# OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE FOR





VISITTHEWOODLANDS.COM

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## VISIT THE WOODLANDS

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### CONTACT US

2801 Technology Forest Blvd The Woodlands, TX 77381 (281) 367-1151

WATERWAY

WisitTheWoodlands
WisitTheWoodlands
TheWoodlandsCVB

visitthewoodlands.com info@visitthewoodlands.com



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# The best places are the ones that surprise you.

# WE HEAR THAT A LOT.

Among the tall pines, you'll find beauty. Entertainment. Excitement. Tranquility.

Ranked the #1 city in America to live, visitors find The Woodlands is a destination they want to return to often. A place of ideal paradox. Lively, yet serene. Urban, yet spacious. Refined, yet casual.

Go from a quiet afternoon of kayaking to a fist-pumping night of live outdoor music, or from a walk through the woods to exploring the local shops. Here, you'll find a destination perfectly tailored for any kind of adventure.

WELCOME TO THE WOODLANDS





# WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN,

THE TRUE MAGIC BEGINS.

Any time of year, you'll find some of the most talked about concerts, performing art shows, festivals and free live music all happening here in The Woodlands. The nightlife is equally eclectic, with everything from swanky rooftop bars and wine lounges to cocktail bars and bustling happy hour spots.



# THE CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION

Catch a show by one of your favorite artists at **The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion**. Consistently ranked one of world's top-ranked outdoor amphitheaters by *Pollstar* Magazine, The Pavilion hosts an impressive annual lineup of concerts from April through October. You can also enjoy performances by the Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera from April through December.

#### LIVE MUSIC

Enjoy live music every Thursday through Saturday at **Como Social Club Poolside Terrace + Bar** and every Friday and Saturday at **The Refuge Bar & Bistro**. Let your hair down at local pubs with weekly live music at **Mahoney's Texish Bar & Restaurant** or **The Goose's Acre**. Other favorites in Waterway Square are **Bar Louie** and **Baker Street Pub & Grill**. For an intimate concert experience, check **Glade Gallery'**s calendar for upcoming performances.

#### WATERWAY SQUARE

#### The Fountains at Waterway

**Square** feature synchronized water choreography set to music, which perform family-friendly musical selections at random every 15 minutes, seven days a week. The one-acre public plaza also has a variety of outdoor art as well as a host of restaurants with spacious patios. Nearby, **The Woodlands Waterway Marriott** and **The Westin** provide stunning views of The Woodlands Waterway.

## Free Concerts:

#### **SPRING & FALL**

Waterway Nights, Waterway Square Concerts in the Park, Northshore Park Concert in the Park, Market Street Creekside Park Unplugged, Creekside Park

#### **SUMMER & FALL**

Rock the Row, Hughes Landing

View more events online: visitthewoodlands.com/events



# CERTAIN TIMES OF YEAR CALL FOR GRAND CELEBRATIONS.

From light-up-the-sky, jubilant summer festivals to kicking off the holiday season in a big way, here are the biggest parties to plan your visit around:

#### SPRING

### FALL

#### Taking place each April, **The Woodlands Waterway Arts**

**Festival** is one of The Woodlands' most popular annual events and includes original artwork by over 200 artists, live music, performing arts, family-friendly activities and food stations. Spring is also the perfect time to enjoy a show at one of the many **free concerts series** held around town (see page 9 for more info). If you're a sports enthusiast, make plans to participate in **The Woodlands Marathon**, held every March.

#### SUMMER

Celebrate military servicemen and women with the annual **Memorial Day Celebration** held at Town Green Park. The festival kicks off with the National Anthem, and continues into the evening with live music, children's activities and a fireworks display. Make Independence Day a party to remember with the annual **Red**, **Hot & Blue Festival**, featuring a full day of events and multiple fireworks shows in and around town. Enjoy family fun at The Woodlands' annual **Labor Day Celebration** at Waterway Square, which includes children's activities, live music and a fireworks show. Fall is also a great time to catch a concert or performing arts show at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Each October, enjoy **Hocus Pocus Pops** featuring the Houston Symphony with an evening of Halloween-themed music. Kids can even come in costume!

### WINTER

Enjoy the most magical time of the year in The Woodlands. The Lighting of the Doves Festival kicks off the holiday season with a visit from Santa on The Woodlands Waterway, children's activities and more. Lace up your skates and hit the ice at The Woodlands Ice Rink, open daily mid-November through mid-January.

View more events: visitthewoodlands.com/events

# Outdoors & Recreation

STEP OUTSIDE, AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURAL BEAUTY AND ADVENTURE.

The Woodlands was uniquely built as a metropolitan area surrounded by thousands of acres of protected pine forests and two scenic bodies of water. Whether you want to lay in the shade of a tall pine or get active with some outdoor sports, a visit here is far from complete without experiencing the outdoor attractions and beautifully preserved Texas nature.



#### WATER RECREATION

One of the more adventurous ways to explore during your stay is by water. **Riva Row Boat House**, along The Woodlands Waterway, and **Lakes Edge Boat House**, at Hughes Landing, both offer single or tandem kayaks and stand-up paddleboards for rent so you can spend an afternoon gliding leisurely around **Lake Woodlands**. You can also rent a swan boat, water bikes and more from Riva Row for a fun vessel to explore **The Waterway**.

#### THE WOODLANDS WATERWAY

#### The Woodlands Waterway

winds throughout the Town Center area with scenic walkways connecting Town Green Park and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion with Waterway Square, and The Woodlands Mall. There are public art installations, water features, waterside eateries and green spaces. **The Woodlands Waterway Trolley** also provides free transportation with several stops along The Waterway.



#### **TEXAS TREEVENTURES**

Climb to new heights at **Texas TreeVentures**, a gravity-defying ropes obstacle course through the treetops. This unique course is both mentally and physically challenging, offering a great activity for families, friends and groups to enjoy as they attempt to traverse a series of poles, cables and other elements. Ground school & gearup are included, along with nearly three hours of climbing time.

# GEORGE MITCHELL NATURE PRESERVE

The 1,700-acre **George Mitchell Nature Preserve** includes a two-mile hiking trail loop and three miles of bike trails. The Woodlands is on two migratory bird flyways, Central and Mississippi, so be sure to keep an eye peeled for migrating birds and other wildlife. The preserve branches out to Spring Creek Greenway, which encompasses more than 7,000 acres of protected forests.

# 66 Let's stay another day.

#### **GOLF & DISC GOLF**

Home to over 300 holes of golf on pristine courses, some of which are designed by PGA champions, you'll find the perfect setting to spend a day hitting the links. Two of the most popular courses, **Panther Trail** and **The Oaks**, are conveniently located within the grounds of The Woodlands Resort. **Bear Branch Sportsfield** and **Terramont Park** are both popular locations for disc golf which offer varied terrain and elevation.

#### **PARKS & PATHWAYS**

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The Woodlands has more than 220 miles of trails to explore and 140 parks to relax or run around in. Northshore Park along Lake Woodlands has a playground, picnic spots, large field spaces and volleyball courts. Town Green Park offers plenty of green space and is home to many annual events. Located along The Woodlands Waterway, the park features several art benches, sculptures and even a children's literary labyrinth with lifesized Aesop's Fables characters.

#### POOLS & SPLASHPADS

If you're looking for a place for the kids to run and play while cooling off, you're in luck. You'll find free splashpads at Central Park in **Market Street** and Village Green in **Creekside Park**. Let the kids enjoy a scavenger hunt & a splashpad at the same time when they explore Grandma's Purse at **Waterway Square**. For one of the most popular, kid-friendly hotel pools, head to **The Woodlands Resort**, which features a waterpark and lazy river.

# Sporting Events:

#### SPRING

The Woodlands Marathon Insperity Invitational Golf Tournament Muddy Trails Bash Woodforest Bank TRI

#### FALL

Memorial Hermann 10 for Texas Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Texas YMCA Run Thru The Woods

Learn more: visitthewoodlands.com/outdoors

# Arts & Culture

# ART IN ALL FORMS IS A HUGE PART OF THE CULTURE AND FABRIC OF THE WOODLANDS.

An active arts council and outreach programs enrich the area with festivals and events, educational programs, galleries and free public installations by artists from around the world. Spend some time exploring contemporary gallery exhibits or one of the largest outdoor collections of public art in Texas.

## Art Events:

#### SPRING

Arts in the Park The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival Spring Fine Arts Show

#### FALL

Fall Fine Arts Show Día de Muertos Arts in the Park

Learn more: visitthewoodlands.com/art

#### **PUBLIC ART**

The Woodlands is home to one of the largest and most dynamic collections of public art in Texas. With more than 100 sculptures, mosaics and a growing collection of **Art Benches**, there are many pieces to view, enjoy and interact with. Go for a stroll through **The Waterway Arts District** or Hughes Landing and you'll spot The Woodlands' iconic art benches, mosaics and more.

#### GLADE CULTURAL CENTER AND GALLERY

Spend the afternoon meandering through the impressive exhibits by local and international contemporary artists at the **Glade Cultural Center and Gallery**. Exhibits rotate often so there's always new art to appreciate. Enjoy monthly experiences including artist receptions, live music, wine tastings, and multi-course meals curated by local chefs.

#### THE WOODLANDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Plan the ultimate family fun day at the **The Woodlands Children's Museum**, where kids can explore and interact with handson exhibits and activity stations. The museum also hosts fun events year-round such as book week, themed exhibits, music workshops and more. Ideal for ages 1-7.

# Shopping

# EXPLORE ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST SHOPPING DESTINATIONS

Named "One of America's Best Shopping Destinations" by Southern Living, The Woodlands has an abundance of luxury brands, high-end department stores, and locally-owned gems paired with a beautiful, walkable destination.

### MARKET STREET

#### Stroll and explore top names in retail in an outdoor setting. Shop for a new look at luxury stores like Johnny Was, Michael Kors and Ann Taylor, or find a perfect gift at Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co. or Thomas Markle Jewelry. For the best in mens' fashion head to Suitsupply, Eddie Bauer or Tommy Bahama Emporium. After a day of shopping, enjoy a meal at one of Market Street's many restaurants, or take in a movie at Cinemark. For an on-site hotel stay, Hyatt Centric is located at Market Street.

### THE WOODLANDS MALL

If you're after something specific for yourself or a special someone, The Woodlands Mall is the place to go. Browse in perfectly airconditioned comfort at top retailers like Nordstrom, Banana Republic, White House Black Market, Altar'd State, Pottery Barn and Janie and Jack, to name a few. The Woodlands Mall also offers a variety of dining options, a carousel experience for children and free outdoor movies on the lawn. Check our calendar for the list of upcoming events.

### AROUND TOWN

If you enjoy searching for treasures at locally owned boutiques, you'll find an assortment around The Woodlands' different village centers. Find one-of-a-kind, handcrafted pieces at **Artisanat Home Décor**, or discover unique accessories and gifts at **Tumbleweeds & Notions**. Browse children's apparel, toys and books at **Teacups & Tadpoles**, or shop for trendy hand-selected pieces at **French Cuff**. Check out locally-owned **Piney Rose Flowers & Decor** for cards, gifts and flowers.

View more shops: visitthewoodlands.com/shopping



#### VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Stop by our visitor information center at Market Street for complimentary maps, brochures and information on current events, special offers and more.

Start planning your trip now: visitthewoodlands.com/plan

# Dining

FIND A REASON TO INDULGE, AT ANY TIME OF DAY, FOR ANY OCCASION.

From decadent steak and seafood establishments along the waterfront to swanky wine lounges to locally-owned bakeries, you'll find an eclectic range of restaurants and cafés, Instagram-worthy dishes, and tastes to please every type of food lover. The only problem will be narrowing down your choices.

#### WATERFRONT DINING

Head to Hughes Landing and enjoy a picturesque dining experience along The Waterway. For seafood, go with **Truluck's Ocean's Finest Seafood & Crab**, or find a meatlover's dream at **Fogo de Chão**. Other modern, waterfront spots can be found at Waterway Square including **Churrascos** which specializes in Latin American fare and **Sorriso Modern Italian Kitchen**. **Hearsay on The Waterway** serves up eclectic American cuisine and craft cocktails.

#### **DATE NIGHT**

Set the romantic mood at one of the many perfect date night restaurants around town. Indulge in worldy favorites at **TRIS** or enjoy authentic Italian cuisine at **Avanti**. Other favorites include **Jasper's Gourmet Backyard Cuisine** or **Tommy Bahama Restaurant** & **Bar** with both offering delicious fare and patio dining at Market Street. For a perfectly prepared steak, head to **Morton's Grille** or **Perry's**, or enjoy South African fare at **Peli Peli** at The Woodlands Mall.

#### **BRUNCH & COFFEE**

The Woodlands has no shortage of places to enjoy all the delicious coffee, mimosas and over-the-top breakfast dishes one could ever want. Try **Snooze: an AM Eatery** for classic American brunch items any day of the week. **The Kitchen** also offers a weekend brunch menu, and **Black Walnut Café** serves breakfast favorites nearly all day. For the best coffee, locally-owned **Blue Door Coffee** is a must-try, as are the hand crafted pastries from **Levure Bakery**.

#### HAPPY HOUR

Whether you're looking for the best happy hour deals or the hottest social scene, you'll find it in The Woodlands. Try a craft cocktail at **Local Pour**, sip a glass of wine at **CRÚ Food & Wine Bar**, or splurge with a cigar at **BLEND Bar**. Head to **Back Table Kitchen & Bar** or **Fielding's Local Kitchen + Bar** for a casually stylish food menu and impressive happy hour lineup.

View the complete list of restaurants: visitthewoodlands.com/dining

# **Hotels**

### KICK UP YOUR FEET, STAY A WHILE.

Whether you're after a secluded, luxury experience, a waterfront view, or something in the center of the action, The Woodlands has 14 dynamically different properties to choose from.

THE WOODLANDS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER 2301 N Millberd Drive (281) 367-1100

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THE WESTIN AT THE WOODLANDS 2 Waterway Square Place (281) 419-4300

HYATT CENTRICTHE WOODLANDS 9595 Six Pines Drive (281) 203-5005

CANDLEWOOD SUITES HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS 17525 St. Lukes Way (936) 271-2100

DRURY INN & SUITES HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS 28099 I-45 North (281) 362-7222

HILTON GARDEN INN HOUSTON/ THE WOODLANDS 9301 Six Pines Drive (281) 364-9300

RESIDENCE INN HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS / LAKE FRONT CIRCLE 1040 Lake Front Circle (281) 292-3252

#### BEST WESTERN PLUS THE WOODLANDS 17081 I-45 South

17081 I-45 South (936) 271-2378 THE WOODLANDS WATERWAY MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONVENTION

CENTER 1601 Lake Robbins Drive (281) 367-9797

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON THE WOODLANDS AT HUGHES LANDING 1855 Hughes Landing Blvd (281) 298-2900

COURTYARD HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS 1020 Lake Front Circle (281) 292-3262

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS 16850 I-45 South (936) 271-0110

HYATT PLACE HOUSTON/ THE WOODLANDS 1909 Research Forest Drive (281) 298-4600

RESIDENCE INN HOUSTON THE WOODLANDS/MARKET STREET 9333 Six Pines Drive (281) 419-1542

Book your stay online: visitthewoodlands.com/hotels



### THE WOODLANDS WATERWAY TROLLEY

**The Woodlands Waterway Trolley** provides free transportation in and around the Town Center area with stops at Market Street, Hughes Landing, The Woodlands Mall, Town Green Park, Waterway Square and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. The nearly 5-mile route offers easy access to shopping, dining, outdoor recreation, public art installations and hotels.



Download the **Ride Systems** mobile app to view trolley schedules, locations and alerts.



#### **CONTACT US**

2801 Technology Forest Blvd The Woodlands, TX 77381 (281) 367-1151

@VisitTheWoodlands
@VisitTheWoodlands
@TheWoodlandsCVB

visitthewoodlands.com info@visitthewoodlands.com

#### PLAN YOUR TRIP



# THE WOODLANDS



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