

TRAVEL TRADE UPDATE | VISIT GALVESTON

GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS

Nestled on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, **Galveston Island** is a charming southern retreat accessible from Houston's two international airports, Hobby Airport (HOU) at 38 miles and Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) at 69 miles nearby. Founded in 1839 and immersed in early **Texas history**, the island is adorned with elegant Victorian architecture, tall palm trees and 100-year-old live oaks, boasting a rich tapestry of storied **seaside culture**.

Visitors can explore unique museums, local art galleries and **nature preserves**, while indulging in pirate lore and ghostly local legends that add to this coastal town's allure. Galveston's relaxed vibes start with its **32 miles of beaches** and continues in its world class attractions, museums, walkable historic downtown district, **luxury hotels** and spas and **family-friendly** adventures.

For thrill-seekers the **Galveston Historic Pleasure Pier** beckons with midway attractions and nearby waterparks are the perfect place to make a splash. **Moody Gardens** offers visitors the opportunity to take in the wonders of the tropical rainforest and aquarium pyramids or enjoy the salt air aboard the **Colonel Paddlewheel Boat**. As the nation's **fourth-busiest cruise port**, Galveston Island also serves as an ideal pre- and post-cruise destination, promising unforgettable experiences for every interest.

WHAT'S NEW

- Royal Caribbean unveils \$125 million cruise terminal at the Port of Galveston, the 4th-busiest cruise port in the U.S.
- **Hotel Lucine**: New full-service, 1960's beachside midcentury marvel
- **The Mansard House**: An adults-only retreat, renovated by Ashley and Michael Cordray from the popular on-island renovation series *Restoring Galveston* on Magnolia Network.
- Major renovations at historic hotels: **Grand Galvez** beachfront resort and **The Tremont House** in the Historic Downtown District both underwent major renovations and are now Marriott Autograph Collection properties.
- Eco-Tourism: **Galveston Island State Park** reopens after extensive \$10 million redevelopment, adding additional **hiking trails**, observation towers, boardwalks, **kayak** launch points, group pavilions and more.

COMING SOON

- **MSC Cruises** breaks ground on all-new \$150 million terminal at **Galveston Wharves** – cruises to set sail November 2025.





Moody Gardens



Pineapple Parlor



Bishop's Palace



The Bryan Museum



Trolley



Birding Paradise

THINGS TO DO

Average Stay: 3 Nights

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATTRACTIONS

- Seek thrills and amusements at the **Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier** midway and **Schlitterbahn Waterpark**.
- Discover 242 acres of nature, **marine life** and world class accommodations at **Moody Gardens**.
- Hop aboard the U.S.'s only immersive **Rainforest Café** river adventure ride boating experience.
- Try hands-on learning at **20+ island museums**, including the **Galveston Children's Museum**.

CULINARY ADVENTURE

- Dive into Galveston Island's culinary landscape, featuring **fresh seafood**, Tex-Mex fare, southern comfort food and beyond.
- Experience **waterfront dining** with picturesque waterfront views of the Gulf of Mexico and **Galveston Historic Harbor**.
- Sample local specialties, like seafood gumbo, seafood boils and popular Gulf oysters.
- Indulge in craft cocktails and sweet treats at the island's newest culinary spots: **The Fancy**, **Sugar & Rye**, **MarMo Café & Lounge** and **Vida Agave**.

HISTORICAL TREASURES

- Discover the island's stunning **architectural heritage**, from **Victorian mansions** and historic cemetery and **ghost tours** to historic homes like 1892 **Bishop's Palace** and **Moody Mansion**.
- Explore historic museums like the **Galveston Naval Museum**, **The Bryan Museum**, **Galveston Historic Seaport Museum** featuring the 1877 Tall Ship **ELISSA** and more.

LIVE MUSIC & THEMED ENTERTAINMENT

- Beach cowboys, hold on tight for mechanical bull riding and country western dancing at **Buckshot Saloon**.
- Cast away to **Pineapple Parlor**, the tiki speakeasy serving up exotic cocktails with whimsical island vibes.
- Sing along at **23rd St. Piano Bar** and get into the groove with live jazz at **The Steakhouse at The San Luis Resort**.

ARTS & CULTURE

- Discover the island's vibrant arts community through **galleries**, **museums** and live-entertainment venues.
- View local and regional artists' contemporary work at **Galveston Arts Center**.
- Stroll the many art galleries of **Postoffice Street** in charming downtown.
- Catch live performances and **music festivals** showcasing diverse talents at **The Grand 1894 Opera House** and **Island East-End Theatre Company**.

BEACH GETAWAYS

- Relax on Galveston's beautiful 32 miles of beaches, featuring warm Gulf waters with soft sand and rolling waves.
- Engage in **watersport activities** like **surfing**, **stand-up paddleboarding (SUP)** and **kayaking**. Enjoy many beachfront amenities, including **beachside dining**, live music and beach volleyball.
- Take in stunning **waterfront sunsets** and create lasting coastal memories.

NATURE & WILDLIFE

- Experience the island's **diverse ecosystem**, including marshes, wetlands and coastal prairies.
- Spot migratory birds, dolphins, fish and many other wildlife by boat with a guided eco-tour from **Artist Boat**.
- Book a **private fishing charter** to catch local Texas red snapper and tuna.
- Cruise Galveston Historic Harbor with **Baywatch Dolphin Tours** and discover the marine life native to **Southeast Texas**.

FROM GALVESTON ISLAND:

Houston 53 miles	Austin 216 miles	San Antonio 250 miles	Dallas 289 miles	Fort Worth 312 miles	New Orleans 369 miles
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LET'S CRUISE – PORT OF GALVESTON

- Galveston Island is home to the fourth-busiest cruise port in the United States, including six cruise lines: **Royal Caribbean**, **Norwegian**, **Disney**, **Princess**, **Carnival**, **MSC Cruises** (sailing November 2025) and **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** (sailing 2026)
- Royal Caribbean's new \$125 million terminal is home to some of the largest cruise ships in the cruise line's fleet. **Carnival Cruise Lines'** newest new-build ship in the fleet, Excel-class *Jubilee*, set sail from Galveston in December 2023.
- Avoid traffic delays and extend your cruise vacation by **arriving early – or staying late**. Take time to discover Galveston's beautiful natural resources, rich history and delectable fresh gulf seafood. The cruise terminal is just steps away from Galveston's **Historic Downtown District**.



LUXURY TRAVEL

- Upscale **AAA-rated hotels**, including **Grand Galvez Hotel & Spa**, **The San Luis Resort**, **Moody Gardens Hotel** and **The Tremont House**. MICHELIN Key-awarded **Carr Mansion** takes the prize as bed and breakfast extraordinaire.
- Revel in luxury in one-of-five 800 square foot private bungalows at **The Villas** at the iconic San Luis Resort. Guests have the option to upgrade their travel arrangements and arrive via luxury helicopter, limousine or Bentley.
- Unwind at the luxurious **Grand Galvez Hotel and Spa** with a poolside cabana, spa treatments or lavish Sunday brunch.
- Galveston Island has more than 4,000 **vacation rentals** to choose from, including **multi-million-dollar homes** featuring beachfront views, sparkling swimming pools and gourmet kitchens with **private chefs** by request.



ARToberFEST



Dickens on The Strand



Mardi Gras! Galveston

ANNUAL EVENTS

SPRING

March - May

- The Grand Kids Festival
- FeatherFest Birding and Nature Photography Festival
- Galveston Steampunk Festival
- RailFest: Model Train Rally
- Historic Homes Tour

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

High 75° F | Low 65° F

SUMMER

June - August

- Sandcastle Lessons
- Galveston Island Revue Weekend
- Juneteenth Celebrations
- World Ocean Day
- July 4th Festivities

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

High 85° F | Low 79° F

FALL

September - November

- Galveston Island Wine Festival
- AIA Sandcastle Competition
- Island Oktoberfest
- ARToberFEST
- Galveston Island Shrimp Festival
- Lone Star Motorcycle Rally

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

High 78° F | Low 67° F

WINTER

December - February

- Holiday in the Gardens
- The Polar Express Train Ride
- Dickens on The Strand
- Holiday Performances at The Grand 1894 Opera House
- Galveston Museum Day
- Mardi Gras! Galveston

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

High 62° F | Low 50° F

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

TOP INTERNATIONAL MARKETS: CANADA, MEXICO & U.K.

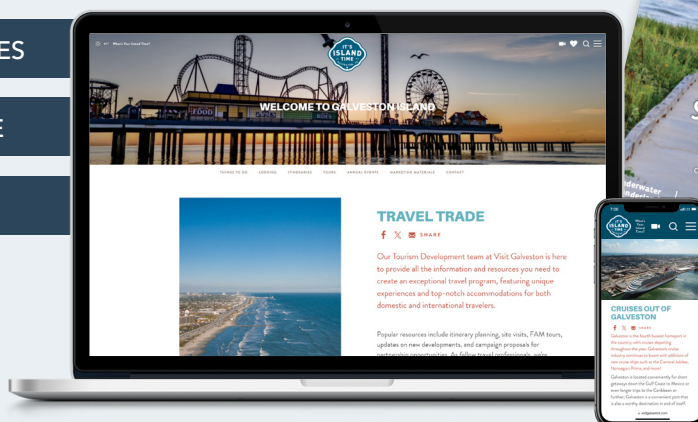
MARKETING TOOLS (IMAGE & VIDEO LIBRARY)

SPEAKING POINTS FOR TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

GROUP WELCOME AMENITIES

STEP-ON GUIDES AVAILABLE

ITINERARY PLANNING



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