

# Spouse Program

**35<sup>th</sup> National Narrow Gauge Convention**  
**Houston, Texas September 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



*We have talked with a model railroader who is a professional tour guide in Houston and he has put together a couple of possible tours for us during the convention. The two organized tours must have at least 12 people signed up by July 15<sup>th</sup> so we can book the van or bus (if we get 25 signed up). We will set up a way to pay by PayPal, check, or credit card as soon as we are sure the tour will have enough interest. Please e-mail me directly so that I can keep a tab on the number interested. - Laurie Lind*

## **The first tour will be offered Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Shopping trip to the Heights.** We would leave the hotel around 9:30 or 10 AM shop for a while, then have lunch (on your own) at a deli with all kinds of Heights history and photos. We could shop some more while taking a look at some of the beautiful old Victorian homes (no inside tours, but what a walk down memory lane). The cost for transportation and our tour guide will be \$35.

Antiques, home decor, vintage clothing, art galleries, and garden shops abound in this picturesque Victorian neighborhood.

Make the shops along 19th Street a priority, and you won't be disappointed. One of Houston's best resale shops, Retropolis, carries plenty of kitsch, but among the lace and floral prom dresses from 1975, shoppers can find wearable pieces for very little. Fun accessories and colorful house wares are among the countless items to be had at Jubilee on 19th Street. Antique aficionados have plenty to choose from among the multiple antique stores that dot the street.

## **The second tour will be offered Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Space Center Tour.** We would leave the hotel around 9:15 AM and be at the Space Center around 10 AM. Lunch would be on our own at the Space Center. We would be back to the hotel around 3 PM. The cost for transportation and our tour guide will be \$45. (This includes a discounted ticket for the Space Center, our guide, and transportation.)

The center features more than 400 space artifacts, permanent and traveling exhibits, attractions and theaters related to the exciting future and remarkable past of America's human space-flight program – all for one admission price. The experience is designed to engage adults and children alike.

There is always something new at Space Center Houston with an amazing array of traveling exhibits and astounding events. Space Center Houston has the world's largest collection of moon rocks and lunar samples for public view. Known around the world as the home of NASA Mission Control, International Space Station Mission Control and astronaut training, guests are taken behind the scenes to see NASA Johnson Space Center.

## Also, remember the on-your-own tour of the Museum District

**Houston Museum of Natural History** (5555 Hermann Park Drive, Houston Texas 77030-1799)

As one of the most heavily attended museums in the United States, and one of the most attended venues in Houston, the Museum houses the Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham GIANT Screen Theatre, Cockrell Butterfly Center and a fascinating variety of permanent exhibit areas that examine astronomy, space science, Native American culture, paleontology, energy, chemistry, gems and minerals, seashells, Texas wildlife and much more. In addition, the museum frequently presents traveling exhibitions on a variety of topics.

**Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**, 1001 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77005

Located in the heart of Houston's Museum District, the MFAH is a dynamic cultural complex comprising two gallery buildings, a sculpture garden, visitors' center, library, movie theater, gift shop, café, two art schools, and two house museums.

At 6.5 miles, (walking is not an option) from the hotel, a \$ 16 cab ride each way is the way to go. You may also share the cab with other wives, making the price even lower.

*These two museums are within easy walking distance of each other.....just a tad over a mile. So, if you go to the Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday morning (it is free all day Thursday) then walk over to the Museum of Natural Science after lunch (it is free from 2pm-5pm on Thursdays), you will be in for an interesting and not very expensive day!*

## And there is shopping close by too!

**The Galleria** (5085 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056-5673)

Spanning 2.4 million square feet of space, housing 400 fine stores and restaurants, two high-rise hotels, and three office towers, The Galleria is Houston's most popular retail and tourist destination, meeting every style and taste. A plethora of amenities, including a full-size ice rink for recreational and figure skating, a state of the art children's play area, two swimming pools, a video arcade, three full-service national and international banks, two tailor shops, 12 beauty salons, and a post office, continually serve a wide range of shopper delights.

A .7 mile, 15 minute, walk from the hotel or a \$ 5 cab ride (we can share cabs and cut the price).

**Post Oak Plaza** (1800 Post Oak, Houston, TX 77056-5673)

Truly eclectic, Uptown offers its visitors sophisticated international cuisine amid high fashion. A wide variety of cafes, wine bars and premier restaurants highlight an exciting neighborhood where the world comes together for a taste of the best in fashion, food and fun.

A .4 mile, 7 minute, walk from the hotel or a \$ 6 cab ride.

***Please let me know asap so we can lock in our tours.***

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