

Field Trip FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions - All Trips

When can I register for a trip?

Typically, registration opens 3 to 4 weeks into the semester. You can register at any time after the link becomes active.

Does it cost anything?

No, the cost of field trips we offer are covered by your course fees. However, you may want to purchase food for the Central TX and Galveston trips if you don't bring your own supplies and if the trips allows for supply stops. This information will be communicated after you register for the trip.

Do I get extra credit?

Extra credit is up to each instructor. Consult with them or your syllabus.

Can I just show up to attend any trip?

We do allow walk-ons if there is room, but there is no guarantee space will be available. Those that register (and confirm their registration for bus trips) get priority for space on any trip.

What if all the trips are full or I cannot go because my schedule won't allow it?

We do offer virtual versions of our off-campus trips to Central TX and Galveston. You will have to consult with your instructor to see if you can earn extra credit for completing these virtual versions. Similarly, some instructors will allow you to go to the museum on your own and write up a report about the geology related exhibits. Again, consult with your instructor about other opportunities.

Is there a waiting list?

All trips have a waiting list when the maximum number of registrants is reached. If you are on the waiting list, you will be notified by email if a spot becomes available in the order in which you signed up. Often, we do not get cancellations until close to the trip day, so pay attention to your email and you might get a late notification that there is space available.

On Campus Building Stone Trips

How long do these last?

About one hour.

Where do we meet?

In the lobby of Science and Research 1 (S&R 1 - building 550 on the campus map) near the elevators.

Will the trip be held if it is raining?

Your TA will always be in the lobby to let you know if the trip will be held. We try to go rain or shine. Sometimes, if there is a thunderstorm or heavy rain, the trip can be rescheduled for the next week.

Museum Trips

Where do we meet?

We meet at the museum in the main lobby in front of the ticket counters. You are responsible for getting yourself there by car or bus or going with a friend. Detailed instructions will be emailed to you before the trip. The trip leader will acquire tickets for the group.

How long do these last?

About 2 ½ to 3 hours.

What exhibits do we see?

The tours visit the mineral, fossil, and energy halls. We do not visit Imax movies, butterfly hall, planetarium or any special exhibits. If you show up late, check the mineral hall for the group as this is typically the first hall we go to.

Can I bring a friend, family member, child, etc.?

Generally, it's okay to bring someone with you to the museum tours, but it is up to the field trip leader. Most will allow someone to accompany you, so long as they are not

going to interfere or be distracting. This is usually arranged when you get to the museum.

Off-Campus Field Trips

Why does my registration say pending?

In order to get an accurate count of the number of students, we ask all students to confirm their participation two weeks before the trip. So, until you confirm your participation, your registration will be pending. You cannot confirm earlier than two weeks.

If I do not confirm my registration or if my registration is canceled, can I still attend?

We do allow walk-ons if there is room, but there is no guarantee space will be available. Those that register (and confirm their registration for bus trips) get priority for space on any trip.

Can I drive myself and meet the trip at its first stop?

No, UH liability insurance will not allow us to have you drive on your own.

Can I be picked up at the last stop?

No, students must get on and off the bus at UH.

Can I bring a friend, family member, child, etc.?

No. Only students registered for GEOL 1330 Physical Geology and GEOL 1130 Physical Geology Lab.

Do you provide food?

No, you are responsible for your own food.

On the Central Texas trips, we will stop at places to get food or you can bring your own. On the Galveston trips, typically you will need to bring your own lunch.

Do I need any special equipment?

No, but be prepared for the weather. If it is cold or rainy, you still have to get off the bus and look at the rocks and/or beaches.

Can I wear flips flops or sandals?

No, all of the trips require some walking over rough terrain. Please wear sneakers or lightweight trail shoes.

Where do we meet?

The bus will be at the circular drive behind S&R 1 (building 550 on the [campus map](#)) that is on Entrance 14 Rd. off of Cullen Blvd. Generally, you may park anywhere on campus on Saturdays except when there is a football game. If there is a football game, we will meet at Entrance 1 by the Campus Rec Center (building 522 on the [campus map](#)).

What time does the bus leave?

Typically, the bus will depart at 6:00am for Central Texas trips and at 8:00am for Galveston and Houston area trips; check the email for your trip to confirm. Whatever time is listed is the departure time. Be there 15 minutes early or you will be considered late.