

Possible evening and weekend activities in and around Houston

Walking distance from the hotel

Near the hotel is Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, and various museums including the Museum of Natural Science and the Museum of Fine Arts (which is free on Thursdays). A little further away (but accessible by bus, or a 45-50 minute walk) is the Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel.

The intramural fields at Rice (<http://goo.gl/maps/2zWPw>) are a good place to look for pick-up soccer and ultimate frisbee games if you are interested; there is also a 3-mile running loop around the perimeter of Rice campus that is very pleasant.

Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park often has concerts, etc. You need tickets (free but need to be picked up beforehand) to sit in the seats under the roof, but there is a hill with a good view that is always open to everyone. The Barber of Seville will be performed on Friday and Saturday (May 18-19) at 8pm:

Website: <http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/events/>

A bus or train ride away

Downtown Houston has the Houston Symphony, which will be performing “Emanuel Ax Plus the Rite of Spring 3D” May 18, 19, 20. Tickets start at \$23.

Website: <http://www.houstonsymphony.org/>

Downtown Houston has the Hobby Center, which will run “Hamilton” May 15-20, “A Day with Marie Antoinette” May 19, and “Beatles vs. Stones – A Musical Showdown” May 20. Tickets range from \$22 for student tickets to “A Day with Marie Antoinette” to over \$200 for tickets to “Hamilton.”

Website: <https://www.thehobbycenter.org/>

Discovery Green is a downtown location that has Thursday evening concerts and many other athletic and eclectic events listed on their website.

Website: <http://www.discoverygreen.com/>

The Houston Astros play downtown at Minute Maid Park; they are in action May 18-20 against Cleveland and May 22-23 against San Francisco. Tickets start at \$11.

Website: <http://houston.astros.mlb.com/>

The Houston Rockets play downtown at the Toyota Center; the Western Conference Finals – Game 2 is at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 16.

Website: <http://www.nba.com/rockets/>

The Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash soccer teams play downtown at BBVA Compass Stadium; the Houston Dash are in action Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm against Seattle Reign FC. Tickets start at \$19.

Website: <https://www.houstondynamo.com/houstondash/>

There is a Houston Roller Derby double header downtown on Saturday May 19 at 7:00 and 8:30 pm.

Website: <https://www.houstonrollerderby.com/>

Downtown Houston has (at least) two “Escape Room” places, which are fun activities for a group to go to: details vary but roughly speaking you have one hour to work together, solve lots of puzzles, and either solve a mystery, escape from a room, etc. Cost is \$28 per person.

Websites: <http://www.houstonescaperoom.com> and <http://escapetheroomtexas.com/>

Urban Harvest Farmers Market on Richmond Ave. is open Saturday mornings from 8am-noon and can be reached by bus from the hotel.

Website: <http://urbanharvest.org/farmersmarkets>

Day trips if you want to rent a car

About an hour southwest of Houston is Brazos Bend State Park, with hiking trails and opportunities to see local wildlife.

Galveston is on the Gulf of Mexico and is about 1 hour away. It has some beaches and also Moody Gardens

Website: <http://www.moodygardens.com/>

A little closer to the city is NASA as well as the Kemah Boardwalk – see their website for more information.

Website: <http://spacecenter.org/>

Within the city is Memorial Park, which has plenty of trails for hiking – it’s possible to get there by bus (<https://goo.gl/maps/H1SAVQLk5jT2>) but it takes a while.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival takes place May 18-20 just southeast of Houston. Tickets are \$13.

Website: <http://www.strawberryfest.org/>