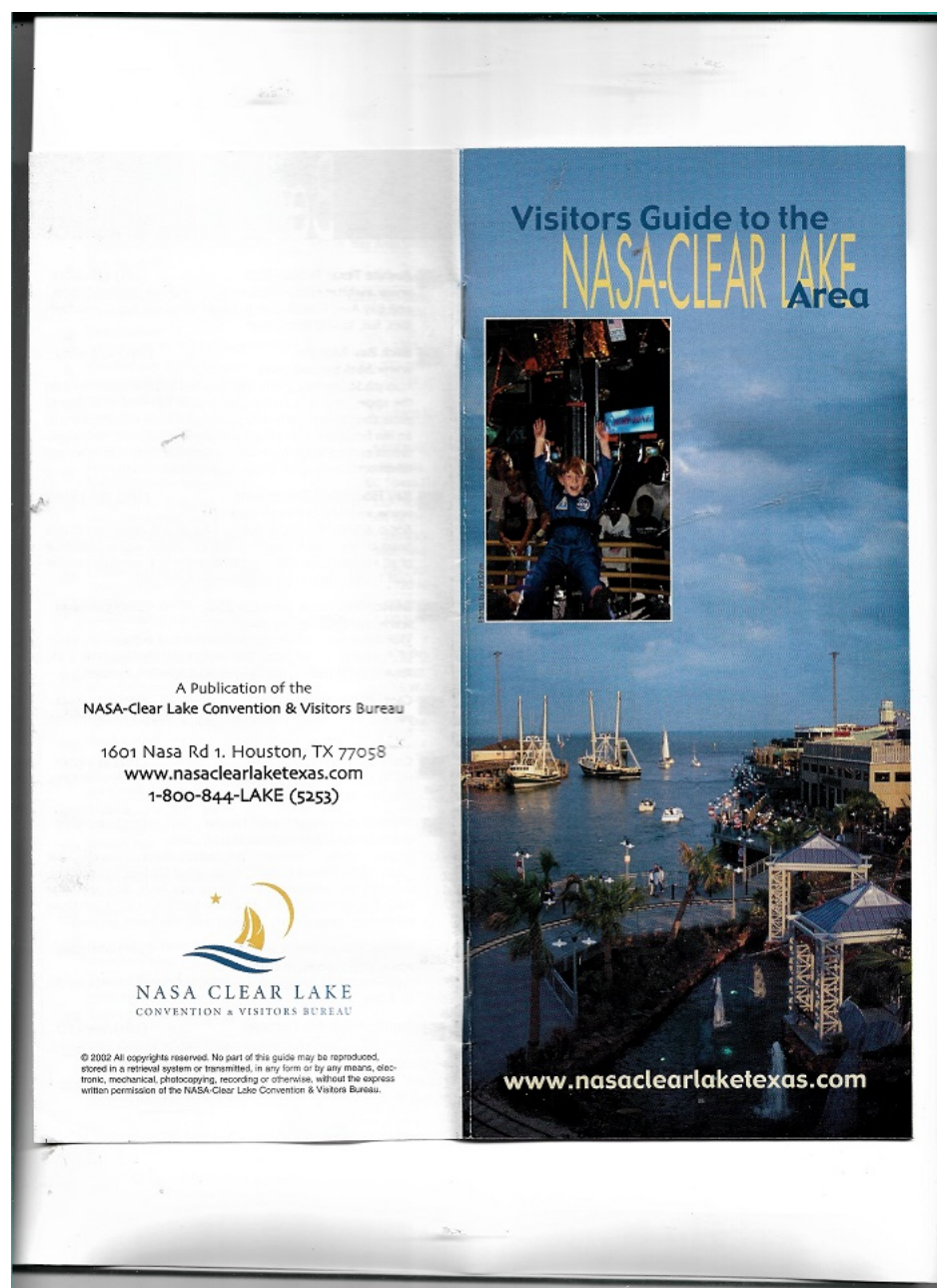


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Nasa-Clear Lake Area

Houston, TX

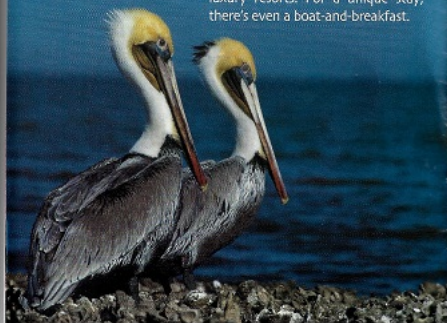


Visitors Guide to the NASA-Clear Lake Area

The NASA-Clear Lake Area embraces approximately 15 miles of Galveston Bay and 20 miles of peaceful Clear Lake.

A 2000-acre Inlet of Galveston Bay, Clear Lake is the third-largest pleasure boat basin in the United States. Yachts, sporting boats and fishing vessels reside in the area's more than 4,000 marina slips. The many communities clustered around the soothing waters enjoy refreshing Gulf breezes year round. Numerous restaurants offer outdoor dining with views of passing sailboats.

Located midway between Houston and the beaches of Galveston, the area is an ideal vacation spot. Big city excitement and island beaches are each just 30 minutes away from NASA/Clear Lake. Boating activities and water recreation provide hours of fun and relaxation in the presence of the water's natural beauty. Surrounded by water, the land is fertile and offers lush foliage including many evergreen trees and plants. Accommodations include many quaint bed-and-breakfasts, budget hotels, mid-price lodging and luxury resorts. For a unique stay, there's even a boat-and-breakfast.



The region is a popular rest stop for North American migratory birds traveling the Central Flyway. Several parks have been established for bird appreciation, and two nature preserves in the area provide fascinating insight into the wonders of native plants and wildlife. Many of the once-endangered brown pelicans call the area home, and as a tribute, businesses throughout the Seabrook area sport whimsical-

ly painted pelican sculptures collectively known as the Pelican Path Project.

Armand Bayou Nature Center is a 2,500-acre wildlife preserve. This precious area has never been developed to serve humans, but is protected and maintained to provide a habitat for 370 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The center educates visitors about how deer, armadillos, bobcats, snakes, alligators, frogs, birds and others rely on wetland, forest and prairie environments for survival.

Explore Space for yourself

In addition to the natural beauty of the NASA-Clear Lake area, technology and history are woven together at the Johnson Space Center. The facility where our nation's astronauts are trained and each U.S. manned space flight is monitored offers an Official Visitors Center, better known as Space Center Houston. Part space science theme park, part U.S. space travel museum, Space Center Houston offers adventure for all ages. Youngsters enjoy the hands-on Kids' Space Place, changing science-related "kid-friendly" exhibits and IMAX films. Adults especially enjoy the Starship Gallery, which exhibits actual spacecraft and astronaut equipment. The NASA tram tour is another highlight offering a behind-the-scenes look at several areas of Johnson Space Center.

The opening of the Johnson Space Center in 1961 marks a major point in the history of the area, but historical significance dates back centuries. While visiting the NASA-Clear Lake area, be sure to explore the history of the area, which includes the Karankawa Indians, early Texas settlers and Texas' becoming an independent republic.

Discover the Charm of the Communities

The NASA-Clear Lake area is comprised of several independent cities, including the most southeastern portion of Houston. Clear Lake City, the residential development surrounding Johnson Space Center, was annexed by the City of Houston in 1978. Five additional communities are clustered around Clear Lake and Galveston Bay: Webster, Nassau Bay, League City, Kemah and Seabrook.

Kemah, on Galveston Bay, is named for the Karankawa Indian word for "wind in the face."



The City of Webster offers distinctive shopping, dining and entertainment experiences while visiting the NASA-Clear Lake area. With over 100 restaurants, endless shopping possibilities, and entertainment to suit every taste, Webster truly defines hospitality. Speaking of taste, Webster will take you around the globe with restaurants featuring American, Mexican, Italian, Japanese, German, Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mongolian, and Brazilian fare!

The history of Webster predates Stephen F. Austin's 1823 settlement of the area. The Karankawa Indians survived here as primitive hunter-gatherers, but the tribe was driven out by industrious settlers, who established Garden Town, later called Websterville. By the 1890s, Webster was officially the name of the town. Japanese farmer Kiyoaki Saibara helped area residents learn to grow rice, starting in the early 1900s. Saibara and his father Seito Saibara influenced the Texas rice industry for several decades.

Nassau Bay, one of the first communities developed specifically because of the space programs, rests along the shore of Clear Lake and provides opportunities for boating and water-sport activities from the Nassau Bay Marina located directly across from the Johnson Space Center. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake offers free art exhibits, performances, refreshments and a bookstore/gift shop. Nearby, the Clear Creek Country Theatre offers a full



Photo courtesy of League City

season of productions ranging from comedies to dramas to musicals. The theater group has entertained the area for more than 35 years.

League City offers everything from the luxurious South Shore Harbour Resort area, with its yacht-filled marina, to antique and gift shopping in the historic district. Beautiful huge oak trees line Main St. where many historic homes, from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, have been converted into charming shops and eateries. Parks and gardens dot the Main Street district with ponds, bandstands and delightful landscaping.

Go back in history at the West Bay Common School Children's Museum, an enchanting one-room schoolhouse where a typical school day from the 1890s is brought to life.

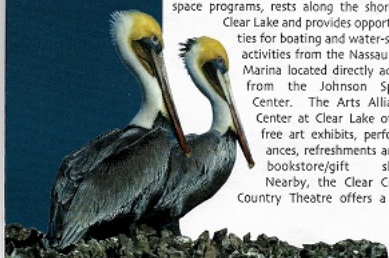
The League City lighthouse landmark, located in the resort area, will show you the way to this wonderful city, and is clearly visible from many outlooks along Clear Lake.

Kemah, on Galveston Bay, is named for the Karankawa Indian word for "wind in the face." The constant gulf breeze greets visitors to Kemah, who can browse the unique shops in the Kemah Shopping District and restaurant-filled Kemah Boardwalk. Be sure to take a relaxing stroll along the winding boardwalk on the bay. In addition to the plentiful shops, the Kemah Boardwalk is a destination in itself, with a Ferris wheel and train, interactive fountain, sailboat watching, and, of course, lots of great seafood.

The seaside village of Seabrook appeals to birds as well as a relaxing retreat for people. McHale Park, Hester Garden Park, Pine Gully and Robinson Park are designated birding locations along Todville Road. These sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail allow birders to witness many of the 291 species that have been identified in the area. Shoppers will delight in the well-kept secret of Old Seabrook. Art, gifts, jewelry, antiques, herbs, spices and more can be found at the dozens of charming and unique merchants. Stop by Seabrook's seafood markets for shrimp, crab and fish fresh off the boat.

See the Sights

Cruising the waters is a must when visiting the area. Boat tours and charters are available ranging from 30-minute, open-



Attractions/Shopping

deck boat rides to 4-hour dinner cruises aboard air-conditioned yachts. Step aboard a replica of a 19th century topsail schooner for a pirate ship adventure or enjoy a nostalgic voyage on an old-fashioned paddlewheeler. From the deck of any vessel you'll likely spot seagulls and pelicans scooping fish from the water, as well as dolphins springing from the surface.

Additional ways to see Clear Lake and Galveston Bay include parasailing and hot air balloon rides. On land, convenient shuttle bus service is available and offers sightseeing, airport shuttle service and other ground transportation.

Experience Nearby Attractions

The historic San Jacinto Battleground is a short drive north of the area. The San Jacinto State Historical Park marks the location where Texans shouting, "Remember the Alamo!" won independence from Mexico during the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. The San Jacinto Monument towers 604 feet above the battleground — that's 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument. Explore Texas history in the museum at the base of the tower, and then head up to the observation level (489 ft. above ground) for a spectacular 360-degree view. An 1,800-foot reflecting pool mirrors the stone tower and its gold star on the water's surface. The Battleship Texas is docked where the historic battleground meets the Houston Ship Channel. First launched in 1912, this ship saw action in both WWI and WWII, and is the first battleship established as a memorial museum in the U.S.

Travel a few miles down Interstate 45 to Gulf Greyhound Park to enjoy live racing at the world's largest greyhound racing facility. The enormous four-level observation area is completely climate controlled and offers a variety of views and dining options. Live races are scheduled Tuesday through Sunday, year-round, rain or shine.

Enjoy Your Stay

Whether you're looking for a romantic getaway or a fun-filled family vacation, the area offers a wonderful mix of lodging, dining and recreation. Let the sights and sounds of the NASA-Clear Lake area's peaceful waters relax and inspire you. For more information, call 1-800-844-LAKE (5253) or visit www.nasa-clearlakeatexas.com.



Photo courtesy of Space Center Houston

From historical sites and nature centers to Space Age technology, the attractions in the NASA-Clear Lake area offer a broad range of fascinating things to experience. The area's shopping options span from clusters of cottage shops selling handmade crafts to modern shopping malls filled with hundreds of stores. Make the most of your visit by taking in the variety of sights and shopping our area has to offer.

Armand Bayou Nature Center

(281) 474-2551

8500 Bay Area Blvd., 7 miles east off I-45 South. One of the largest urban wildlife and wilderness preserves in the U.S., Armand Bayou is home to bison, raptors, and reptiles. The Center offers a boardwalk through a woodland-pond area, a bird blind, walking trails, a late 1800's farm site, pontoon boat tours and canoe trips. Three ecosystems with over 2,500 acres of bayou, forest and prairie are refuge for more than 360 species of animals and birds. Reservations required for boat tours and canoe trips.

Battleship USS Texas

(281) 479-2431

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

3523 Highway 134, La Porte. Commissioned in 1914, the ship is the last of the WWI era dreadnoughts, and the only surviving combat ship to have served in both World Wars. Self-guided tours 10 AM-5 PM daily. Located 22 miles east of downtown Houston. From I-610 East take Texas Hwy. 225 east for 11 miles to Texas Hwy. 134 (Battleground Rd.), continue north about 3 miles to the park. Or take I-10 East to Lynchburg Rd., go south 2 miles to ride the free Lynchburg Ferry. Once across the Houston Ship Channel, it will be a short drive on Texas Hwy. 134 to the park.

Bayou Wildlife Park

(281) 337-6376

5050 FM 517, Alvin. An eighty-acre exotic animal park complete with an educational train ride and more! Petting zoo, pony rides, picnic area, souvenir shop, 400 animals and birds; 45 different species: giraffes, rhinos, camels, zebras, etc. Open all year, call for individual and group rates.

Attractions/Shopping



Gulf Greyhound Park
(409) 986-9500 or toll-free (800) 275-2946
www.gulfgreyhound.com
1000 FM 2004, La Marque. 10 minutes south of Clear Lake. Exit 15 at FM 2004 off I-45 South. The world's largest greyhound racing park, a 4-level complex, offers clubhouse seating for 1,900. Top-rated dogs in the United States. Families welcome; full service dining. Dog adoption service. Evening races Tuesday through Sunday. Matinees Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Open daily for simulcasting.

Haak Vineyards & Winery, Inc.

(409) 925-1401
www.haakwine.com
6310 Ave. T, Santa Fe, Tx. A complete working winery, 4-acre vineyard, crush pad, bottling and corking equipment, fermentation tanks, 1800 sq. ft. cellar with wine barrels. All visitors to the winery are offered free tastings and tours that run continuously. Gift shop, deli and picnic grounds. Summer Hours (May-October): 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, M-Sat., and Sun. noon-6:00 pm. Winter Hours (November-April): 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, M-Sat., and Sun. noon - 5:00 pm. A taste of the Old World in Galveston County.

Historic League City

(281) 338-7339
www.LeagueCityFun.com
East on Hwy. 518 off I-45 South, continue on Main Street (518) past the railroad tracks. Stroll and shop under huge oak trees for gifts, antiques, books & collectibles. The 1898 restored West Bay Common School, restored historic homes, quaint tearooms, a delightful park and *Helen's Garden* beckon you.

Attractions/Shopping

Kemah Boardwalk
(281) 334-9880 or toll-free (877) AT KEMAH
www.kemahboardwalk.com
701 41st Street, Kemah. A great waterfront weekend destination for the entire family. Eat at one of our restaurants: Joe's Crab Shack, Landry's Seafood House, Cadillac Authentic Mexican Restaurant, The Crab House, The Aquarium-an underwater dining adventure, The Flying Dutchman, Willie G's. The property also features amusement rides including a ferris wheel, carousel and train and also has plenty of shopping and skill games for the kids. You can spend the night at our luxury hotel.

Kemah Shopping District

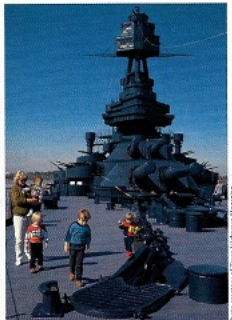
(281) 538-4165
605 A 6th St., Kemah. Off Hwy. 146, turn on 6th St. in Kemah. Clear Lake's entertainment district. Visit unique shops, galleries, restaurants and amusements.

Nolan Ryan Center
(281) 388-1134 or toll-free (888) 350-7926
www.nolanryanfoundation.org

2925 South Hwy 35, Alvin. West on NASA Rd. 1, left on Hwy. 35, south 4 miles to Alvin Community College. Visit the new interactive exhibit for Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan. Theater, kiosks, memorabilia. Catch one of Nolan's fast balls!

Old Seabrook

(281) 474-3869
Off NASA Rd. 1 and Hwy. 146, Seabrook. Stroll among antique and specialty shops. Enjoy restaurants in this quaint shopping district near Galveston Bay. Continue north and south on Todville Rd. for bird watching, parks and more restaurants. Visit Back Bay Market, an open air market, 2nd Saturday and Sunday monthly.



Attractions/Shopping



Photo courtesy of Texas Highways Magazine

Putt Putt Funhouse

(281) 333-0579
806 NASA Rd. 1, Webster.
Miniature golf, bumper boats,
newly remodeled gameroom,
battling cages, laser tag, virtual
reality theater and all-new fun
house themed restaurant.

San Jacinto Monument & Museum of History

(281) 479-2421
www.sanjacinto-museum.org
One Monument Circle, La Porte.
Just north of Clear Lake; north
on Hwy. 146, west on Hwy. 225,
north on Hwy. 134
(Battleground Rd.). Site of the

battle that won Texas' independence from Mexico in 1836. This
towering monument, the world's largest masonry structure,
invites visitors to learn about the events that shaped Texas histo-
ry. Visit the exhibition hall and the theater. Take the elevator
inside for a breathtaking view from 489 feet up. Adjacent to the
San Jacinto Battleground and the USS Texas.

Space Center Houston

(281) 244-2100

www.spacecenter.org

1601 NASA Rd. 1. Experience space exploration from its dramatic
history and exciting present to its compelling future through
unique, fun exhibits, attractions, behind-the-scenes tours of
NASA's Johnson Space Center and so much more! Houston's #1
attraction. So much to do, so close to home. Open daily.

The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake

(281) 335-7777

www.lbaocl.org

2000 NASA Rd. 1. Visit The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake for
outstanding art exhibits, art education classes, literary and per-
forming arts.

West Bay Common Schoolhouse Children's Museum

(281) 554-2994

www.oneroomsschoolhouse.org

Located in the Historic District of League City, the museum
offers an award-winning program where children of all ages
experience a day at school and life in this town at the turn of
the century. Advance reservations required.

The Space Store

(281) 333-4030 or

toll-free (877) 742-2311

www.thespacestore.com

1400 NASA Rd. 1 #E. NASA souvenirs, real space food, flight suits,
patches and more!

Attractions/Shopping

City of Webster

(281) 316-4121 or toll-free (877) WBSTRX

www.cityofwebster.com

On I-45, exit Bay Area Blvd. Or NASA Rd. 1. Defining Excitement in
Dining, Shopping, and Entertainment. With over 100 restaurants,
endless shopping possibilities, and entertainment for everyone,
including: movie theaters, laser tag, miniature golf, virtual reality
fun house, bowling, family billiard parlors, night clubs, live music,
and much more! Call for special rates and discount coupons on
many area attractions.



Photo by GUY LAWRENCE

Back Bay Market

1320 5th, Seabrook

(281) 474-3869

Baybrook Mall

www.shopbaybrookmall.com

500 Baybrook Mall, Friendswood

(281) 488-4620

Cinemark/18

20915 I-45, Webster

(281) 332-8400

Factory Stores of America

800 Factory Outlet Dr., La Marque

(337) 582-8800

Houston Raceway Park

www.houstonraceway.com

2525 FM 565 South, Baytown

(281) 383-2666

Sportsplex

1251 Hwy 96, League City

(281) 338-4875

Texas Ice Stadium

www.texasice.com

18150 Gulf Freeway, Friendswood

(281) 486-7979

Texas Rock Gym

201 Hobbs Rd., League City

(281) 338-7625