

WIRELESS HOTSPOTS IN KATY

The Perfect Places to Log On and Relax



Anya of Cafe Europe
Old World Coffee

WRITTEN BY CATHY SZE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUZI ISSA

Everyone deserves a time to relax-- to sit down in a quiet atmosphere and just take a moment to free your mind from everything. Sometimes it's nice to find a place other than home to plug your laptop in and just work. A peaceful working environment may be hard to come by, but with only a short drive in the Katy area, there are numerous places that offer the solutions. Ranging from coffee bars, to cafés and libraries, Katy offers the opportunities to gain those moments of peace. The choices of which are almost endless.

Old World Internet

With a drive down Mason Road, escape into the tranquility within a European ambiance. Café Europe Old World Coffee transforms the ordinary coffee experience into one of elegance, sophistication, and pure relaxation. Unwind, recline, and surf the web as you are served your coffee, drink, lunch or dessert. Sit back in your leather chair and listen to the soothing sounds of smooth music while sipping on your espresso. No ordering at the

register, as in most coffee shops, but rather the waiter comes to you, providing an even more pleasurable experience. Dark hardwood floors, dim lighting, and warm golden walls complete the scene. Sometimes our demanding lives don't let us take a break at the most preferable time, but Café Europe's long hours lets us wait until we can make the time. Open until twelve in the evening on weekdays, and two in the morning on weekends, this coffee bar lends the necessary convenience. The wireless access, along with the choice of indoor or outdoor seating, allows for a more serene opportunity to reminisce upon our day, catch up on the long list of emails, or plan that long overdue family getaway.



Cafe Europe Old World Coffee offers wireless access and entertainment on Fri and Sat nights

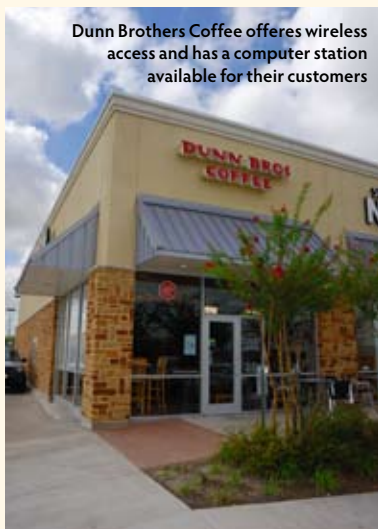
Desktops at Dunn Bros

Not in the mood for such a refined atmosphere? Head on over to Dunn Bros Coffee on South Fry Road. The cheery lighting, comfy cloth chairs, light hardwood floors, and ceiling fans, offer a cozy, homelike atmosphere. Grab your coffee and sit back in front of one of the two flat screened desktops that offer free internet access for any cus-

tomers. If you prefer, bring along your own laptop and lay back in one of the chairs in the rug meeting area centered around a warm fireplace. There's nothing better than being able to quietly work in a fun and relaxing setting, and Dunn Bros provides just that. Any overworked student or exhausted parent will gladly appreciate the luxury of free wi-fi within such a comfortable and delightful coffee house.

Starbucks Service

And then there's always the classic Starbucks. Located at the intersection of Mason and Westheimer, and on Cinco Ranch Boulevard at La Centerra, the local Starbucks in Katy are always there for us. Had a bad day? Relax around a group of familiar faces. It's such a delight to be able to curl up in a chair in the corner, sip your usual coffee, and log onto the internet amidst friendly neighborhood faces. One of the most popular



Dunn Brothers Coffee offers wireless access and has a computer station available for their customers

hangouts both for teens and adults, you're bound to see at least one Katy acquaintance during your Starbucks visit.

Lunching on Your Laptop

Without a doubt, relaxing at a local coffee shop is a great way to catch up on your email, but what if it's noon and your stomach is growling for a bit more than a cappuccino? Don't fret because Katy area lunch restaurants provide the needed wi-fi and meals when you still feel like getting out of the house. Enjoy chicken salad on an asiago cheese bagel at the family owned Bagel Café on Mason Road. Its variety of bagels, salads, and sandwiches, along with its trendy flooring and pictures, contribute to the satisfaction of a tasty meal and overall dining experience. If you're still in the mood for coffee, try one of their homemade frappes while checking up on the weather forecast for the week. Located near Sears, its friendly service and delicious food are



Bagel Cafe on Kingsland and Mason offers wireless access along with great sandwiches and bagels

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both excuses to bring in your laptop and check your email again and again.

Panera Bread off of the Katy Freeway also provides free internet access within both a bakery and café. Read the news as you munch on a fresh warm loaf of homemade bread, or send an internet greeting to a distant family member or friend. It's a great alternative to the hectic office, not to mention that both the decadent pastries and sandwiches are absolutely heavenly!

Give Your Fingers a Workout

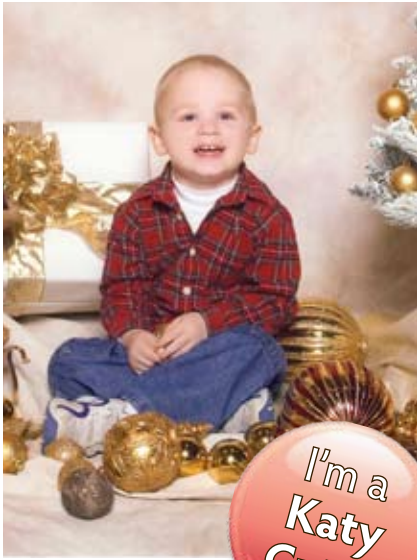
Exercise. Without a doubt is such an important part of the day, and the Katy Family YMCA lets us work up a quick sweat and also surf the web. Bring in your own laptop and cool down after your run on the treadmill. Take this time to catch up on a week's worth of letters. Perhaps you even want to log in your computer your exercise routine for the week. With the wireless convenience offered at the gym, even your fingers can get a quick workout.



Quiet Time at the Library

Nothing is better than having the world at your fingertips. Of course the internet offers almost all of it, but the Fort Bend County Library on Cinco Ranch Boulevard provides everything else. Read a novel unavailable on the web, search a reference book for anything imaginable, or bring in your child and curl up on the sofa, reading a children's fairytale. Log onto one of their numerous computers or bring in your own. Peace and quiet is the only thing you'll find here— something we all need at one time or another.

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Anjing Zhang with Daughter Kelly at Ft. Bend Library at Cinco Ranch

A Well-Deserved Break

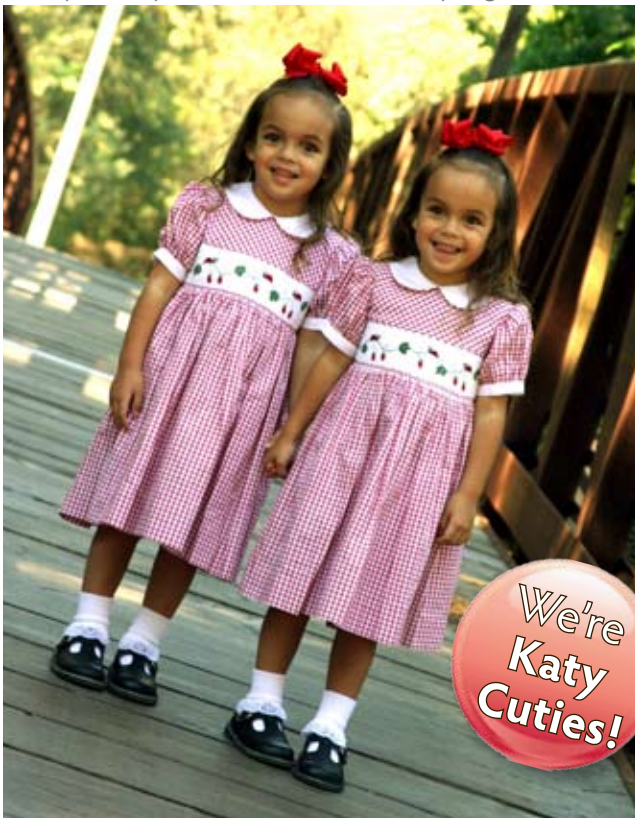
Finding the time and place to relax may be tough, but with all of the choices in Katy, there are many opportunities to settle down, take a break, and even bring along the internet with you. With all the hard work of our demanding lives, we deserve to take a break, pull up google, and maybe even shop online. The growing popularity of free wi-fi is definitely a treat one that any adult or youth is deeply thankful for! ★

Cathy Sze is a freelance writer and a senior at Cinco Ranch High School.

Home Theater & Home Audio



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