

SUMMER FUN

Katy Cutie lone is ready
for fun this summer



10 Fun Things To Do This Summer

Family Fun Activities Just Outside of Katy

Live music will be played at the Kemah Boardwalk every Thursday this summer



1 Rock the Dock at Kemah Boardwalk

The Kemah Boardwalk boasts a variety of activities fun for the whole family. Amusements at the boardwalk include rides, String Ray Reef, the Boardwalk Beast, and restaurants with outdoor seating where you can enjoy a meal by the water. Every Thursday night, enjoy live entertainment at the Rock the Dock summer concert series. Bands range from 80s music, classic rock, oldies, and current pop. Visit kemahboardwalk.com.

2 Miller Outdoor Theatre

Located in Houston, this open air theater is sure to please theater and outdoor lovers alike. Host of many well known and best loved performances, the summer schedule is filled with family favorites such as *Aladdin*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. For the complete summer schedule, visit milleroutdoortheatre.com.



The George Observatory is located in the Brazos Bend State Park

3 George Observatory

Just a short drive to the Brazos Bend State Park, The George Observatory offers stargazers the opportunity to see our galaxy up-close with its ten-ton, 36-inch Gueymard telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the country available for public viewing. The George Observatory, located in Brazos Bend State Park, is open on Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m. Visit hmns.org to learn more about the observatory, or call 281-242-3055.

4 The Oil Ranch

Pack a picnic lunch and take the whole family out to the Oil Ranch in Hockley. Visit the dairy barn and learn to milk a cow, see the baby animals, play around in the Indian village, take a train or hay ride, and kids 13 and under can enjoy a pony ride. Swimming, miniature golf, basketball, and a playground, among many other activities, are also available. Visit oilranch.com for admission prices and ranch hours.

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5 Noah's Ark Pool

The little ones in your family will love this wonderful wading pool, complete with an ark waterslide and water-spraying animals. Located at Westpark and the Sam Houston Tollway, Noah's Ark is one of the many family fun recreational venues offered at The Quillian Recreation Center. Part of the First Methodist Houston, the center is open to the general public and provides facilities which include two lighted softball fields, an open air pavilion, soccer fields, a 400-meter fitness trail, playgrounds, and a 25-meter pool. For all the Center's attractions, visit fmhouston.com/quillian/quillian.aspx.

6 Houston International Jazz Festival

The 19th Annual Houston International Jazz Festival celebrates American jazz with performances by local, regional, national, and international jazz performers. This year's festival will be held at the Discovery Green Park in Downtown Houston from July 31 to August 2. Since 1990 the festival has become a primary fundraiser for Jazz Education, Inc., with all proceeds from the festival going toward funding their education programs. Call 713-839-7000 for more information, or visit jazzeducation.org.



Noah's Ark Pool is just one of the many fun activities for families at the Quillian Recreation Center

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7 Moody Gardens Theme Park

Located on Galveston Island about an hour and a half from Katy, Moody Gardens is a theme park and resort hotel that has something for everyone. Start at stepping into Dinosaurs Alive! Kids and parents will enjoy walking around the Jurassic Jungle amid 20 enormous dinosaurs with lifelike movements and sounds. Next, see sharks, sea turtles, eels, and thousands of tropical fish in at their Aquarium Pyramid. Moody Gardens also has a lush Rainforest with 2,000 species of exotic plants, tropical trees, and macaws galore. Guests will also enjoy a 45-minute paddle boat cruise around Offats Bayou. Stay the night or just visit for the day. Go to moodygardens.com for more information.

8 The Great Texas Mosquito Festival

About 55 miles southeast of Houston, the Great Texas Mosquito Festival is scheduled to take place in Clute from July 23 through 25. Started to promote tourism to area, the festival now attracts some 18,000 visitors. This three-day event is filled with fun for the whole family and includes outrageous events such as doubles horseshoe pitching, doubles washer pitching, a mosquito calling contest, a haystack dive, and a dodge ball sting tournament, just to name a few. For more information, call 800-371-2971 or visit mosquitofestival.com.



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9 Houston Shakespeare Festival

Now in its 35th season, The Houston Shakespeare Festival offers free performances of two Shakespeare plays, usually one comedy and one drama. All performances are held at the Miller Outdoor Theater and begin at 8:30 p.m. This summer's plays are *Twelfth Night*, showing July 31 and August 2, 4, 6, and 8. *Pericles* will show August 1, 5, 7, and 9. Visit milleroutdoortheatre.com for instructions on how to pick up your free tickets, or call 281-Free-Fun.

10 The Cockrell Butterfly Center

Part of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, this living exhibit showcases hundreds of live butterflies in their own naturalistic setting. While in the center, visitors can see up to 50 different species of these beautiful creatures flying through the air, sipping fruit juice from flowers, and possibly landing on their shoulders. Visit hmns.org. **KM**



The Great Texas Mosquito Festival takes place every summer in Clute



The Cockrell Butterfly Center is part of the Houston Museum of Natural Science

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