759.0202
 🌐 www.doubletree.com

Singles and doubles, \$129-\$239; suites, \$229-\$359


Four Seasons Hotel Houston

Behind its no-nonsense, high-rise façade in the heart of downtown, the Four Seasons hides an elegant haven, beautifully merging Southern charm and European elegance. The property boasts 404 newly renovated rooms, along with a health club, day spa, and outdoor pool oasis—complete with banana trees and blooming hibiscus. Rooms are outfitted with multiline speakerphones and high-speed Internet access. Computers and faxes are available for in-room use. Wi-Fi access is available in meeting rooms. Restaurant Quattro serves seasonal, contemporary American-Italian cuisine, and the cozy Lobby Lounge is a perfect spot to unwind with a drink.

📍 1300 Lamar St., Houston, TX 77010 📞 713.650.1300
 📠 713.652.6220
 🌐 www.fourseasons.com/houston/

Singles and doubles, \$320-\$380; suites, \$350-\$380;
 \$1,350-\$1,650



The St. Regis, Houston

This high-rise hotel ranks among the best accommodations in Houston. Located in the city's ritzy River Oaks residential neighborhood, it's just minutes from downtown. The 232 guest rooms and suites are furnished with traditional dark wood pieces that accent the lighter shades of the carpeting, bedspreads, and draperies; floor-to-ceiling windows, kitchenettes, and wet bars are available in most rooms, and some rooms boast city views, full kitchens, refrigerators, and sitting areas.

📍 1919 Briar Oaks Ln., Houston, TX 77027
 📞 713.840.7600 🌐 www.stregis.com

Singles and doubles, \$155-\$450; suites, \$230-\$360



GALLERIA

Doubletree Hotel Post Oak/Galleria

Designed by renowned architect I.M. Pei, the Doubletree Hotel Post Oak/Galleria is one of Houston's many architectural treasures. Its twin towers are joined together by a spacious lobby with a curved glass ceiling that, by day, lights up this attractive space, and it is only one block from the famous Galleria Mall. This award-winning hotel has 449 rooms, including 24 junior suites. All rooms are

equipped with data ports and work desks, and open onto balconies that let you enjoy Houston's impressive skyline. Standard rooms come with a full bath and minibar; business-class rooms include breakfast, newspaper, and one garment pressed daily.

📍 2001 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056
 📞 713.961.9300 🌐 www.doubletree.com

Singles and doubles, \$99-\$204

Extended Stay America—Galleria

This three-story, L-shaped building on busy Westheimer Road is more motel than hotel in style but is designed for people who want or need more than standard motel room fare. For those staying a week or longer, this is a good, comfortable choice—although it lacks many of the amenities and services that make traveling so much fun. Studio suites include a kitchen with refrigerator, stove, microwave, and utensils. The decor is simple and comfortable, albeit a bit sparse and unimaginative; guests receive weekly housekeeping service and have access to a 24-hour, coin-operated laundry facility.

📍 4701 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77027
 📞 713.355.8500 🌐 www.extstay.com

Suites, \$59-\$84

Houston Marriott West Loop

This 13-floor hotel in the Galleria shopping district is within easy access of all major freeways and the Central Business District. Dubbing its accommodations *The Room That Works*, the hotel is geared for execs on the go, with convenient and spacious workstations and generous business amenities; each room is like an office away from the office, with a work desk, voice mail, data ports, and high-speed Internet access. The hotel's 300 guest rooms were renovated in 2002 to provide business travelers the latest in comfort and style, although without the frills and extras that leisurely holiday travelers might find necessary. But this doesn't mean that you won't get good service; amenities at the hotel's Concierge Level are among the best in Houston. Other convenient facilities are available in the hotel's business center.

📍 1750 West Loop S., Houston, TX 77027
 📞 713.960.0111 🌐 www.marriott.com

Singles and doubles, \$95-\$259; suites, \$239



The Houstonian Hotel, Club, and Spa

Near the bustling Galleria area, the 18 wooded acres of the Houstonian is a decompressing drive within the city. Nestled in a wooded setting, the secluded property was once the former residence of George and Barbara Bush. Today, it counts 280 remodeled, luxurious rooms, extensive meeting space, and a fitness center where rich and well-toned Houstonians flock for rock climbing, boxing, Pilates, and the brand-new Trellis Spa.

📍 111 N. Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX 77024
 ☎ 713.680.2626, 800.231.2759 📠 713.680.2992
 🌐 www.houstonian.com

Singles and doubles, \$159-\$365; suites, \$525-\$1,500

***Sheraton Suites Houston***

Located within walking distance of the upscale Galleria Mall and just minutes from downtown Houston, the Sheraton features 286 comfortable suites with separate living area and bedrooms, outdoor swimming pool and complete fitness center, comprehensive business center and meeting space, relaxing Wild Plum Cocktail Lounge, and dining at its Omaha Steakhouse.

📍 2400 W. Loop S., Houston, TX 77027 ☎ 713.586.2444,
 888.321.4733 📠 713.586.2445
 🌐 www.sheratonsuiteshouston.com

Singles and doubles, \$169-\$289

**GREENSPPOINT*****Sofitel Houston***

The Sofitel Houston is located in the center of the North Houston business district, just 7 miles from Intercontinental Airport and 17 miles from downtown—although guests expecting an urban, business traveler's setting may think they've taken a wrong flight and wound up in France instead. Le Café Royal (serving excellent French cuisine), a bakery, brasserie, and piano lounge are just a few of the continental delights that set this hotel apart from its Texan brethren. The 334 guest rooms are appointed in French country furnishings, the likes of which you'll be hard-pressed to find anywhere else in the area.

📍 425 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E., Houston, TX 77060
 ☎ 281.445.9000 🌐 www.sofitel.com

Singles and doubles, \$79-\$179 📠 📠 📠

Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel

Not a destination unto itself, the Wyndham Greenspoint is a comfortable hotel offering access to the area's largest shopping center, Greenspoint Mall, as well as numerous businesses. The high-rise has recently been renovated and features an enormous atrium lobby with lush vegetation and spacious seating areas. Shades of avocado, cream, and tan give the 472 rooms here a placid, verdant feel—a nice, relaxing atmosphere for getting some work done. This is a business-friendly establishment (check out the Herman Miller Aeron chair, cordless two-line phone, high-speed Internet access, and WebTV) that understands the need to unwind after a long day's labor.

📍 12400 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060
 ☎ 281.875.2222 🌐 www.wyndham.com

Singles and doubles, \$99-\$209 📠 📠 📠

HOBBY AIRPORT***Hampton Inn Houston—Hobby Airport***

Located adjacent to Houston's older, smaller airport, the Hampton Inn is between downtown Houston and the NASA/Clear Lake area. This six-story, freestanding building is short on luxury and heavy on convenience. Coffeemakers, data ports, in-room movies, and a free newspaper (Monday through Friday) provide relative comfort and convenience.

📍 8620 Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77061
 ☎ 713.641.6400 🌐 www.hamptoninn.com

Singles and doubles, \$59-\$92 📠 📠 📠

Marriott Houston Hobby Airport

One mile from Houston Hobby airport, just south of downtown, this 10-story hotel is close to a major freeway and several business facilities, including the Texas Medical Center. Resisting generic chain styling, the hotel, which completed renovations in 2002, is built around an atrium lobby with lush vegetation and a waterfall. The 287 guest rooms are relatively basic, although tastefully decorated, and furnished with comfortable stuffed chairs and small work areas. Additional business bonuses include voice mail and two telephones with speakerphone and data ports.

📍 9100 Gulf Fwy., Houston, TX 77017 📞 713.943.7979

🌐 www.marriott.com

Singles and doubles, \$89-\$179; suites, \$99-\$179



INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT

Hyatt Regency Houston Airport

The Hyatt Regency Houston Airport is located in the beautiful World Houston Business Development, a wooded complex defined by well-manicured lawns, colorful flowers, and pine trees. Its outdoor pavilion, situated amid the trees, offers a great place for meetings, luncheons, and receptions. Two ballrooms, 14 meeting rooms, the Kansas City Learning Center, and a 46-seat amphitheater (with state-of-the-art audiovisual and computer hookups) make this an excellent choice for large business functions. The 314 rooms are decorated with rich, modern furnishings and come equipped with everything the modern exec needs to do business on the road, including an oversized work station with leather executive chair and enough space for a laptop, books, papers, and anything else your workload might require.

📍 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032

📞 281.987.1234 🌐 www.hyatt.com

Singles, doubles, and suites, \$75-\$185

RESTAURANTS

The Houston restaurant scene is diverse and cosmopolitan, with influences from Louisiana (French), Mexico, and its large Vietnamese population. You will find restaurants serving just about any cuisine. As for native Houston food, count on barbecue, soul food, steakhouses, and—of course—Tex-Mex, which features Mexican-influenced dishes heavy on ground beef, cheese, and chili sauce.

TOP FIVE BUSINESS RESTAURANTS

Boulevard Bistrot (Museum District)

Cuisine: Contemporary. **Features:** Great wine list, heart-healthy dishes, full bar, private rooms, romantic setting, outdoor dining, reservations suggested. **Attire:** Ties suggested. **Open:** Lunch Tuesday-Friday; dinner Tuesday-Saturday; brunch Sunday.

📍 4319 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

📞 713.524.6922

Café Annie (Galleria)

Cuisine: Southwestern, contemporary. **Features:** Great wine list, heart-healthy dishes, full bar, private rooms, reservations suggested. **Attire:** Ties suggested. **Open:** Lunch Monday-Friday; dinner Monday-Saturday.

📍 1728 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77056

📞 713.840.1111

La Colombe d'Or (Museum District)

Cuisine: French. **Features:** Great wine list, full bar, private rooms, entertainment, reservations suggested. **Attire:** Ties suggested. **Open:** Lunch Monday-Saturday; dinner nightly.

📍 3410 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

📞 713.524.7999

Mark's American Cuisine (Montrose area near Medical Center)

Cuisine: Contemporary. **Features:** Great wine list, heart-healthy dishes, full bar, private rooms, reservations suggested. **Attire:** Ties suggested. **Open:** Lunch Monday-Friday; dinner nightly.

📍 1658 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77019

📞 713.523.3800

Quattro (Downtown)

Cuisine: Italian, Contemporary. **Features:** Great wine list, heart-healthy dishes, private rooms, full bar, parking lot, reservations suggested. **Attire:** Casual dressy. **Open:** Breakfast & Lunch Monday-Saturday; brunch Sunday; dinner Monday-Sunday.

📍 Four Seasons Hotel Houston, 1300 Lamar St. (Austin St.), Houston, TX 77010 📞 713.276.4700

BUSINESS SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

The following list of companies and locations is not comprehensive. The stores listed are centrally located within a general area; companies such as Kinko's and RadioShack may have several other stores within a mile or so of the listed stores. Go online or call to find a store that may be more convenient to your specific location.

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND COMPUTER/ INTERNET ACCESS

Kinko's

Energy Corridor

📍 12191 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77079

☎ 281.584.9955 🖨 281.584.0038

✉ usa1913@kinkos.com 🌐

Greenspoint

📍 315 E. N. Sam Houston Pkwy., Houston, TX 77060

☎ 281.873.2679 🖨 281.875.3291

✉ usa2109@kinkos.com 🌐

Greenway Plaza

📍 2200 Southwest Fwy., Houston, TX 77098-4710

☎ 713.520.9753 🖨 713.524.4036

✉ usa2103@kinkos.com 🌐

Uptown/Galleria Area

📍 8052 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77063-2902

☎ 713.781.8288 🖨 713.781.8338

✉ usa0380@kinkos.com

The Woodlands

📍 479 Sawdust Rd., The Woodlands, TX 77380-2263

☎ 281.364.7898 🖨 281.364.7991

✉ usa2115@kinkos.com

The UPS Store (formerly Mail Boxes, Etc.)

Central Business District

📍 945 McKinney, Houston, TX 77002 ☎ 832.204.3767

Energy Corridor

📍 14027 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079-6826

☎ 281.589.2074

Greenspoint

📍 12180 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060-2002

☎ 281.872.7997

Greenway Plaza

📍 3262 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77098-1002

☎ 713.520.0030

Medical Center

📍 2476 Bolsover, Houston, TX 77005-2518

☎ 713.529.4132

Uptown/Galleria

📍 5090 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77056-7402

☎ 713.626.2920

Westchase

📍 9521 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77063-3369

☎ 713.782.4999

The Woodlands

📍 7 Switchbud Place, The Woodlands, TX 77380-3707

☎ 281.367.0291

Sir Speedy

Central Business District

📍 811 Rusk, Houston, TX 77002 ☎ 713.222.2669

🖨 713.222.2671

Medical Center

📍 5802 Kirby Dr., Houston, TX 77005 ☎ 713.665.7192

🖨 713.665.7180

Starbucks

There are close to 120 locations in the Houston metro area; about half are T-Mobile Wi-Fi hotspots. Go to www.starbucks.com for specific locations.

COMPUTERS, ELECTRONICS, AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

CompUSA

Galleria

📍 5000 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057

☎ 713.629.4333

Greenspoint/North Houston

📍 330 FM 1960 West, Houston, TX 77090

☎ 281.444.3899

RadioShack

Central Business District

📍 1200 McKinney, Houston, TX 77010 ☎ 713.652.9070

Energy Corridor

📍 14356 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079

☎ 281.496.9429

Greenspoint

📍 375 Greenspoint Mall, Houston, TX 77060

☎ 281.875.4787

Greenway Plaza

📍 2415 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77098

☎ 713.523.3847

Medical Center

📍 2240 W. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030

☎ 713.665.7491

Uptown/Galleria

📍 5015 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77056

☎ 713.626.7352

Westchase

📍 10555 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77042

☎ 713.975.7095

The Woodlands

📍 The Woodlands Mall, 1201 Lake Woodlands Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380 ☎ 281.363.9948

Office Depot**Greenway Plaza**

📍 3443 Kirby Dr. (at Richmond Ave.), Houston, TX 77098

☎ 713.522.9981

Westchase

📍 10960 Westheimer Rd. (at Wilcrest Dr.), Houston, TX 77042 ☎ 713.783.3254

The Woodlands

📍 27500 Interstate 45 N (across from Woodlands Mall), Oakridge North, TX 77385 ☎ 281.367.2766

Office Max**Energy Corridor**

📍 Lancaster Center East, 10516 Old Katy Rd., Houston, TX 77043 ☎ 713.465.2555