

OUT & ABOUT HOUSTON GUIDE

A *TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence* winner, we make sure that you have everything you need to enjoy Houston. Royal Sonesta Houston boasts casual sophistication with modern appeal and is within walking distance to the Galleria, world-class dining, arts and culture and exciting nightlife. Discover a thriving arts scene, with ballet, opera, symphony and theater.



TRENDY GAY & LESBIAN FRIENDLY BARS

F Bar: 202 Taum St. 713-522-3227

Saturdays are a busy night at this upscale, coastal chic lounge. So are Sunday Funday's on the patio! Think chandeliers, elaborate wall coverings, velvet drapes and a glassed-in, semi-outdoor lounge area. The large patio features cabanas and a glass fire pit, allowing patrons a place to play outside.

Neon Boots Dancehall & Saloon: 11410 Hempstead Rd. 713-677-0828

Texas' largest gay country bar -- more than 10,000 square feet of fun under one roof. Dance the night away on the enormous dance floor, relax in the side lounge or belly up to more than a half-dozen different bar stations. There are live shows, dance lessons and much more each week.

JR's Bar & Grill: 808 Pacific St. 713-527-2519

A staple in Houston's gay scene for decades, helping form the bedrock of Montrose nightlife. Numerous bar tops, patio and live entertainment such as drag shows, happy hour until the wee hours.

Ripcord: 715 Fairview St. 713-521-2792

The second oldest gay bar in Texas, since 1980, and the state's oldest leather bar. Located in the Montrose community Ripcord is a popular laid-back spot with a large patio and is a great place to enjoy a beer or a cocktail on a nice Houston evening.

Houston Eagle: 611 Hyde Park Blvd. 713-523-2473

The new Eagle is a great mix of neighborhood bar and fetish/leather hangout. Daily drink specials, craft beer, friendly bartenders and an expansive dual-level patio are making this a new destination on the Montrose circuit.



ROYAL SONESTA

HOUSTON

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RESTAURANTS



ARA: 2222 West South Loop 713-627-7600

**Located inside Royal Sonesta Houston*, Chef Robert Graham offers globally inspired, locally wired cuisine, unusual cuts of superior Angus beef from 44 Farms in Cameron, in-house smoked meats, homemade gelato and more set in a chic ambiance.

Axis Lounge: 2222 West South Loop 713-627-7600

**Located inside Royal Sonesta Houston*, this vibrant eatery serves up some of the best seafood you will ever try. The award winning gumbo is just the start to the Cajun-Creole dishes served in this casual bistro.

Baba Yega Cafe: 2607 Grant St. 713-522-0042

Since 1975, this converted bungalow-turned-eatery has charmed regulars with healthy fare and hearty portions. A crowd as eclectic as the menu dines in cozy tables throughout the house--on the back veranda with a view of the tranquil gardens and koi pond, oak-tree-shaded front patio (ideal for people-watching) or the antique-filled main dining area.

Barnaby's Café Montrose: 604 Fairview St. 713-522-0106

Constantly humming with lively conversation, this cozy cafe is a popular Montrose neighborhood hangout. This snug diner features fresh, uncomplicated, contemporary food. The service is quick, and the price is right.

Common Bond Café & Bakery: 1706 Westheimer Rd. 713-529-3535

This 3600 sq ft rustic-chic café offers an impressive savory menu as well as a vast array of viennoiserie, pastry, bread, gelato, a 24-foot bakery case and more. Great for breakfast, lunch or a late afternoon pastry and cup of coffee.

Brasil: 2604 Dunlavy St. 713-528-1993

Artsy types, poetry buffs and music lovers from all walks of life count this warm coffeehouse as a favorite for its relaxed vibe, live music performances and contemporary art by local artists.

Uchi: 904 Westheimer Rd. 713-522-4808

James Beard Award-winning Chef Tyson Cole's signature restaurant is intimate and sophisticated featuring an open kitchen, sushi bar and Far Eastern delicacies. Don't miss this Japanese hot spot with innovative preparations.

Underbelly: 1100 Westheimer Rd. 731-528-9800

Chef Chris Shepherd presents "The Story of Houston Food" with local ingredients, a wine bar and his personal culinary experiences in the city. Chef works directly with area ranchers to raise his own pigs, goats and other animals which become the feature of this upscale eatery and on-site butcher shop dedicated to all things pork.

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Houston Pride: For more than 37 years, Pride Houston has been a central part of the local LGBT community in Houston. Its core mission is to strengthen equality and increase awareness around issues important to our community such as health, safety and marriage equality. Pride Houston celebrates the individuality and diversity of every person as we all strive for acceptance from parents, friends and society-at-large.

MFAH Mixed Media: MFAH Mixed Media is a late-night party series that transforms the Museum into a multi-sensory experience. This series of late-night parties features drinks, dancing, high-energy live music & DJs.

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo: Rodeo time has been a tradition in Houston since 1932, and the three-week extravaganza at Reliant Park continues to consume the city every spring. The kickoff for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is the Rodeo Parade, after trail riders ride into town and set up camp in Memorial Park. All 20 championship rodeo competitions are concluded with entertainment by music superstars.

Biking through Houston: Houston is known for its oil and gas industry, but its investment in bike trails and bike lanes has also made it one of the most bike-friendly cities in the country. Whether you ride your own, rent one from a local store or use one of the Houston B-Cycle rental bikes, you don't want to miss out on the chance to explore Houston by bike. Before you begin any biking adventure, take a gander at the [Bike Houston](#) website for up-to-date maps, path openings and closures, and clearly stated Texas biking laws and regulations.

Discovery Green: Nestled in front of the George R. Brown Convention Center, its impeccable design and meticulous upkeep add to all it has to offer. Guests are welcomed with an extensive playground, sculptures and art installations, eateries, an interactive water display and a pond to sail wooden boats. The park has a schedule packed with free events, from yoga classes to film screenings to concerts.

Hermann Park: A 445-acre oasis to explore. The park has miles of paths and green space as well as a reflection pond, world-renowned art installations and [Miller Outdoor Theatre](#), which hosts free shows and films from April to November

Museum District: Check out the [Museum of Fine Arts Houston](#) for its treasure trove of art through the ages. Allot at least two hours to explore the multiple galleries in the complex. Or perhaps the [Houston Museum of Natural Science](#) is more your speed. HMNS is one of the most heavily visited museums in the U.S., features the Wortham IMAX Theatre, Burke Baker Planetarium, Cockrell Butterfly Center, permanent exhibit halls and traveling exhibitions.

The Galleria Mall: With nearly 400 stores spread across multiple wings, the Galleria has earned its reputation as the go-to place for fashion in Texas. And for guys, this is especially true. Consider that the Galleria is home to Original Penguin, Lacoste, Club Monaco, J. Crew, French Connection, Versace, Giorgio Armani and many more stores geared (at least in part) to the male gender.

To learn more visit <http://www.mygayhouston.com/> or contact us at 713.627.7600