

# **Galveston Cruise Departure Guide**

## **Everything You Need to Know Before You Sail**

Galveston has become one of the fastest-growing cruise ports in North America. Located on the Texas Gulf Coast, this historic island city combines beautiful beaches, Victorian architecture, family attractions, and a convenient cruise terminal that serves millions of passengers each year.

Whether you're driving in from Texas or flying from across the country, Galveston is an easy and exciting place to begin your cruise vacation. Arriving a day early gives you time to experience the island's charm while reducing the stress of embarkation day.

### **About the Port of Galveston**



The **Port of Galveston** is located on the island's historic waterfront and is one of the busiest cruise ports in the United States.

Passengers enjoy:

- Modern cruise terminals
- Easy highway access
- Convenient parking
- Hotels within minutes
- Walkable historic downtown
- Numerous restaurants and attractions

Galveston's cruise terminals continue to expand as more cruise lines bring newer and larger ships to the port.

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# Cruise Lines Sailing from Galveston

Galveston offers one of the widest selections of cruise lines outside of Florida.

Popular cruise lines include:

- Carnival Cruise Line
- Royal Caribbean International
- Norwegian Cruise Line
- Disney Cruise Line
- MSC Cruises
- Princess Cruises (seasonal)

Popular itineraries include:

- Western Caribbean
- Eastern Caribbean
- Bahamas
- Mexico
- Panama Canal (select sailings)

Common ports of call include:

- Cozumel
- Costa Maya
- Roatán
- Belize City
- Harvest Caye
- Grand Cayman
- Progreso
- Nassau (longer itineraries)

Cruise schedules and ships change periodically, so always verify your sailing information before traveling.



## Getting to Galveston

### Driving

Galveston is easily accessible via:

- I-45
- Highway 87 (via ferry from the Bolivar Peninsula)

Approximate driving times:

- Houston – 1 hour
  - Austin – 3½ hours
  - Dallas – 5 hours
  - San Antonio – 4 hours
  - Baton Rouge – 4½ hours
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## Flying

Most visitors fly into:

### **William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)**

Approximately **45–60 minutes** from the cruise terminals.

### **George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)**

Approximately **75–90 minutes** from the cruise terminals.

Both airports are served by major domestic and international airlines.

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## Transportation Options

Getting from the airport to Galveston is easy.

Options include:

- Cruise line transfers
- Galveston Express
- Island Breeze Shuttle
- Uber
- Lyft
- Taxi
- Private transportation services

Many hotels also offer shuttle packages.

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## **P** Cruise Parking

Galveston offers several parking options.

Choices include:

- Official Port of Galveston parking
- Covered parking garages

- Economy parking lots
- Valet parking (select providers)

Many off-site parking companies include:

- Shuttle service
- Luggage assistance
- Covered parking
- Security monitoring

Reserve parking early during peak travel seasons.

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## Hotels Near the Cruise Port

Popular cruise hotels include:

### Near the Cruise Port

- Harbor House Hotel
- The Tremont House
- Hotel Lucine
- Holiday Inn Express Galveston

### Seawall Area

- Hilton Galveston Island Resort
- Holiday Inn Resort Galveston
- Best Western Plus Seawall Inn

### Resort Hotels

- Moody Gardens Hotel

Many hotels offer:

- Cruise parking packages
- Shuttle transportation
- Park-and-cruise specials

Always verify shuttle schedules before booking.

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## Where to Eat Before Your Cruise

Galveston is famous for fresh Gulf seafood and Texas flavors.

Popular restaurants include:

- Gaido's Seafood Restaurant

- Fisherman's Wharf
- The Spot
- Shark Shack Beach Bar & Grill
- Miller's Seawall Grill
- Katie's Seafood House
- Rudy & Paco Restaurant

Don't miss:

- Fresh Gulf shrimp
- Oysters
- Texas barbecue
- Gulf red snapper
- Key lime pie

## Things to Do Before Your Cruise



### **Historic Strand District**

Browse boutiques, restaurants, museums, and historic Victorian buildings.

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### **Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier**

A waterfront amusement park featuring rides, games, restaurants, and spectacular Gulf views.

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### **Moody Gardens**

One of Texas' premier attractions featuring:

- Aquarium Pyramid
  - Rainforest Pyramid
  - Discovery Museum
  - 3D Theater
  - Paddlewheel boat cruises
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## Galveston Beaches

Relax before your cruise at:

- Stewart Beach
  - East Beach
  - Seawall Beach
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## Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum

A fascinating look at the history of offshore oil exploration in the Gulf of Mexico.

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## Bishop's Palace

One of America's finest Victorian homes.

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# Weather Throughout the Year

### Winter (Dec–Feb)

- Highs: 60–68°F
- Mild weather
- Cool evenings

### Spring (Mar–May)

- Highs: 70–84°F
- Pleasant temperatures
- Excellent beach weather

### Summer (Jun–Aug)

- Highs: 88–93°F
- Hot and humid
- Afternoon thunderstorms possible

### Fall (Sep–Nov)

- Highs: 72–86°F
  - Warm temperatures
  - Lower humidity later in the season
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## Hurricane Season

Hurricane season officially runs:

**June 1 – November 30**

Because Galveston is located on the Gulf Coast, tropical weather can occasionally impact cruise schedules during late summer and early fall.

Cruise lines closely monitor weather conditions and may adjust itineraries for passenger safety.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended during hurricane season.

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## Embarkation Day Tips

Before heading to the terminal, make sure you have:

- ✓ Passport or approved identification
- ✓ Boarding documents
- ✓ Cruise luggage tags
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Carry-on essentials
- ✓ Travel insurance information

Plan to arrive during your assigned boarding window and allow extra time during busy holiday or summer sailings.

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## Premium Travel Group Tip

Galveston is one of our favorite departure ports because it offers the perfect combination of convenience and vacation atmosphere. Spend a day exploring The Strand, enjoying fresh Gulf seafood, or relaxing on the beach before you board your ship. Starting your cruise with a night on the island makes embarkation day much more enjoyable and stress-free.

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## **Continue Planning Your Cruise**

Continue preparing for your vacation with our helpful guides:

- [Vacation Packing Guide](#)
- [Caribbean Vacation Planning Guide](#)
- [Western Caribbean Vacation Guide](#)
- [When to Visit the Caribbean](#)
- [Cruise Port Guides](#)
- [Cruise Departure Guides](#)