



**Tour:** Texas Space STEM  
 + San Antonio & Austin

**Destination:** Houston, San Antonio and Austin, Texas

**Specialization:** Science, Math, Engineering, Physics, Design, History & Culture

**Itinerary:** 10-days / 9-nights in destination

**Availability:** Year-round; Sunday departures

Texas Space STEM + San Antonio + Austin					
Day	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1	Sun	Travel to Houston, transfer to hotel and check-in		Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Dinner on Own to accommodate flight times
2	Mon	Tram Tour - Space Vehicle Mock-Up Facility & Orion Mission Control	Rocket Presentation & Construction		Thermal Tile & Cryogenics; Swing Test & Safety
3	Tues	Thermal Tile & Cryogenics Challenge	Natural Buoyancy Lab Tour	SCUBA Session & Underwater Robotics Challenge / Williams Pool	
4	Wed	NASA Guest Speaker Presentation	VEX Robotics & VEX End Effector Build Challenge	Coding Challenge & Competition	Mars Yard End Effector Competition
5	Thur	Rocket Safety / Rocket Launch / Rocket Park Tour / Rocket Debrief	Mars Habitat Presentation	Mars Habitat Design Challenge & Student Presentations	
6	Fri	Independence Plaza & Starship Gallery Tours	Brunch with an Astronaut & Presentation	Graduation & Awards Presentation	Free Time
7	Sat	Check-out of hotel; depart Houston for San Antonio (3.5-hours)		Hotel Check-in & Refresh	Exploration and dinner on San Antonio's River Walk with Evening River Cruise
8	Sun	Texas Culture & History Exploration - The Alamo & Battlefield Tour, Lunch at Mi Tierra & Shopping at the Mexican Market, The Institute of Texan Cultures visit with Guide			Texas BBQ Dinner
9	Mon	Travel to Austin, Texas (1.5-hours); check into hotel	University of Texas - Campus Tour	Texas State Capitol Tour	Exploration and dinner on Austin's Sixth Street
10	Tues	Depart Austin for home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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**HOUSTON OVERVIEW:** Students participating in Texas Space STEM will experience a **5-day engineering mission to land a rover on the surface of Mars**. They will analyze rock samples with a Reflectance Spectrometer, loft a rock sample into Martian orbit, and return it back to Earth in a rocket of their own design. All the time, working within a NASA budget; knowing that funds or supplies for your projects may be decreased at any time due to budget cuts, safety regulations, or any other experience representative of the real NASA world.

**Skills Required:** Teamwork, problem solving, fiscal responsibility, communication, adaption to unexpected problems, the drive to be successful, and most important, the ability to have fun through STEM exploration.

### Day 1

Due to varied arrival times, groups are 'on their own' for meals on this day. Once your flight times are known, if you would like us to assist you in booking a dinner on this evening, simply let us know and we will be happy to set this up on your behalf.



*Houston.....* A sprawl of concrete and superhighway? Intense summer heat? Yes - Houston has some of that. But the USA's fourth-largest city (5 million in the metro area) is also a multicultural, zoning-free hodgepodge where in one strip mall there might be a Vietnamese grocery, a Venezuelan empanada stand and a big-beef meat market. Eat at great ethnic restaurants or shop in arts-and-antique neighborhoods. See world-class paintings and funky folk car parades. Then just down the road a bit you can walk the beaches of Galveston Island and visit the astronauts at Space Center Houston. Often described as a "sprawling Texas town," the greater Houston area covers more ground than any other major city in America.

Houston is a city whose very existence has always depended on wild speculation and boom-and-bust excess. Founded on a muddy mire in 1837 by two real estate-booster brothers from New York – their dream was to establish it as the capital of the new Republic of Texas – Houston was soon superseded by the more promising site of Austin, even while somehow establishing itself as a commercial center. Oil, discovered in 1901, became the foundation, along with cotton and real estate, of vast private fortunes, and over the next century wildly wealthy philanthropists poured cash into swanky galleries and showpiece skyscrapers. Locally produced oil and gas products exported from the Houston Ship Channel have long fueled the city.



In 1958, President Lyndon Johnson (a Texan) located the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) here. Houston is also a multicultural city home to some of the nation's largest Asian, Arab and Latin American



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populations. But its culture is not limited to diverse population — it also boasts a world class symphony and theater district that includes a full-time ballet company and opera.

Houston is a beast of a place, choked with rings of highways and high on humidity. Despite this, its sheer energy, its relentless Texas pride, and above all, its refusal to take itself totally seriously, lends it no small appeal. For visitors, its well-endowed museums, highly regarded performing arts scene, and decent nightlife mean there is always something to do. [www.visithoustontexas.com](http://www.visithoustontexas.com)

### *Did you know?*

- ✓ Houston is the fourth most populous city in the nation (trailing only New York, Los Angeles and Chicago), and is the largest in the southern USA.
- ✓ If Houston were an independent nation, it would rank as the world's 30th largest economy. When comparing Houston's economy to a national economy, only 21 countries other than the United States have a gross domestic product exceeding Houston's regional gross area product.
- ✓ Houstonians eat out more than residents of any other city. While here you can choose to indulge in one of the more than 11,000 restaurants ranging from award-winning and upscale to memorable deli shops.
- ✓ More than 90 languages are spoken throughout the Houston area.
- ✓ Houston is home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The largest rodeo in the world, it attracts more than 1.8 million visitors each year.
- ✓ Houston is home to the Texas Medical Centre, the largest medical center in the world, with a local economic impact of \$10 billion. More than 52,000 people work within its facilities, which encompass 21 million square feet. Altogether 4.8 million patients visit them each year.
- ✓ Home to more than 5,000 energy related firms, Houston is considered by many as the Energy Capital of the world.
- ✓ The Port of Houston is the tenth largest port in the world.

Groups participating in Texas Space STEM will generally arrive in Houston in the late afternoon. After check-in, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Dinner is on own to accommodate various arrival times. If you would like us to make a reservation on your behalf, simply let us know. We are delighted to help! Groups will want to get a great night's rest because tomorrow, it's full STEM steam ahead!

## HOTEL OPTIONS

Please let us know the specific hotel you wish for your lodging to be located in when requesting a quote. **Each option has a different evening meal and activity plan associated with the property.** Your hotel accommodation will be confirmed to you after initial deposits are received.

**Sample Hotel – Springhill Suites Houston NASA / Webster** - Just 3-miles from the Johnson Space Center, the Springhill Suites hotel provides easy access to several attractions nearby. All rooms contain two queen beds plus a pull-out sofa sleeper. Students will sleep quad occupancy; staff will sleep double occupancy. Amenities include



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free high-speed internet access, cable television, hair dryers, in-room coffee maker, mini-fridges and microwaves, business center, guest laundry, small outdoor pool, sundry shop and meeting rooms. [WEBSITE](#)



**Sample Hotel – Courtyard by Marriott** – This lovely hotel is located directly across the street from the Space Center allowing for participants to **walk** (approximately 5 minutes) to their daily sessions. Amenities include ergonomic workspaces, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi access, an in-house Bistro & Bar, a sparkling outdoor pool, 24-hour fitness center, convenience shop and more. Students will sleep quad occupancy in rooms with 2 queen beds; staff will sleep double occupancy. You'll want to have everyone bring rain gear in case of inclement weather as we will be walking to the space center daily. [WEBSITE](#)



**Sample Hotel – Holiday Inn** – This fabulous property has contemporary rooms featuring desks and flat-screen TVs, plus microwaves, minifridges and coffeemakers. The property has free WiFi, an on-site restaurant and bar, fitness center, indoor pool and hot tub, sundry shop, guest laundry and more. It's conveniently located near the Baybrook Mall (1.5 miles). Students will sleep quad occupancy in rooms with 2 queen beds; staff will sleep double occupancy. Breakfasts and most dinners will be served at the hotel. [WEBSITE](#)



All breakfasts will be served at your hotel. When selecting your preferred lodging property, please know that each of our hotels offers an independent evening dining and activity plan. Choose the option that best suits your group's needs but please be advised that activities are always subject to change. Also note that on Cinema night, individual guests will purchase the tickets for the movie they wish to see independently; this is not included in your package costs.



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SPRINGHILL SUITES GROUPS
SUN - Dinner on own to accommodate flight times
MON - Pasta Dinner & Hotel Movie
TUES - Dinner & Baybrook Mall
WED - Pizza & Bowling
THUR - Dinner & Cinema
FRI - Dinner & The Kemah Boardwalk

COURTYARD GROUPS
SUN - Dinner on own to accommodate flight times
MON - Pasta Dinner & Hotel Movie
TUES - Dinner & Baybrook Mall
WED - Pizza & Bowling
THUR - Dinner & Open Evening
FRI - Dinner & The Kemah Boardwalk

HOLIDAY INN GROUPS
SUN - Dinner on own to accommodate flight times
MON - Pasta Dinner & Hotel Movie
TUES - Hotel Dinner & Bingo or Swimming
WED - Catered Dinner at Hotel & Bowling
THUR - Hotel Dinner & Quiz, Talent or Presentation
FRI - Dinner & The Kemah Boardwalk

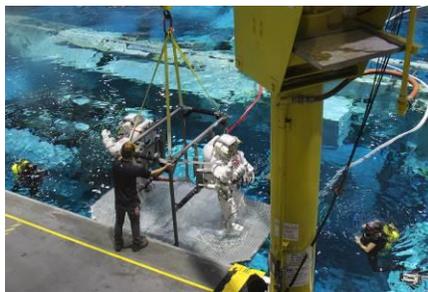
Days 2 through 6  
Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Rise and shine Houston! Today is the day we delve into STEM projects at Johnson Space Center!



**Johnson Space Center** – The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA’s) center for human spaceflight training, research and flight control. The center consists of a complex of 100 buildings constructed on 1,620 acres (656 ha) in Houston, Texas. Johnson Space Center is home to the United States Astronaut Corps and is responsible for training astronauts from both the U.S. and its international partners. It is often popularly referred to by its central function, ‘Mission Control.’

The center, originally known as the Manned Spacecraft Center, was constructed on land donated by Rice University and opened in 1963. On February 19, 1973, the center was renamed in honor of the late U.S. president and Texas native, Lyndon B. Johnson. JSC is one of ten major NASA field centers.



Johnson Space Center has its origins in legislation shepherded to enactment in 1958 by then-US Senator Lyndon Johnson. After President John F Kennedy made the goal in 1961 to put a man on the Moon by the end of the decade, the Space Task Force was formed to lead the Apollo Project. The group would need test facilities and research laboratories suitable to mount an expedition to the moon. In July 1961, NASA Administrator James Webb headed the site selection team. Requirements for the new site included the availability of water transport and an all-weather airport, proximity to a major telecommunications network, availability of established industrial workers and contractor support, an available supply of water, a mild climate permitting year-round outdoor work and a culturally attractive community. Houston was selected and announced in September 1961. Construction of the center began in April 1962 and the facility was officially opened for business in September 1963. When opened, the 1,620-acre (660 ha) facility was originally designated the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) and was to be the primary center for U.S. space missions involving astronauts.



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The center's Mission Control Center has been the operational center of every American human space mission since Gemini IV. The control center manages all activity on board the spacecraft and directs all space shuttle missions. Mission Control Center was constructed in 1962. By 1965, JSC was fully operational and has been responsible for coordinating and monitoring every crewed NASA mission since the Gemini Project.

In addition to housing NASA's astronaut operations, JSC is also the site of the former Lunar Receiving Laboratory, where the first astronauts returning from the moon were quarantined, and where the majority of lunar samples are stored. The center's Landing and Recovery Division operated MV Retriever in the Gulf of Mexico for Gemini and Apollo astronauts to practice water egress after splashdown.

The Johnson Space Center is home to Mission Control Center, the NASA control center that coordinates and monitors all human spaceflight for the United States. MCC directs all Space Shuttle missions and activities aboard the International Space Station. The Apollo Mission Control Center, a National Historical Monument, can be found in building 30. From the moment a spacecraft clears its launch tower until it lands back on earth, it is in the hands of Mission Control. The Mission Control Center houses several Flight Control Rooms, from which Flight Controllers coordinate and monitor the spaceflights. The rooms have many computer resources to monitor, command and communicate with spacecraft. When a mission is underway the rooms are staffed around the clock.



The center also handles most of the planning and training of the US astronaut corps and houses training facilities such as the Sonny Carter Training Facility and the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, which is a critical component in the training of astronauts for spacewalks. The Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory provides a controlled neutral buoyancy environment a very large pool containing about 6.2 million US gallons (23,000 m<sup>3</sup>) of water where astronauts train to practice extra-vehicular activity tasks while attempting to simulate zero-g conditions. The facility provides pre-flight training in becoming familiar with crew activities and with the dynamics of body motion under weightless conditions.

The visitor's center of Johnson Space Center is "Space Center Houston" since 1994. [www.spacecenter.org](http://www.spacecenter.org)



*Ever dreamed of being an astronaut? Have you wondered what it takes to travel and live on Mars? Do you want to engineer your own robotic rover and launch a rocket? Come behind the scenes at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the ultimate educational experience and get a taste of space exploration!*



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*Our Texas Space STEM is a week-long program allowing students to work together in conquering space and engineering objectives. At times, other schools may also be visiting and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet new STEM students from around the globe. Texas Space STEM is a challenging 5-day program promoting teamwork, problem solving, communication and engineering solutions to space-related situations. It is designed to develop and improve critical thinking skills, fiscal responsibility, creativity and the drive to be successful.*

Will you make the cut? There is only one way to know.

*Immersing students in authentic learning opportunities tied to NASA missions, Texas Space STEM & "Space U" offer a high level of STEM topics applied to real world and space-related experiences. Students will discover areas such as robotics, rocketry, thermal protection systems and space habitats. Get inspired as you come together to engineer solutions to space challenges, collaborate to find solutions and go behind-the-scenes at NASA's Johnson Space Center and the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, the world's largest underwater training facility. The program culminates with a graduation ceremony celebrating the students' accomplishments and an exclusive Brunch with an Astronaut.*

This will be your home for the next five days. Each day we will have the opportunity to work with scientists, specialists and astronauts to learn and study in this world-renowned facility. We will be working and competing on PROJECT WORK for Engineering, Physics, Space Science and Design objectives. Teachers are encouraged to participate.



Texas Space STEM includes the following "Space University" programs:

- ✓ Hands-on, engineering-based activities and data collection technology integration for real-world analysis
- ✓ Behind-the-scenes access including tours of actual astronaut training and work facilities, such as Rocket Park and the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory
- ✓ Interactive, project-based learning that includes sustainable habitat construction, robot retrieval mission and programming, multi-stage rocket design and launch, underwater "astronaut training," collaborative teaming and global awareness development
- ✓ Hear from guest speakers about what it takes to work at NASA and the projects that prepare humans for space exploration
- ✓ Brunch with an Astronaut
- ✓ Graduation ceremony and certificates

Please note that although activities are shown on the initial page as a weekly snapshot, activities are subject to change and are also weather-dependent.



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Our NASA program will run Monday through Friday, from 08:30 to 16:00, then extend on in the late afternoons so students have a chance to check-out all the exhibits in the center. Lunches will be at the Zero-G Diner and are included in your package.

## NASA Project & Program Descriptions

### MARS OR BUST

Participants will have the option to design and build a one or two stage rocket build based on the team goals for their mission. Crew's will launch their rockets the following day to determine who has a successful launch and the highest the altitude. Launch site and may vary based on weather conditions.



### BRING THE HEAT

Students will design, construct and test a thermal heat shield to be able to withstand temperatures up to 1,000° Fahrenheit (538° Celsius). This exercise simulates the effects on the space capsule heat shield during entry into the Martian atmosphere.

### CRYOGENICS TESTING

Can you protect your astronaut from the cold conditions on Mars? Design and build a cryo-capsule to protect your astronauts from extreme temperatures of -321° Fahrenheit (-196° Celsius)

### WORKING IN WEIGHTLESSNESS

Working with licensed dive instructors in a local indoor swimming pool, participants will learn the techniques taught to astronauts as part of their preparation for performing tasks in microgravity. After which students will construct a mock-up airlock and perform other essential tasks similar to those developed by NASA.



### ROVING ROBOTICS

Students must decide how to engineer a robotic rover based on a given set of parameters and tasks that the rover must accomplish on Mars. They begin with a budget, price list for supplies and then are given varying real-world criteria to design, construct then test their rovers. The rovers will be put to the test by collecting rock samples and executing student designed coding programs to maneuver on Mars.

### LIVING ON MARS

What's it like living in space? How do astronauts get enough clean water and air? What happens if something goes wrong? Are there alternate sources of energy? How do astronauts communicate and work with peoples from different cultures? Students will participate in SIM (simulated) scenarios, build their own habitat that sustains core areas of life while maintaining cultural and global awareness.



## NASA EXCLUSIVES: BEHIND-THE-SCENES REALITY TOURS

Students will tour NASA Johnson Space Center with stops at historic Apollo era Mission Control, Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory and the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility including its full-size training modules of the International Space Station. See rockets up-close that were used in early space exploration. Experience the shuttle replica Independence atop the historic Boeing 747 shuttle carrier aircraft.



### INDEPENDENCE PLAZA

Get a rare glimpse into the shuttle program with a tour of Houston's international landmark exhibit Independence Plaza. Students will go inside the high-fidelity shuttle replica Independence, mounted on top of the historic and original NASA 905 shuttle carrier aircraft, and then explore the giant plane. It is the world's only shuttle mounted on an SCA and the only one allowing the public to enter both.

### STARSHIP GALLERY

Starship Gallery at Space Center Houston is home to multiple flown spacecraft and national treasures. Get an up-close look at some of the most amazing artifacts that trace the progression of human space exploration. Students will see and touch real moon rocks and flown spacecraft while learning about the history of space flight.

### BRUNCH WITH AN ASTRONAUT

Dine with a NASA astronaut and hear their first-hand stories about space exploration. Ask questions about their mission experience and learn what it takes to become an astronaut.

### GRADUATION

Celebrate your students' achievements at Space Center U® graduation surrounded by one of the world's most comprehensive collections of space suits in our Astronaut Gallery. To commemorate the special experience, students will receive Space Center U certificates and medals.



### Day 7

*Breakfast & dinner included, lunch on own*

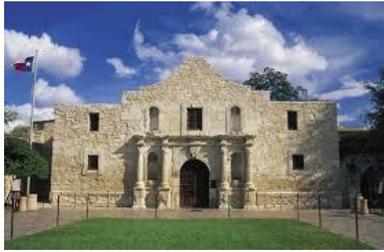
Rise and shine Houston! Today, we'll pack up our bags and head south to San Antonio!

**San Antonio** – A city rich in history, bursting with culture, and booming with modern attractions, San Antonio invites visitors to discover what's old and explore what's new. Centrally located in the heart of Texas, San Antonio blends the natural beauty of the region with the vibrant charm of its residents, offering experiences unlike any other city. Visitors to San Antonio can enjoy history, the River Walk, fabulous food, the outdoors, wonderful cultural experiences, theme park thrills, and city celebrations. Enjoy!



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On arrival, we'll check into our hotel and get settled, then in the afternoon, we're off to explore the San Antonio River Walk.

**The San Antonio River Walk** - Sightseeing, shopping, food and fun, all on a world-renowned 15-mile urban waterway. The River Walk, or Paseo del Rio, is a San Antonio treasure and the largest urban ecosystem in the nation. Tucked quietly below street level and only steps from the Alamo, it provides a serene and pleasant way to navigate the city. Explore by foot along the river's walking path or jump aboard a river barge for a ride and guided tour. In the heart of downtown, explore nearby attractions like the Alamo, the King William Historic District and more. Or shop local favorites along the river's Museum Reach at the historic Pearl. While at Pearl, dine al fresco at our local food hall, The Bottling Dept. Further south, immerse yourself in history at our UNESCO World Heritage Site, the San Antonio Missions, along the Mission Reach. There's so much to do, see, eat and explore along the river.



Groups will have time to explore and have fun, plus a **cruise on the River Walk** and dinner.

## **Day 8**

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner*

Good morning San Antonio! Today is a day to explore Texas history and culture. First stop - The Alamo!

**The Alamo** - Centrally located on Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio, the Alamo features interactive exhibits and hosts reenactments of the Texas Revolution. Founded in 1718 as the first mission in San Antonio, the Alamo served as a way station between east Texas and Mexico. In 1836, decades after the mission had closed, the Alamo became an inspiration and a motivation for liberty during the Texas Revolution. For 13 days in 1836, close to 200 Texas defenders held the Alamo from approximately 2,500 of General Santa Anna's troops from Mexico. The most famous of the defenders, William Travis, James Bowie, and David Crockett, died fighting overwhelming odds for freedom. Today, visitors are invited to rediscover the gem of Texas history, stroll through the 4.2-acre complex and Alamo Gardens. To learn more about the history of the Alamo, [visit its official website](#).



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While here our groups will participate in a **1-hour Battlefield Tour**: An Alamo History Interpreter will personally guide your class while explaining the history of the mission and the fortress, creating a memorable educational experience for students. This tour takes place outside so please remember to bring water and sunscreen if needed.

Other areas for self-guided exploration:

- **The Alamo Church & Grounds:** School groups are welcome to take self-guided tours through the buildings and grounds. This includes entrance to the Alamo Church and the Long Barracks exhibition, along with the other activities listed below.
- **History Talk: A Story Bigger Than Texas:** Several times throughout the day, Alamo History Interpreters give History Talks in Cavalry Courtyard. These talks are approximately 15-20 minutes long and are followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. Cavalry Courtyard can hold a maximum of 150 students sitting on the benches and on the ground. History Talks are offered on a first come, first serve basis.
- **Film - The Alamo: Crossroads of History:** The Alamo Orientation film provides a short synopsis of the history of The Alamo. The film runs throughout the day in two locations – The Long Barrack Museum and the Arbor – and lasts approximately 20 minutes.
- **Living History Encampment:** Alamo Living Historians conduct demonstrations of period skills and crafts throughout the day in the encampment in the Alamo Gardens. Subject matter experts in firearms, medicine, textiles, food, and more will interact with your students while reinforcing knowledge and skills.

After learning about the incredible history at the Alamo, we'll stop by Mi Tierra's for lunch and some of the very best Mexican food in the nation!

**Mi Tierra's Mexican Restaurant** - In 1941, a little three-table cafe was established for early-rising farmers and workers at San Antonio's Mercado. 75 years later, Mi Tierra is a world-famous landmark. Mi Tierra Café is downtown San Antonio's finest Tex-Mex restaurant, Mexican bakery, and source for live Mariachi entertainment. Enjoy!

Afterwards, we'll have a little time to shop and explore the Mexican Mercado.



**Market Square** - Enjoy the sights and flavors of old Mexico at Historic Market Square, a favorite of locals and tourists for generations. Explore over 100 locally owned businesses that provide a unique market place experience. The Historic Market Square is where the culture of San Antonio comes alive. Nearly every weekend of the year, Market Square is filled with live entertainment, delicious food, and fun for the whole family; and talk about shopping... with unique multi-cultural merchandise you can find something for everyone!



In the afternoon, we'll walk over to another favorite destination, The Institute of Texan Cultures.

**The Institute of Texan Cultures** – This center gives voice to the experiences of people from across the globe who call Texas home, providing insight into the past, present, and future. At its core, the Institute of Texan Cultures is a lesson in diversity, and it shows the uniqueness and beauty of the many cultures that came to Texas. It shows the contributions those cultures have made to the state's character, through music and dance, food, stories and traditions, religion, artisan skills, and ways of life.

The museum is a component of The University of Texas at San Antonio. It plays a role in the university's community engagement initiatives by developing quality, accessible resources for educators and lifelong learners on topics of cultural heritage. It strives to develop a rich and vibrant culture in the arts and humanities that will expand the community's awareness and appreciation of Texas through an engaging series of exhibits, programs, and special events.



This evening we'll try some real **Texas BBQ** and then have free time to explore. Ready for more? Just say the word! There's so much to do in San Antonio, from theme parks to museums, this city is alive!

## **Day 9**

*Breakfast & dinner included, lunch on own*

Rise and shine San Antonio! It's time to head to Austin!

**Austin** - Austin is the state capital of Texas, an inland city bordering the Hill Country region. Home to the University of Texas flagship campus, Austin is known for its eclectic live-music scene centered around country, blues and rock. Its many parks and lakes are popular for hiking, biking, swimming and boating. South of the city, Formula One's Circuit of the Americas raceway has hosted the United States Grand Prix.



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Known as the **Live Music Capital of the World**, Austin offers world-renowned festivals such as SXSW® and the Austin City Limits Music Festival – along with more than 250 music venues featuring rock, blues, jazz, hip hop and other genres nightly. However, Austin’s universal appeal extends well beyond music – with outstanding dining experiences, world-class sporting events, an oasis of outdoor activities and other unique happenings to satisfy any itinerary. Austin is also home to a wonderful ballet, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping and beautiful outdoor spaces. You can just as easily spend your morning paddling the lake as you can strolling through a celebrated history museum.

Once we arrive in Austin, we’ll head to the University of Texas for a **Campus Tour**.

**University of Texas at Austin** – The University of Texas at Austin is a public research university in Austin, Texas. It was founded in 1883 and is the flagship institution of the University of Texas System. The University of Texas was inducted into the Association of American Universities in 1929, becoming only the third university in the American South to be elected. The institution has the nation’s eighth-largest single-campus enrollment, with over 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students and 24,000 faculty and staff.



over

A “Public Ivy”, it is a major center for academic research, with research expenditures exceeding \$615 million for the 2016–2017 school year. The university houses seven museums and seventeen libraries, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum and the Blanton Museum of Art, and operates various auxiliary research facilities, such as the J. J. Pickle Research Campus and the McDonald Observatory. Among university faculty are recipients of the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, the Wolf Prize, the Primetime Emmy Award, the Abel Prize, the Turing Award, and the National Medal of Science, as well as many other awards. As of October 2019, 12 Nobel Prize winners, two Turing Award winners and two Fields medalists have been affiliated with the school as alumni, faculty members or researchers.

Student athletes compete as the Texas Longhorns and are members of the Big 12 Conference. Its Longhorn Network is the only sports network featuring the college sports of a single university. The Longhorns have won four NCAA Division I National Football Championships, six NCAA Division I National Baseball Championships, thirteen NCAA Division I National Men’s Swimming and Diving Championships, and has claimed more titles in men’s and women’s sports than any other school in the Big 12 since the league was founded in 1996.

Later in the afternoon, we’ll visit the State Capitol of Texas for a **tour**.



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**Texas State Capitol** - The Texas State Capitol is the capitol building and Texas seat of government. Located in downtown Austin, the structure houses the offices and chambers of the Texas Legislature and of the Governor of Texas. Designed in 1881 by architect Elijah E. Myers, it was constructed from 1882 to 1888 under the direction of civil engineer Reuben Lindsay Walker. A \$75 million underground extension was completed in 1993. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1986. The Texas State Capitol is 302.64 feet (92.24 m) tall,

making it the sixth-tallest state capitol and one of several taller than the United States Capitol. The capitol was ranked 92nd in the 2007 "America's Favorite Architecture" poll commissioned by the American Institute of Architects.

After, we'll check in to our hotel and then it's off to Sixth Street for dinner and fun!



**Sixth Street** - is a historic street and entertainment district located within the city's urban core. The nine-block area of East Sixth Street is recognized as the Sixth Street Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Developed as one of Austin's trade and commercial districts in the late 1800s, the predominant building style are two- or three-story masonry Victorian commercial architecture. The area around nearby 4th Street and 6th Street has been a major entertainment district since the 1970s. Many clubs, music venues, and shopping destinations are located here and many offer live music. East Sixth Street (known locally as Dirty Sixth) plays host to a wide variety of events each year, ranging from music and film festivals (such as South by Southwest) to biker rallies (such as The Republic of Texas Biker Rally) and the Pecan Street Festival.

After dinner and cruising the streets, we will head back to the hotel for R & R!

**Day 10**

*Breakfast (dependent upon flight time)*

Good morning Austin! This morning we'll start to say goodbye to stunning South Texas. We will wave to our new friends as we leave for the airport and hopefully, take away memories that will last a lifetime.



Hammock Expeditions, LLC  
 North Carolina, USA  
 P: 984.223.9866  
[www.STEMstudytours.com](http://www.STEMstudytours.com)  
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# TEXAS SPACE STEM + SAN ANTONIO & AUSTIN

## **Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

Ages 15 - 18

Please let us know if under 20 pupils and we may be able to make special considerations for your group. An independent program is available for students ages 11 – 14 although it requires a “group” booking. If you are planning on bringing of mix of age ranges, please ensure you have minimum numbers for each program.

## **What’s Included:**

Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers

9-nights’ accommodation: 6-nights Houston, 2-nights San Antonio,  
1-night Austin

Breakfasts, lunches & dinners while in Houston, starting on Day 2 and  
ending on Day 7

Breakfasts & dinners while in San Antonio & Austin starting with  
dinner on Day 7 and ending with breakfast on Day 10

Lunch at Mi Tierras in San Antonio

Airport transfers and transportation as shown on itinerary

5-Day NASA Johnson Space Center Master Class Series at Space Center  
Houston with programming as shown in Itinerary

Graduation Brunch & Ceremony with Certificate Presentation

Houston evening entertainment program as per hotel selected

San Antonio River Walk excursion

The Alamo & Battlefield Tour

Shopping at the Mexican Mercado

The Institute of Texan Cultures excursion

University of Texas – Campus Tour

Texas State Capitol – Building Tour

Austin’s 6<sup>th</sup> Street excursion

Personal Tour Ambassador

Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest

Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest

24-hour emergency cover

## **What’s Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)

Transfers to/from home airport

Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary

Cinema ticketing

Cost of visas, full or collective passports

Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel

Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary

Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation  
charges, purchases billed to room, etc

Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, area guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.  
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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