

# A GUIDE TO EXPLORE HOUSTON

For 41<sup>ST</sup> SANA Annual Convention delegates

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**SINDHI ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTH AMERICA**



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Here are some famous **Texan phrases and slang** that you might hear in Houston or anywhere else in Texas:

**1. "Howdy!"**

- A classic Texan greeting, like saying "hello" or "hi."

**3. "Fixin' to"**

- Meaning "about to" or "getting ready to." Example: "I'm **fixin' to** go to the store."

**5. "All hat and no cattle"**

- Refers to someone who talks big but doesn't have the substance to back it up.

**7. "The devil is in the details"**

- A warning about potential trouble hidden in small details.

**9. "Coke"**

- In Texas, "Coke" refers to any soda or soft drink, not just Coca-Cola. Example: "What kind of **Coke** do you want? We have Pepsi."

**11. "Fix' in"**

- Similar to "fixing to," meaning "getting ready to do something." Example: "I'm **fix' in** to leave."

**13. "Tighten up"**

- A phrase used when you want someone to stay sharp or focus. Example: "You need to **tighten up** and get this done."

**2. "Y'all"**

- A contraction of "you all," used to refer to a group of people. Example: "How are **y'all** doing?"

**4. "Bless your heart"**

- Can be a sign of sympathy, affection, or sometimes even sarcasm. Example: "Oh, you tried? **Bless your heart.**"

**6. "Don't mess with Texas"**

- A slogan promoting littering prevention, but also a statement of state pride. It can be used to express the strength and pride of Texans.

**8. "Might could"**

- A quirky way of saying "maybe." Example: "I **might could** help you with that."

**10. "Holler"**

- To call out or shout. Example: "Give me a **holler** when you're ready."

**12. "Slap"**

- Used for emphasis to describe something good or big. Example: "That was a **slap** good time!"

**14. "It's hotter than a two-dollar pistol"**

- Used to describe really hot weather, typical for Texas summers.



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## Introduction to Houston

Welcome to **Houston, Texas**, one of the most diverse and vibrant cities in the United States. Home to one of the **largest Sindhi and Pakistani communities**, Houston offers a unique blend of cultures, cuisines, and attractions. From world-class dining to historic landmarks, family-friendly destinations, and scenic outdoor spaces, this guide will help you explore the best of Houston during your stay for the **41st SANA Annual Convention at The Westin Galleria**.

## A Brief History of Houston

Founded in 1836, **Houston** was named after General Sam Houston, a key figure in Texas' independence from Mexico. The city grew rapidly due to its strategic location near the Gulf of Mexico, its booming oil industry in the early 20th century, and the establishment of the Texas Medical Center and NASA's Johnson Space Center. Today, **Greater Houston** is the **fourth-largest metropolitan area** in the United States and a global hub for energy, aerospace, healthcare, and trade.

## Houston at a Glance

- **Population:** Over **7.3 million** (Greater Houston area)
- **Size:** Approximately **665 square miles**
- **Economy:** Leading industries include **oil & gas, healthcare, aerospace, technology, and international trade**
- **Ranking:** Houston is **the fourth-largest city in the U.S.** and home to one of the busiest ports in America

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## Getting Around Houston

- **Public Transport (Only around Downtown and nearby):** METRO buses and light rail are available for convenient travel.
- **Rideshare Services:** Uber and Lyft operate throughout the city.
- **Car Rentals:** Available at airports and major locations.
- **How to Reach Attractions:** Most locations are accessible via Uber/Lyft, taxis, or rental cars. Public transport is limited, so ridesharing services are recommended for convenience.







# PAKISTANI FOOD



**HOUSTON IS  
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SECOND 😊**



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## Top Pakistani Restaurants in Houston

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Enjoy authentic Pakistani cuisine at some of the best restaurants in the city:

- **Arabian Knight Restaurant & Lounge** – Authentic Pakistani cuisine with rich flavors, premium hookah, and a cozy lounge atmosphere. (12 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **BBQ Tonight** – Traditional Pakistani BBQ and karahi dishes. (5.2 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Aga's Restaurant & Catering** – Famous for their Goat Karahi and grilled meats. (10.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Tempura Grill** – Pakistani-Chinese fusion with a variety of spicy delights. (7.3 miles from The Westin Galleria)





- **Bismillah Restaurant & Cafe** – Great for biryani, nihari, and halwa puri breakfast. *(9.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Lasbela Restaurant** – Authentic Pakistani dishes with a traditional ambiance. *(12.2 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Karahi Boys** – Known for their rich and spicy karahi dishes. *(11.8 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Mai Kolachi Restaurant** – Offering a taste of Karachi-style BBQ. *(13.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Ashar Kitchen** – Popular for traditional Pakistani fast food and BBQ. *(9.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Student Biryani** – Famous for its signature biryani and traditional Pakistani flavors. *(10.2 miles from The Westin Galleria)*





- **Bando Khan** – Renowned for its grilled meats and authentic Pakistani cuisine. *(11.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)*

Apart from these restaurants, many **Pakistani food trucks** are available at **Mousa Colony (Highway 6)** and **Boat Basin (Highway 6)**, serving delicious desi street food.



## Food Delivery Options

All famous **Pakistani restaurants deliver** to The Westin Galleria through **Uber Eats, DoorDash, and Grubhub.**



## Historical & Cultural Places to Visit

Discover Houston's rich history and cultural landmarks:

- **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** – Showcasing art from around the world. (7.8 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Houston Museum of Natural Science** – Explore dinosaurs, gems, and space exhibits. (7.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Asia Society Texas Center** – Celebrating Asian culture and heritage. (8.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Buffalo Bayou Park & Cistern** – Scenic urban park with trails and boat tours. (5.6 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **San Jacinto Monument & Museum** – A tribute to Texas history. (27.4 miles from The Westin Galleria)

## Family & Kid-Friendly Attractions

Perfect spots to visit with kids and family:

- **Space Center Houston** – Learn about NASA and space exploration. (32.3 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Houston Zoo** – Home to over 6,000 animals from around the world. (7.4 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Children's Museum Houston** – Interactive exhibits for young learners. (7.9 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Downtown Aquarium** – Featuring marine life exhibits and amusement rides. (7.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Hermann Park & McGovern Centennial Gardens** – Beautiful gardens and a mini train ride. (7.6 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Cockrell Butterfly Center** – A stunning butterfly habitat at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. (7.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Houston Eye Ferris Wheel** – Offering breathtaking views of downtown Houston. (7.3 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Children's Museum Houston** – An interactive museum offering a multitude of hands-on exhibits designed to stimulate children's curiosity and learning. Located at 1500 Binz St., approximately 7.8 miles from The Westin Galleria. [Tripadvisor](#)
- **iFLY Indoor Skydiving – Houston (Memorial)** – Experience the thrill of skydiving in a safe, indoor environment. Suitable for children and adults alike. Located at 9540 Katy Fwy, about 5.5 miles from The Westin Galleria.
- **The Escape Game Houston (CityCentre)** – Engage in immersive, themed escape rooms that challenge your problem-solving skills. Located at 794 Sorella Ct., Suite 127, roughly 5.2 miles from The Westin Galleria.



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## Beaches & Outdoor Destinations

Enjoy Houston's nearby coastal and outdoor getaways:

- **Galveston Beach** – A popular beach town just an hour away from Houston. *(52.3 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
  - **Food Available:** Fresh seafood, Pakistani/Indian food options, and fast food chains.
  - **Hotels & Resorts:** San Luis Resort, Hilton Galveston Island Resort, Holiday Inn Resort.
- **Kemah Boardwalk** – Waterfront dining, shopping, and amusement rides. *(42.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Brazos Bend State Park** – Hiking, wildlife spotting, and scenic views. *(41.3 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Sylvan Beach Park** – A peaceful beach with picnic areas and fishing spots. *(38.7 miles from The Westin Galleria)*

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## Shopping & Pakistani Goods

For Pakistani and Indian products such as clothes, sweets, and jewelry:

- **Mousa Colony (Highway 6)** – A bustling area with several Pakistani-owned shops. *(9.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Boat Basin (Highway 6)** – Known for its Pakistani food and goods market. *(8.6 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Hillcroft Area (Highway 69)** – The heart of Houston's Pakistani business community, offering shops with clothing, sweets, and other products. *(8 miles from The Westin Galleria)*

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## Free Things to Do in Houston

- **Gerald D. Hines Waterwall** Walking distance Approximately *(0.5 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Market Square Park** – A lively park with outdoor events and family activities. *(7.4 miles from The Westin Galleria)*
- **Miller Outdoor Theatre** – Free performances in the park. *(7.8 miles from The Westin Galleria)*





- **Discovery Green** – Urban park with interactive exhibits and green space. (7.1 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Houston Arboretum & Nature Center** – Beautiful nature trails and wildlife spotting. (7.9 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Port Houston Boat Tour** – Free boat tours showcasing Houston’s bustling port. (5.2 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Urban Harvest Farmers Market** – Local produce, artisan goods, and community events. (7.2 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **James Turrell “Twilight Epiphany” Skyspace** – A unique light installation at Rice University. (6.8 miles from The Westin Galleria)
- **Brazos Bend State Park (45 miles SW)** – A scenic park known for its wetlands, hiking trails, and **alligator sightings** at Elm and 40-Acre Lakes. Enjoy fishing, camping, and birdwatching, or visit the George Observatory for stargazing. Stay alert and keep a safe distance from wildlife. (may charge)



**Market Square Park**



**Miller Outdoor Theatre**



**Discovery Green**



**Houston Arboretum & Nature Center**



**James Turrell’s “Twilight Epiphany”  
Skyspace at Rice University**



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## Tours & Day Trips

- **Galveston Cruise Tours** – Day cruises from **Galveston** to the Gulf of Mexico. (52.3 miles from *The Westin Galleria*). For booking, visit [Galveston Cruise Line](#).
- **NASA Johnson Space Center** – Take a guided tour of NASA's iconic space center. (32.3 miles from *The Westin Galleria*)
- **Houston Sightseeing Tours** – Hop-on-hop-off tours of Houston's landmarks, including downtown, museums, and parks. (7 miles from *The Westin Galleria*). Book at [Houston City Tours](#).
- **Kemah Boardwalk**
  - **Description:** A classic waterfront amusement area featuring rides, games, and dining options.
  - **Distance from The Westin Galleria:** Approximately 35 miles southeast.
  - **Booking Information:** Visit [Kemah Boardwalk's official website](#) for details.
- **Moody Gardens**
  - **Description:** Located in Galveston, Moody Gardens features attractions such as a rainforest pyramid, aquarium, and 3D theaters.
  - **Distance from The Westin Galleria:** Approximately 50 miles southeast.
  - **Booking Information:** Tickets can be purchased at [Moody Gardens' official website](#).

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## Cruise Tours from Galveston

Galveston, located about 50 miles southeast of Houston, serves as a major cruise port offering various itineraries.

- **Royal Caribbean Cruises**
  - **Description:** Offers voyages to the Caribbean with numerous onboard amenities. [Condé Nast Traveler](#)
  - **Booking Information:** Explore options at [Royal Caribbean's website](#). [Royal Caribbean+1 Carnival Cruise Line+1](#)
- **Carnival Cruises**
  - **Description:** Provides a range of cruises to destinations like Mexico and the Bahamas.
  - **Booking Information:** Details available at [Carnival's website](#).



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## Coffee Shops:

- **Giant Leap Coffee**  
A modern coffee shop known for its specialty brews and cozy atmosphere. *Approximately 1.2 miles northeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Luce Ave Coffee Roasters**  
Offers a variety of handcrafted coffee drinks with a focus on quality roasting. *Approximately 1.5 miles north of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **French Riviera Bakery Café**  
A charming spot combining French pastries with quality coffee. *Approximately 1.3 miles east of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Mazajj Organic Coffee**  
Specializes in organic coffee selections in a relaxed setting. *Approximately 1.4 miles southeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*

## Starbucks & Tim Hortons:

- **Starbucks at Houston Galleria 1st Floor**  
Located within the Houston Galleria Mall, offering the full range of Starbucks beverages and snacks. *Approximately 0.2 miles southeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Starbucks at 2521 Post Oak Blvd**  
A convenient location with ample seating, perfect for meetings or relaxation. *Approximately 0.5 miles northeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Tim Hortons at 8910 Westheimer Rd**  
Canadian favorite known for its coffee, donuts, and quick bites. *Approximately 3.5 miles west of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Tim Hortons at 13451 Northwest Fwy**  
Offers a familiar menu of coffee and pastries. *Approximately 10 miles northwest of The Westin Galleria Houston.*

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## Liquor Stores:

- **Spec's Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods**  
*Approximately 1 mile southeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
  - **Total Wine & More**  
*Approximately 1.5 miles north of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
  - **Christy's Liquors.**  
*Approximately 0.8 miles east of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
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## Bars:

1. **Bar 12**  
A chic bar offering a variety of cocktails and light bites. *Approximately 0.3 miles east of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
2. **Post Oak Ice House**  
Casual spot known for its relaxed atmosphere and drink selection. *Approximately 0.7 miles north of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
3. **JOEY Uptown**  
A trendy bar and restaurant offering a diverse menu and cocktails. *Approximately 0.5 miles northeast of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
4. **Hidden Bar**  
An intimate setting perfect for evening drinks. *Approximately 0.4 miles east of The Westin Galleria Houston.*

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## Hindu Temples:

- **BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir**  
*Approximately 17 miles southwest of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Sri Meenakshi Temple**  
*Approximately 20 miles south of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **ISKCON of Houston**  
*Approximately 8 miles east of The Westin Galleria Houston.*

## Mosques:

- **Madrasah Islamiah Masjid Noor**  
*Approximately 5 miles southwest of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Masjid ElFarouq**  
*Approximately 6 miles south of The Westin Galleria Houston.*

## Gurdwaras:

- *Approximately 14 miles southwest of The Westin Galleria Houston.*
- **Gurdwara Sri Nidakaar Sahib**  
*Approximately 18 miles northwest of The Westin Galleria Houston.*



## Emergency Contacts & Useful Information

- **Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance):** Dial 911
- **Pakistani Consulate in Houston:** [[\(281\) 890-2223](tel:2818902223)] 11850 Jones Rd, Houston, TX 77070
- **Nearest Hospital:** Houston Methodist (5.2 miles from The Westin Galleria), Memorial Hermann (6.8 miles from The Westin Galleria), St. Luke's (5.9 miles from The Westin Galleria)

## Pharmacies:

- **Walgreens Pharmacy** Address: 5200 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056  
Phone: 713-623-0643, Approximately 0.5 miles (about a 10-minute walk) from The Westin Galleria Houston.
- **CVS Pharmacy** Address: 2111 W Alabama St, Houston, TX 77098  
Phone: 713-874-1085, Approximately 4 miles (about a 10-minute drive) from The Westin Galleria Houston.
- **H-E-B Pharmacy**, Address: 1701 W Alabama St, Houston, TX 77098  
Phone: 713-807-7293, Approximately 4 miles (about a 10-minute drive) from The Westin Galleria Houston

We hope this guide helps you make the most of your time in **Houston** during the **41st SANA Annual Convention**. Enjoy your stay and experience the vibrant culture, food, and attractions the city has to offer!





