

Living In Houston, Texas

Between 2011 and 2012, Houston's population increased by 34,000. The only city with a larger population growth during that year was New York City. So, what has made so many people decide to make that move to Houston?

Jobs

Oil and Gas has boomed in Texas, and Houston has also seen strong growth in manufacturing and technology, as well as business services. There were more jobs created in Houston in the first half of 2013 than in any other city, according to data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Houston's energy industry is strong and with the city leading the way in both the oil and gas industry, as well as being an innovator in finding and utilising renewable energy systems, means that Houston has a steady stream of new jobs and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future

Recession bounce back

Texas fared well throughout the recession, and Houston did especially well, but has moved forward and been extremely successful in bouncing back and capitalising on the recession. People moving to Houston have been finding that as well as the amount of employment available, there is also a business boom in terms of nightlife and eating out. The city feels alive and prosperous.

Cost of Living

Low housing costs and living expenses are lower than in many other US Cities. The housing market hasn't seen the price hike that other cities, such as San Francisco, have seen. The stable and relatively affordable housing market makes living in Houston an attractive proposition for many first time buyers, and makes moving to Houston a good idea for those looking to take advantage of the ongoing employment boom.

Low Tax

No personal state income tax, coupled with Texans having amongst the lowest yearly tax bill per household in America, helps to make those pay checks go further. This lower tax bill, coupled with the lower cost of living and housing makes Houston much more attractive than places such as San Jose, where wages are on average higher, but where living costs are higher to match.

Headquarters of many Fortune 500 Companies

Except for New York, no other city in America is home to more Fortune 500 company headquarters than Houston. 22 such companies are based in Houston, making it a hotbed for employment and future career prospects.

Houston is laid back

Living in Houston is governed by a laid back social policy. 'We won't help you, but we won't stand in your way either' is how you might phrase the city governor's approach to personal freedom. From city rules to business regulation, this is how it works across the board. For instance, there has been a strong opposition to a law banning texting whilst driving. There is a sense of personal freedom here.

Great restaurant scene

Food Critic Pete Wells wrote that Houston has become "one of the country's most exciting places to eat." With sushi places such as Uchi, and critically lauded restaurant's Oxheart and Underbelly, he isn't wrong. There are many other places springing up to provide sustenance and eating opportunities to the growing population. Vietnamese food is popular, and Mexican. Since Hurricane Katria struck, there has been a growing Cajun presence in the city, with Cajun Restaurants opened by people who stayed in Houston after the hurricane, and never left.

Cultural heritage

Houston boasts many huge and magnificent museums, such as the Museum of Fine Arts, which houses several unique and priceless collections. There is also the Rothko Chapel where Mark Rothko spent several years creating the works of art that are now on display there.

Diversity

Houston is welcoming people in from many cultures and races. Since 2000, more than 400,000 non-US born citizens have moved to the city. The Asian population is increasing, along with the Latino population. People from other states are moving here. This means that Houston is a true melting pot, and a place for anyone who has the drive and desire, can do well for themselves, regardless of creed or color.

Parklands

Over 50,000 acres of parkland exist across Houston, putting paid somewhat to the illusion that the city is a concrete wasteland of skyscrapers and oil derricks. In terms of America's ten most populous cities, Houston has the largest amount of green space. People moving to Houston will appreciate the nature that is available to them, somewhere they can escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Education

A good reason to move to Houston is the education potential. The Greater Houston area has 14 major institutions of higher learning, including Rice University. There are also many colleges and schools, and the education level in the city is amongst the highest in the state. People moving to Houston with young children, or who plan to start a family, will be well catered for in terms of their children's education.