

spouse/guest tours



photography courtesy of NASA

wednesday, may 14, 2008

space center houston

All inclusive fee: \$93.00
Coach Departure: 8:15 AM
(Please meet outside of the Legends Ballroom Foyer by 8:00 am)
Return to InterContinental Houston: 3:00 pm

Do you know what the first word spoken on the moon was? Do you know where the astronauts train...or how about which astronaut makes Mission Control laugh the most? These facts – as well as many great stories – will entertain you on the trip to Space Center Houston in Clear Lake. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity to take a self-guided or group tour, view actual spacecraft, spacesuits, moon rocks and other artifacts.

There are a variety of ever changing exhibits and six major sections throughout the \$70 million, 180,000 square-foot facility including:

Starship Gallery

Journey through the history of space and view what the future holds for this exciting field. Peruse the world's largest display of moon rocks here, with one that you can actually touch. Artifacts and hardware on display in the Starship Gallery trace the progression of America's Manned Space Flight. See actual space capsules such as Apollo 17 and walk through the Skylab Trainer.

Astronaut Gallery

The Astronaut Gallery is an unparalleled exhibit outside Northrop Grumman Theater featuring the world's

best collection of spacesuits. Astronaut John Young's ejection suit and Judy Resnik's T-38 flightsuit are two of the many spacesuits on display. The walls of the Astronaut Gallery also contain portraits and crew photos of every US astronaut who has flown in space.

The Feel of Space

The Living in Space module simulates what life could be like for astronauts aboard the space station. A Mission Briefing Officer gives a live presentation on how astronauts live in a space environment. The presentation uses humor to show how the smallest tasks like showering and eating are complicated by a microgravity environment. A volunteer from the audience helps to prove the point.

After exploring the Space Center Houston, you will take a guided tram tour of NASA's Johnson Space Center. With this behind-the-scenes journey, you may visit the Historic Mission Control Center, the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility or the current Mission Control Center. Before returning to Space Center Houston, you can visit the "all new" Saturn V Complex at Rocket Park. You will also visit other facilities, such as the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. You may even get to see astronauts training for upcoming missions.



photography courtesy of Chris Kuhlman

After a full morning at Space Center Houston, you will take a short ride over to the Kemah Boardwalk for lunch and shopping. The Kemah Boardwalk is a colorful cluster of restaurants, shops and boat slips in Kemah, Texas, just 20 minutes from downtown Houston. This area has quickly evolved from the best waterfront dining experience in Texas to a weekend destination. Lunch will be served at Landry's Seafood Restaurant.

Following lunch, you will have ample opportunity to enjoy the unique waterfront boutiques and shops before returning to the hotel.

thursday, may 15, 2008

Historic Bayou Bend

All inclusive fee: \$ 87.00
Coach Departure: 9:30 AM
(Please meet outside of the Legends Ballroom Foyer by 9:15am)
Return to InterContinental Houston: 2:30 pm

One of the Museum of Fine Arts' rarest treasures is the late Miss Ima Hogg's home, also known as Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. Bayou Bend is a showcase for American antique furniture, decorative arts and elaborate gardens. Walking across the bayou on the suspended footbridge to view this 14-acre estate is like entering an impressionist landscape painting. The backyard of Miss Ima's home provides a lush, green entrance of sloping lawn — this is the territory of the rich and privileged. In addition to the display of wealth, there are no telephone or cable wires visible at Bayou Bend and no cityscape to spoil the views.

After touring Bayou Bend you will have lunch in one of Houston's most recognizable and popular restaurants, Ouisie's Table. Born of the Southern tradition of casual elegance and great food and drink, Proprietress and

Executive Chef, Ouisie, draws inspiration from the regional cuisines of Texas, Louisiana and the South including south of the border.

Because of restrictions imposed by the Museum of Fine Arts, this tour is open to a limited number of guests; please sign up early.

** Please note that the museum does not allow cameras or purses to be brought into Bayou Bend. These items can be left on the secured bus while on tour. If guests wear a coat inside the home, it must be worn at all times. High heeled shoes are also NOT permitted in the museum.*



photography courtesy of Bruce Bennett