



Does Houston Need Another Museum?

YES

Does Houston Need Another Museum? Part 1 is a brief look at Houston's place, through polls and rankings that typify the connotation of Houston, in the nation's imagination with regards to museums, culture, intellect, tourism, and related interests.

Does Houston Need Another Museum? Part 2 will look at the extensive subjects that will be explored and interpreted through the museum's exhibits and live topical presentations, most of which are underrepresented in Houston's cultural resources.

Introduction

Houston ranks high as a city that is favorable for business. But Houston ranks poorly in studies and surveys regarding tourism, education and quality of life.

In a series of surveys of 60,000 people conducted by Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News, Houston does not rank in the top 25 in most categories, including: Museums, Intelligence, People, Architecture, Restaurants, Shopping and Vacation Destination. The polls reveal or confirm Houston's lack of reference in much of the nation's imagination. Austin, Dallas and San Antonio appear in most of these polls, as do other cities with many similarities to Houston.

Houston fails to rank high in many other quality-of-life categories, such as Livable Cities, and subjects that indicate opportunities for greater cross-cultural experience, such as Intercontinental Travel. The city fails to seize or recognize many of its best opportunities. Conversely, the city recently ranked third in a Forbes poll for Most Stressful City, just behind Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

However, Houston ranked Number 7 by Travelandleisure.com and CNN for Culture. Nationally, people may have some basic knowledge about Houston, outside their thoughts about its freeways, industries and weather. Regardless of how those who were surveyed define "culture" (diversity, traditional interests, elite arts, etc.), many aspects of culture are Houston's greatest strength. Culture is Houston's most positive modern legacy. History, diversity, food traditions, international ties, and extensive impact on the lifeways of people across the nation are all part of Houston's cultural landscape.

Museums and cultural destinations, as well as understanding of an area, yield many economic, education and quality-of-life benefits. As a great cultural resource, a museum can improve knowledge and perception of a city and region, and increase local appreciation and participation, as well as national and international visitation.

With the increase in nationally recognized museums, visitors to the museums increase exponentially; visitors attend not just for the numbers of museums, but for the city or nation's legacy and interpretation through the museums.

For Houston, there will be strength in numbers; increasing quality museums, especially establishing an outstanding museum to define and build on Houston's identity, will increase attraction to Houston and increase attendance for all area museums and cultural resources, as well as entertainment attractions, shops, hotels, and restaurants.

In areas where outsiders may lack knowledge of Houston and the region, or where Houston is perceived to be deficient in cultural, educational and quality-of-life resources, Houston Museum of Culture will fill the void. It will provide tremendous benefits for all Houstonians and their schools, organizations, and businesses.

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Best Museums in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. Washington, D.C.
2. New York
3. Chicago
4. Philadelphia
5. Santa Fe
6. Boston
7. San Francisco
11. New Orleans
12. Los Angeles
14. SAN ANTONIO
18. Atlanta
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
20. AUSTIN
22. Phoenix/Scottsdale

Best Culture in U.S. Cities

Houston is number 7 on the list. Others include:

1. New York
2. Washington, D.C.
3. Boston
4. Philadelphia
5. Chicago
7. HOUSTON
9. San Francisco
12. Santa Fe
15. New Orleans
16. SAN ANTONIO
17. Atlanta
22. Los Angeles
24. AUSTIN
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Most Intelligent U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. Seattle
2. Minneapolis/St. Paul
3. Boston
4. Washington, D.C.
5. San Francisco
Portland
7. AUSTIN
8. New York
9. Chicago
17. Atlanta
SAN ANTONIO
19. New Orleans
20. Phoenix/Scottsdale
22. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
25. Los Angeles

Best People in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. San Francisco
2. AUSTIN
5. Chicago
6. New York
13. New Orleans
17. SAN ANTONIO
19. Los Angeles
21. Atlanta
22. Las Vegas
23. Phoenix/Scottsdale
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Best Architecture in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. Washington, D.C.
2. Charleston
3. Chicago
4. New York
5. New Orleans
8. Santa Fe
San Francisco
10. SAN ANTONIO
11. Las Vegas
15. AUSTIN
21. Atlanta
22. Los Angeles
23. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
25. Phoenix/Scottsdale

Best Shopping in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. New York
3. Chicago
4. San Francisco
5. Los Angeles
6. New Orleans
7. Santa Fe
9. Miami
14. Atlanta
15. AUSTIN
17. SAN ANTONIO
18. Phoenix/Scottsdale
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
23. Washington, D.C.
24. Las Vegas

Best Restaurants in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. Chicago
2. New Orleans
3. AUSTIN
New York
5. Philadelphia
6. San Francisco
7. SAN ANTONIO
13. Los Angeles
15. Atlanta
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
20. Miami
22. Las Vegas
23. Washington, D.C.
24. Phoenix/Scottsdale
25. Santa Fe

Best Vacation in U.S. Cities

Houston is not on the list. Some that are include:

1. San Diego
2. Honolulu
3. San Francisco
4. Chicago
8. New Orleans
9. SAN ANTONIO
10. Miami
11. Boston
12. AUSTIN
13. New York
16. Orlando
17. Santa Fe
18. Phoenix/Scottsdale
19. Las Vegas
22. Los Angeles
23. Atlanta
24. Washington, D.C.
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH

America's 25 Most Visited Museums

Rob Baedeker, Forbes, September 21, 2007

1. Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. (5.8 million visitors)
2. Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C. (5 million visitors)
3. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (4.69 million visitors)
4. Metropolitan Museum, New York City, NY (4.5 million visitors)
5. American Museum of Natural History, New York City, NY (4 million visitors)
6. National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C. (2.4 million visitors)
7. Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY (2.22 Million visitors)
8. Field Museum, Chicago, IL (2.1 million visitors)
9. Museum of Science, Boston, Boston, MA (2.01 million visitors)
10. Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City, NY (1.67 million visitors)
11. Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. (1.6 million visitors)
12. De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA (1.6 million visitors)
13. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. (1.5 million visitors)
14. California Science Center, Los Angeles, CA (1.4 million visitors)
15. Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL (1.38 million visitors)
16. The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA (1.3 million visitors)
17. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (1.3 million visitors)
18. Indianapolis Children's Museum, Indianapolis, IN (1.2 million visitors)
19. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX (1.12 million visitors)
20. Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA (1.12 million visitors)

21. The Science Museum of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN (1.11 million visitors)
22. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston, MA (1.1 million visitors)
23. Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA (1.02 million visitors)
24. St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO (1.02 million visitors)
25. Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, VA (1 million visitors)

With the increase in nationally recognized museums, visitors to the museums increase exponentially; visitors go not just for the numbers of museums, but for the city's legacy and interpretation through the museums.

Number of ranked museums per city: Washington, D.C. - 6, New York City - 4, Chicago - 3, Boston - 2, Los Angeles - 2, Houston - 1

While Houston had one museum (MFAH) in the poll in 2007 (based on attendance numbers for 2006), in 2009 attendance numbers moved HMNS into the top ten.
<http://www.diddit.com/list-lfzdzx/americas-10-most-visited-museums-2009/>

1. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
2. National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.
3. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
4. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City
5. American Museum of Natural History, New York City
6. Museum of Modern Art, New York City
7. Houston Museum of Natural Science, HOUSTON
8. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.
9. Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York City
10. M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco

Ten Best Metropolitan Areas in the United States

The areas were ranked by their ambience (the cultural offerings in the city), housing, economy, transportation, education, health care, crime, recreation, and climate. Here are the top ten.

1. Pittsburgh, PA
2. San Francisco, CA
3. Seattle, WA
4. Portland, OR
5. Philadelphia, PA
6. Rochester, NY
7. Washington, DC
8. San Jose-Sunnyvale, CA
9. Boston, MA
10. Madison, WI

Source: Places Rated Almanac, 2007

America's Most Livable Communities

Once a decade, Partners for Livable Communities, a national non-profit organization working to restore and renew America's communities, selects the most livable places in the country. The 30 communities selected for the 2000's were chosen because they are attractive places to live, work, play, visit, retire, raise a family, attend a university, grow a business, and promote diversity.

Large Cities (300,000+ residents)

1. Charlotte, NC
2. Cincinnati, OH
3. Denver, CO
4. FORT WORTH, TX
5. Jacksonville, FL
6. Kansas City, MO
7. Louisville, KY
8. San Diego, CA
9. San Jose, CA
10. Tulsa, OK

National Park Units in Major Urban Areas

Houston presently has no Federal park units, though one has been in development for nearly ten years. Some of our regional neighbors have benefited greatly from the interpretation they provide and the attraction they provide to the cities where they are located.

New Orleans has two National Parks:
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

San Antonio has one National Park:
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

El Paso has one National Park:
Chamizal National Memorial

Houston will one day join these ranks with the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area.

Here are the numbers of National Parks in other cities:

New York City - 12
San Francisco Bay Area - 11
Boston - 10

Some cities with no Federal park units include Dallas, Phoenix and Chicago. Los Angeles and Atlanta each have two in their vicinity.

The development of the Houston Museum of Culture will have great potential in a symbiotic relationship with the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area. Though Federal park units are often severely under-developed and under-funded, the park will provide many opportunities, including:

Opportunities for increased visitation to the greater Houston area as the new park and Houston Museum of Culture will provide greater incentive to travel to Houston to explore its history and cultures

Opportunities for collaboration between the Houston Museum of Culture, its academic and community partners, and the Federal park.

Houston Museum of Culture will have many advantages for the Houston community beyond the Federal park, including: Broader content provided by the Houston Museum of Culture; and, Broader academic and community involvement in its development and operation; and, While Houston has exciting content for at least five national park units, but it will likely never see most of these developed, Houston Museum of Culture will present these topics and will look at past, present and future.

Top U.S. States and Cities Visited by Overseas Travelers

NOTE: Includes travelers for business and pleasure, international travelers in transit through the United States, and students; excludes travel by international personnel and international businessmen employed in the United States. Excludes visitors from Canada and Mexico. Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries/International Trade Administration, 2007.

	State/territory	Number of arrivals
1.	New York	7.9 million
2.	California	5.1 million
3.	Florida	4.7 million
4.	Hawaii	1.9 million
5.	Nevada	1.8 million
6.	Massachusetts	1.2 million
7.	Illinois	1.2 million
8.	Guam	1.1 million
9.	Texas	1.0 million
10.	New Jersey	956,000

	U.S. city	Number of arrivals
1.	New York	7.6 million
2.	Los Angeles	2.7 million
3.	Miami	2.3 million
4.	San Francisco	2.2 million
5.	Orlando	2.1 million
6.	Las Vegas	1.7 million
7.	Oahu/Honolulu	1.6 million
8.	Metro D.C. area	1.2 million
9.	Chicago	1.1 million
10.	Boston	1.0 million

Firsts in U.S. Cities: Houston as a Modern, Pioneering City

Here is information about famous firsts in U.S. cities - including the first aquarium, computer, daily newspaper, hospital, lighthouse, and more. All entries include date and location.

Lighthouse	Boston, MA	1716
Hospital	Philadelphia, PA	Feb. 11, 1752
Public museum	Charleston, SC	Jan. 12, 1773
Daily newspaper	Philadelphia, PA	Sept. 21, 1784
Railroad station	Baltimore, MD	May 1830
Opera house	New Orleans, LA	1859
Ambulance service	Cincinnati, OH	1865
Zoological garden	Philadelphia, PA	July 1, 1874
Electric company	New York, NY	Oct. 15, 1878
Skyscraper	Chicago, IL	1885
Railway, elevated	Chicago, IL	1892
Ferris wheel	Chicago, IL	June 1893
Aquarium	New York, NY	Dec. 10, 1896
Subway	Boston, MA	Sept. 1, 1897
Motion picture theater	Los Angeles, CA	April 2, 1902
Baseball stadium	Pittsburgh, PA	June 30, 1909
Traffic light	Cleveland, OH	Aug. 5, 1914
Commercial radio station	Pittsburgh, PA	Nov. 2, 1920
Computer	Philadelphia, PA	1946
Public TV station	HOUSTON, TX	May 25, 1953
Revolving restaurant	Seattle, WA	May 22, 1961

Houston is a much younger city than most of the above cities, but it has risen to be one of the largest US cities and will be on the frontlines to face many of the future issues and changes to our ways of life around the nation and throughout the world.

Houston does not lack historic context either; the region's written history is generally much older than the above cities. There are many opportunities to educate Houstonians and international visitors, while presenting Houston universities, industries, community and civic leaders, educators and diverse people at the forefront of world issues and interests.

Houston Ranks High in Other Areas

Houston ranks very high nationally and internationally for business. It is the city's reputation as the "free enterprise" city that has made it both successful in business and interesting for its history and diverse people; but at the same time, it has not fully taken advantage of its cultural resources and it has not developed the institution to interpret its legacy for the city and the world.

Following are some of Houston's typical rankings:

Houston #1

Largest 5 Year Employment Gain (June 2005 - June 2010)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (as Reported by the Houston Business Journal) – July 28, 2010

Top Cities for Recent College Grads

Bloomberg Businessweek – July 16, 2010

Best Cities for Young Professionals

Forbes.com – June 17, 2010

Top U.S. Manufacturing Cities

Manufacturers' News – May 21, 2010

Top Destination City

U-Haul International – April 2, 2010

Largest Population Gain - Harris County

U.S. Census Bureau – March 23, 2010

Texas' Largest Hospital District - Harris County Hospital District

Greater Houston Partnership Research - December 2009

Mega Market of the Year

Southern Business Development - August 2009

America's Best Hospitals - Cancer, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

U.S News & World Report - July 15, 2009

Lowest Cost of Living Among Major Metro Areas

ACCRA Cost of Living Index - Second Quarter 2009

Best City to Get Ahead

Forbes.com - June 19, 2009

Most Business Friendly

FDI Magazine - April 2009

Nation's Healthiest Housing Market

Builder and Hanley Wood Market Intelligence - February 2009

Best U.S. City to Earn a Living

Forbes.com - August 18, 2008

Best City to Buy a Home

Forbes.com - July 14, 2008

Best City to Live, Work and Play

Kiplinger's Personal Finance - July 2008

Best City for Your Job

BusinessWeek - June 12, 2008

Best City for Recent College Grads

Forbes.com - June 26, 2008

Largest IT Service Economy

Onforce, Inc. (VoIP Monitor) – December 5, 2008

Houston #2

Nation's Top Export Markets

U.S. Department of Commerce - July 14, 2008

Houston #3

Number of Fortune 500 Headquarters
Fortune Magazine - April 2010

Best Cities for Jobs
Forbes.com - April 20, 2010

Best Housing Markets
Forbes.com - February 2010

Counties with Highest Job Growth - Fort Bend
Bureau of Labor Statistics - October 16, 2009

North American Cities of the Future
FDI Magazine – April 2009

Houston #4

Annual Exports
The Brookings Institution – July 2010

Economic Strength
Policom Corporation – May 13, 2010

Hottest Labor Markets
Bizjournals.com – October 16, 2009

Best Metro Areas to Launch a Small Business
CNN Money - October 2009

Best Big City for Business
Inc.com - July 2008

Houston #5

Top Counties for Job Growth - Fort Bend County
CNN Money - July 12, 2010

Best Performing Cities
Milken Institute- November 2009

Top Markets for Income Growth
BizJournals.com- September 2009

Highest Total Personal Income
Bureau of Economic Analysis - August 6, 2009

Houston #6

Total Single Establishment Births - Harris County
Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy – May 2010

Most Employed in Science and Engineering Occupations
Bureau of Labor Statistics (as reported by the National Science Foundation) – April 2010

Top U.S. Real Estate Investment Markets
Urban Land Institute (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - January 10, 2008

Houston #7

Least Expensive Large U.S. Cities for Business
KPMG - April 2010

Houston #8

America's Fastest Recovering Cities
Forbes.com - November, 19 2009

Houston #10

The World's Most Inventive Cities
BusinessWeek - April 2009

Source: Greater Houston Partnership

Other interesting rankings to note:

Houston #1

Highest Quality of Life Among Students - Rice University

Princeton Review (as reported by Rice University) - July 28, 2009

Top Texas Tourist Destination

Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism- May 12, 2009

Best City to Live, Work and Play

Kiplinger's Personal Finance - July 2008

Most Accessible City for the Disabled

The National Organization on Disability - February 14, 2008

Highest Population Growth in the Nation

U.S. Census Bureau (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - July 10, 2008

Houston #2

Most Charity Conscious Cities

Charity Navigator - June 1, 2010

Largest Population Gain Among Metro Areas

U.S. Census Bureau - March 23, 2010

Houston #3

North American Cities of the Future

FDI Magazine – April 2009

Nation's Most Charitable Cities

Charity Navigator's 2008 Metro Market Charitable Analysis Study

Houston #4

America's Most Generous Cities

Entertainment Publications (as reported by PRNewswire) – December 2009

Green Space

Smarter Cities - August 2009

Top Cities for African Americans

BlackEnterprise.com - September 17, 2007

Houston #6

Highest Number of Master's Degrees

The Comparative Guide to American Suburbs 2009/2010 Edition

Houston #7

Top U.S. Art Cities

Away.com - 2010

America's Most Visited Museums - Houston Museum of Natural Science

ForbesTraveler.com - March 10, 2009

Houston "Other"

America's Top 10 Underrated Cities

Sherman's Travel – May 2010

Great Places in America - Montrose

American Planning Association - October 2009

World Capital of the Future

Forbes.com- September 2, 2009

Source: Greater Houston Partnership

Best Museums in U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. Washington, D.C.
2. New York
3. Chicago
4. Philadelphia
5. Santa Fe
6. Boston
7. San Francisco
8. Minneapolis/St. Paul
9. Charleston
10. Seattle
11. New Orleans
12. Los Angeles
13. Denver
14. SAN ANTONIO
San Diego
16. Portland
17. Nashville
18. Atlanta
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
20. AUSTIN
21. Honolulu
22. Phoenix/Scottsdale
23. Orlando
24. Miami
25. Las Vegas

Most Intelligent U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. Seattle
2. Minneapolis/St. Paul
3. Boston
4. Washington, D.C.
5. San Francisco
Portland
7. AUSTIN
8. New York
9. Chicago
10. Denver
11. Santa Fe
12. Charleston
13. San Diego
14. Philadelphia
15. Nashville
16. Honolulu
17. Atlanta
SAN ANTONIO
19. New Orleans
20. Phoenix/Scottsdale
21. Orlando
22. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
23. Miami
24. Las Vegas
25. Los Angeles

Best Culture in U.S. Cities

Each year Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News ask more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and use the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture. The following table lists the best U.S. Cities for culture in 2009.

1. New York
2. Washington, D.C.
3. Boston
4. Philadelphia
5. Chicago
6. Cleveland
7. HOUSTON
8. Providence
9. San Francisco
10. Minneapolis/St. Paul
11. Charleston
12. Santa Fe
13. St. Louis
14. Kansas City
15. New Orleans
16. SAN ANTONIO
17. Atlanta
18. Denver
19. Seattle
20. Nashville
21. Portland
22. Los Angeles
23. San Diego
24. AUSTIN
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Best People in U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. San Francisco
2. AUSTIN
3. Seattle
4. San Diego
5. Chicago
6. New York
Minneapolis/St. Paul
8. Portland
9. Charleston
10. Honolulu
11. Miami
12. Denver
13. Santa Fe
New Orleans
15. Boston
16. Washington, D.C.
17. SAN ANTONIO
18. Nashville
19. Los Angeles
20. Orlando
21. Atlanta
22. Las Vegas
23. Philadelphia
Phoenix/Scottsdale
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Best Architecture in U.S. Cities

Each year Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News ask more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture. The following table lists the top 25 U.S. cities for best architecture in 2008.

1. Washington, D.C.
2. Charleston
3. Chicago
4. New York
5. New Orleans
6. Boston
7. Philadelphia
8. Santa Fe
San Francisco
10. SAN ANTONIO
11. Las Vegas
12. Seattle
13. Minneapolis/St. Paul
14. Nashville
15. AUSTIN
16. Miami
17. San Diego
18. Honolulu
19. Portland
20. Denver
21. Atlanta
22. Los Angeles
23. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
24. Orlando
25. Phoenix/Scottsdale

Best Restaurants in U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. Chicago
2. New Orleans
3. AUSTIN
New York
5. Philadelphia
6. San Francisco
7. SAN ANTONIO
8. Seattle
9. Portland
10. Minneapolis/St. Paul
11. Charleston
12. Boston
13. Los Angeles
14. Nashville
15. Atlanta
16. Orlando
Denver
18. San Diego
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
20. Honolulu
Miami
22. Las Vegas
23. Washington, D.C.
24. Phoenix/Scottsdale
25. Santa Fe

Best Shopping in U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. New York
2. Charleston
3. Chicago
4. San Francisco
5. Los Angeles
6. New Orleans
7. Santa Fe
8. Boston
9. Miami
10. Philadelphia
11. Seattle
12. Portland
Minneapolis/St. Paul
14. Atlanta
15. AUSTIN
San Diego
17. SAN ANTONIO
18. Phoenix/Scottsdale
19. DALLAS/FORT WORTH
20. Denver
Nashville
22. Honolulu
23. Washington, D.C.
24. Las Vegas
25. Orlando

Best Vacation in U.S. Cities

In early 2007, Travelandleisure.com and CNN Headline News asked more than 60,000 Americans what they like—and don't like—about 25 large American cities and used the poll results to rank the cities based on a variety of topics, including most intelligent, most attractive, and best culture.

1. San Diego
2. Honolulu
3. San Francisco
4. Chicago
5. Seattle
6. Denver
7. Charleston
8. New Orleans
9. SAN ANTONIO
10. Miami
11. Boston
12. AUSTIN
13. New York
14. Minneapolis/St. Paul
15. Portland
16. Orlando
17. Santa Fe
18. Phoenix/Scottsdale
19. Las Vegas
20. Philadelphia
21. Nashville
22. Los Angeles
23. Atlanta
24. Washington, D.C.
25. DALLAS/FORT WORTH