

Touch Down in Houston! A Guide for Uzbek Fans (FIFA 2026)

Uzbek American Society of Houston welcomes you in Houston.

uzbekamericansh.org



About Houston

Houston is one of the largest and most diverse cities in the United States. It's known for its international culture, excellent food scene, and welcoming atmosphere. The city is a major center for energy, medicine, and space exploration, and is home to Space Center Houston.

Visitors will meet people from all over the world, including a strong Muslim community—making it easy to find halal restaurants and mosques.

About Texas

Texas is a large and well-known U.S. state famous for its “Southern hospitality,” big cities, and unique culture. People are generally friendly and welcoming, and you may hear “Howdy!” as a common greeting.

Texas is known for:

- Big cities like Houston, Dallas, and Austin
 - BBQ and classic American food
 - Warm weather and wide open landscapes
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Quick Facts

- **Language:** English
- **Currency:** US Dollar (\$)
- **Lifestyle:** Casual, friendly, and relaxed
- **Weather:** June–July is hot + humid (30–38°C)

What to pack:

- Light clothes
 - Sun protection
 - Water bottle
 - Comfortable shoes
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FIFA World Cup 2026 – Houston Matches

Venue: NRG Stadium. Address: 1 NRG Pkwy, Houston, TX 77054

NRG Stadium is a multi-purpose sports and entertainment venue located in Houston, Texas. It is best known as the home of the **Houston Texans** and a central component of the NRG Park complex. The stadium is notable for being the first NFL venue with a retractable roof, accommodating diverse events year-round.

Key facts

- **Opened:** August 24, 2002
- **Capacity:** About 72,200 (expandable to 80,000)
- **Primary tenant:** Houston Texans (NFL)
- **Surface:** Matrix Turf
- **Owner:** Harris County Sports and Convention Corporation

Group Stage Matches

- **June 14, 2026** – Germany DE vs Curaçao CW
- **June 17, 2026** – Portugal PT vs DR Congo CD
- **June 20, 2026** – Netherlands NL vs Sweden SE
- **June 23, 2026** – Portugal PT vs Uzbekistan UZ
- **June 26, 2026** – Cabo Verde cv vs Saudi Arabia SA

Knockout Matches

- **June 29, 2026** – Round of 32
- **July 4, 2026** – Round of 16

Quick Notes

- Houston will host **7 total matches** (5 group + 2 knockout)
- Matches are mostly around **midday (12 PM local time)**
- The tournament runs from **June 11 to July 19, 2026**



Halal Restaurants and Grocery Stores

- **Aga's Restaurant & Catering**
11842 Wilcrest Dr, Houston, TX 77031
Pakistani / South Asian halal cuisine
- **Fadi's Mediterranean Grill**
12360 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Lebanese / Mediterranean buffet
- **Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet**
8236 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
Mediterranean buffet
- **Cafe Caspian**
12126 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Persian cuisine
- **Pasha Restaurant**
2327 University Blvd, Houston, TX 77005
Turkish / Mediterranean cuisine
- **Kasra Persian Grill**
9741 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77042
Persian grill cuisine
- **Istanbul Grill & Deli**
5711 Hillcroft Ave, Houston, TX 77036
Turkish street food / halal fast food
- **Sayad Mediterranean Grill**
5211 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77056
Lebanese seafood & grill
- **Cafe Lili**
5757 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77057
Lebanese café cuisine
- **Afghan Village**
11820 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77099
Afghan cuisine
- **Empire Turkish Grill**
11322 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Turkish grill cuisine
- **The Halal Guys**
6609 Main St, Houston, TX 77030
American halal street food
- **Sultan Pepper**
2400 S Kirkwood Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Lebanese fast casual
- **Nazif's Grill**
5500 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77056
Turkish / Mediterranean fusion
- **Arpi's Phoenicia Deli**
12141 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Mediterranean deli
- **Cafe Mawal**
5930 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77057
Lebanese cuisine & hookah lounge
- **Bismillah Restaurant**
5210 Hillcroft Ave, Houston, TX 77036
Pakistani / Indian halal cuisine
- **Tempura Halal Indo-Pak Grill**
8520 Main St, Houston, TX 77025
Indo-Pak halal buffet
- **Avesta Persian Grill**
11805 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Persian cuisine
- **Mezban Restaurant**
11900 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77072
Indian / Pakistani buffet
- **Phoenicia Specialty Foods**
12141 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77077
Mediterranean / Middle Eastern deli & market

Important Note: The halal restaurant information in this guide was collected from online sources and public listings. Because restaurant menus, ownership, and halal certification status can change over time, please verify directly with each restaurant before visiting to confirm current halal options and availability.



Mosques around NRG Stadium

- **Medical Center Islamic Society (MCIS)**
2222 Mansard St, Houston, TX 77054
- **SGH River Oaks Islamic Center**
3110 Eastside St, Houston, TX 77098
- **Ibrahim Islamic Center & Mosque**
7563 South Fwy, Houston, TX 77021
- **AL NOOR MOSQUE**
6443 Prestwood Dr, Houston, TX 77081
- **Masjid Salah Ad-Deen**
5645 Hillcroft St #305, Houston, TX 77036
- **Masjid-ul Mumineen**
8875 Benning Dr, Houston, TX 77031
- **The Islamic Institute & Houston Blue Mosque**
9301 W Bellfort Ave, Houston, TX 77031



Place to Visit

Downtown & City Attractions

- **Downtown Houston**

Skyscrapers, restaurants, nightlife, and walking areas

Best area for city views and evening walks

- **Discovery Green**

Modern urban park with events, food trucks, and concerts

Great for relaxing during the day

- **Buffalo Bayou Park**

Beautiful walking and biking trails with skyline views

Popular for photos and sunset views

Space & Science Attractions

- **Space Center Houston**

Official NASA visitor center

See rockets, astronaut exhibits, and space missions

Museums & Culture

- **Houston Museum District**

Cluster of world-class museums within walking distance

- **The Museum of Fine Arts Houston**

One of the largest art museums in the U.S.

- **Houston Museum of Natural Science**

Famous for dinosaurs, space exhibits, and gems

Shopping & Lifestyle

- **The Galleria**

Largest shopping mall in Texas

Luxury brands, food courts, ice skating rink

- **River Oaks District**

High-end shopping and restaurants



Transportation in Houston

Houston is a large, spread-out city, so transportation depends on where you go. Visitors usually use a mix of metro rail, buses, and ride apps.

METRO Rail (Best for tourists)

Operated by METRORail

- 3 main lines: Red, Green, Purple
- Red Line is most important for visitors
- Connects key places like:
 - NRG Stadium
 - Downtown Houston
 - Museum District
 - Texas Medical Center

- ✓ Best for FIFA fans going to matches
 - ✓ Cheap and easy
 - ✓ Runs frequently (especially match days)
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City Buses (Cheap but slower)

Operated by METRO Bus System

- Very affordable (\$1–2 per ride)
- Covers almost all Houston areas
- Slower due to traffic
- Good for local travel near neighborhoods

- ✓ Good for budget travel
 - ✗ Not ideal if you're in a hurry for matches
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Uber / Lyft (Most convenient)

- Fastest way to move around Houston
- Very useful for NRG Stadium trips
- More expensive during FIFA match days
- Best for groups or late-night travel

✓ Most recommended for tourists

Airport Transportation

Houston has two main airports:

- George Bush Intercontinental Airport
- William P. Hobby Airport

Options:

- METRO bus (cheapest, but slow)
 - Uber/Lyft (fastest and easiest)
 - Taxi services (fixed price, available at terminals)
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Other Options

- Bike rentals in Downtown & parks
 - Walking in Downtown, Museum District, Discovery Green area
 - Park & Ride buses from suburbs (good for locals)
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FIFA 2026 Travel Tip (Important)

- NRG Stadium has **limited parking during matches**
- Best option: **METRO Rail Red Line + short walk**
- Uber prices will increase on match days
- Always leave early (traffic can be heavy)



Hotels Around NRG Stadium

- **Holiday Inn Houston S – NRG Area / Medical Center**
8111 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
Full-service hotel, walking distance to stadium
- **Holiday Inn Houston Near NRG / Medical Center**
8111 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
Closest hotel to stadium, very popular on event days
- **Wyndham Houston Near NRG Park / Medical Center**
8686 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
Modern hotel, near MetroRail access
- **Courtyard Houston Medical Center / NRG Park**
7702 S Main St, Houston, TX 77030
Comfortable Marriott hotel, good for families
- **SpringHill Suites Houston Medical Center / NRG Park**
1400 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77054
Spacious suites, good for groups
- **Residence Inn by Marriott Houston Medical Center / NRG Park**
7807 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77030
Apartment-style rooms, long stays
- **Hampton Inn & Suites Houston Medical Center / NRG Park**
1715 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77054
Free breakfast, very popular for visitors
- **Comfort Suites near Texas Medical Center – NRG Stadium**
1055 McNee Rd, Houston, TX 77054
Budget-friendly option close to stadium
- **Hotel Ylem**
8080 S Main St, Houston, TX 77025
Boutique hotel near Medical Center
- **Extended Stay America – Houston Medical Center / NRG Park**
1303 La Concha Ln, Houston, TX 77054
Affordable long-stay option with kitchen
- **Quality Inn & Suites NRG Park – Medical Center**
2364 S Loop W, Houston, TX 77054
Budget hotel near stadium highway access
- **Crowne Plaza Houston Near Medical Center / NRG Area**
8686 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054
Business-friendly hotel near stadium



Travel Tips

SIM Card & Internet Guide (Houston)

Where to buy SIM cards

You can easily buy SIM cards after landing at airports or in city stores:

- **AT&T Stores** (best coverage in Houston)
 - Available at malls, airports, and standalone shops
- **T-Mobile Stores** (cheaper plans, good city coverage)
- **Verizon Stores** (strong network but slightly more expensive)
- Airport kiosks at:
 - George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
 - William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)

You will need:

- Passport
- Hotel address (sometimes required)

Cheapest Data Plans (2026 estimate)

- **T-Mobile prepaid:** ~\$40–50/month (unlimited data)
- **AT&T prepaid:** ~\$45–60/month (reliable + wide coverage)
- **Mint Mobile (online eSIM):** ~\$15–30/month (budget option)
- Tourist eSIM apps (Airalo, Holafly): easy setup, no store visit

Best option for visitors: **T-Mobile prepaid or eSIM**

Free Wi-Fi Spots in Houston

Stadium & Public Areas

- NRG Stadium → limited match-day Wi-Fi
- Discovery Green → free public Wi-Fi
- Downtown Houston → cafés + public hotspots

Payment & Money Tips

Currency

- Currency in USA = **US Dollar (USD \$)**
- Cash is used, but **cards are preferred everywhere**

Card vs Cash Usage

Use card for:

- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Uber/Lyft

Carry cash for:

- Small food trucks
- Tips

- Street vendors
- Emergency use

Best option: **Visa or Mastercard debit/credit card**

Tipping Culture (VERY IMPORTANT in USA)

Tipping is expected in most services:

- Restaurants: **15–20% of bill**
- Taxi/Uber: \$1–3 or ~10%
- Hotel staff: \$2–5 per service
- Housekeeping: \$2–5 per night
- Barbers / salons: 15–20%

Important: Not tipping is considered rude in the USA.

Emergency & Safety Info (Houston)

Emergency Number

- Dial **911** for:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Medical emergency
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Hospitals near NRG Stadium

- Texas Medical Center → largest medical complex in the world
 - Houston Methodist Hospital
 - Ben Taub Hospital (trauma center)
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Safety Tips for Visitors

- Houston is generally safe, but:
 - Avoid empty streets at night
 - Stay in tourist-friendly areas
 - Keep belongings secure in crowds (especially match days)
 - Use Uber/Lyft instead of walking long distances at night
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Lost or Emergency Situations

- Lost passport → contact your embassy immediately
 - Lost items → check stadium lost & found or Uber app
 - Emergency assistance → hotel reception or 911
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FIFA 2026 Safety Tip

- Expect heavy crowds at NRG Stadium
- Arrive early (2–3 hours before match)
- Follow security instructions strictly