

# Everything you need to know about cruising from GALVESTON



## PORT OF GALVESTON

The Port of Galveston is located on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, on the north side of Galveston Island, with some facilities on Pelican Island. The port has facilities to handle all types of cargo including containers, dry and liquid bulk, breakbulk, Roll-on/roll-off, refrigerated cargo and project cargoes. The port also serves as a passenger cruise ship terminal for cruise ships operating in the Caribbean. The terminal is home port to Carnival Cruise Lines vessels, the Carnival Freedom, Carnival Magic (until April 2016), Carnival Triumph (until April 2016), Carnival Liberty (from March 2016) and the Carnival Breeze (from May 2016). Carnival Breeze is currently Carnival Cruise Lines largest cruise ship and will assume Carnival Magic's year-round schedule of seven-day day Galveston cruises beginning May 2016. Carnival Breeze will depart every Sunday on three different week-long itineraries: western Caribbean cruises calling at either Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, or Belize, Mahogany Bay (Isla Roatan) and Cozumel, and a seven-day Bahamas/Florida route with stops in Nassau, Freeport, and Key West.

- The port is approximately 78 miles from Houston International Airport.
- Carnival offers transfers from airport to port terminal for approx. US\$45 one way.
- Carnival Cruise Lines currently have three ships cruising from Galveston with Western, Eastern and Southern Caribbean itineraries available.
- Belize, Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios are just some of the islands and ports that can be reached on a range of 4, 5, 7 & 8 day itineraries available roundtrip from Galveston.
- One way itineraries also available to Miami, Port Canaveral and San Juan. These itineraries are called Carnival Journeys and range from 10 to 12 nights, departing in January and March 2016.

## TRAVEL INFO

- If arriving on the same day as the cruise, the latest flight arrival time into Houston is 1:00pm to allow enough time for transfer to the ship.
- On debarkation day, the earliest flight out of Houston airport should be 1:30pm.
- The Port of Galveston comprises two cruise terminals on Harbourside Drive, close to its intersection with 25th Street. Carnival Cruise Line dock near the thick of it all (at Terminal 1).
- Get ready for a bit of Texas heat in summertime, when highs usually hang around the high 20°s or low 30°s. Winters are cool and pleasant, with temperatures around 10° to 15°C.
- More information on Galveston itself can be found at <http://www.cityofgalveston.org/>
- New Zealand GSA for Carnival Cruise Lines is Francis Travel Marketing. Contact: 09 4442298 | [reservations@ftmcruise.co.nz](mailto:reservations@ftmcruise.co.nz)

## EXPLORING GALVESTON

Set sail from a historic jewel in the Gulf of Mexico on Carnival cruises from Galveston, Texas. Perched on the Gulf Coast, Galveston was a major commercial port in the late 1800s and has the restored architecture and proud history to show for it. Sprinkle in a few museums, amusement parks, attractive beaches, and tasty seafood restaurants, and you've got a great start to your cruise.

- Bike the length of the mural-adorned Seawall.
- Shop for antiques in the historic Strand District, near where Carnival cruises dock.
- Take flight in a B-17 bomber at the Lone Star Flight Museum.
- Hear the sounds of a Central American rainforest at Moody Gardens.
- Wrap yourself in luxury at the Hotel Galvez spa.

## LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Before the cruise departs from Galveston, we recommend soaking up some of the history of this Gulf of Mexico resort island and port. The Victorian-era Hotel Galvez and Bishop's Palace provide a taste of old Galveston's heyday as an island getaway for mainland Texans. A long Seawall stretches from beach to beach and offers gulf views the whole way.

- Hit the Gulf of Mexico's beaches, with their warm water and soft sand.
- Explore the decks of an offshore oil rig, the Ocean Star.
- See the fighter planes and military vehicles of the Lone Star Flight Museum.
- Encounter otters, penguins, and other sea creatures at Moody Gardens' aquarium.
- Enjoy a leisurely stroll through Galveston's historic neighbourhoods.

## WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

Climb aboard the tall ship Elissa at the Texas Seaport Museum, in the harbour near where cruises from Galveston depart. This 1877 vessel remains seaworthy and in great condition, photos and videos recount the boat's salvation and restoration. Next door is the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum, housed in a floating jack-up rig, with displays and exhibits on the science and history of offshore oil drilling.

Around the Port area take in the 19th-century elegance of the East End Historic District, filled with gracious Greek Revival homes with ornate railings and balconies. Tour the turreted, castle-like Bishop's Palace, a home built of mahogany and rosewood, stained glass framing the giant staircase, a testament to the life of luxury. Another atmospheric island neighbourhood is the Strand District, Galveston's old business centre of preserved iron-front Victorians. Admire the graceful buildings and homes on a slow-paced horse and carriage ride through the neighbourhood. Art galleries and antique shops line the historic streets of the Strand District. On the Gulf of Mexico side, the 100-year-old grand Hotel Galvez harks back to Galveston's genteel days. In the airy lobby, turn your gaze up to the stencilled ceiling in the loggia, before indulging in a luxurious spa treatment.

## BEYOND THE PORT AREA

Situated right by the Galveston airport are two theme parks. The Schlitterbahn Galveston Water Park has twisting tunnel tubes and free-falling tower slides, a relaxing tropical-style beach and sprawling hot tub. At neighbouring Moody Gardens, roam through a recreated tropical rainforest, get up close with sharks and penguins, board a paddlewheeler or play a round of golf at a waterside course. For a one-of-a-kind thrill, ride in a real WWII B-17 bomber or an open-cockpit biplane at the Lone Star Flight Museum, and admire the prop planes, fighter craft, and aviation memorabilia.

## DINING AND NIGHTLIFE IN GALVESTON

The Texas Gulf Coast cuisine is all about seafood—and lots of it. Dig into snapper, pompano, shrimp, oysters, and more at local favourites like Gaido's and Saltwater Grill, or opt for straightforward fried fare at Shrimp'n'Stuff. Come nightfall, catch a musical performance on the lavish stage of the Grand 1894 Opera House, the star attraction of the Strand District.

## FUN FACTS

- Galveston, Texas is actually a barrier reef island and is only a few miles wide.
- Along the 10-mile Seawall is a series of painted murals, many of which were done by grade school students, allowing Galveston to claim the mantle of the "world's longest mural."
- Galveston ranked as second only to Ellis Island as a late 19th-century immigrant station, processing around 150,000 new arrivals over a 100 year period.