



GALVESTON NATURE TOURISM ITINERARY

East End Lagoon

If you're a birder, nature enthusiast or just seeking a peaceful experience surrounded by nature, Galveston's East End Lagoon is a must-see. When conditions are right, you can witness a wide variety of birds without even leaving the car. Discover the beauty of the many avian species that call Galveston home including cormorants, egrets, herons, ibises and black skimmers. To take full advantage of the East End Lagoon's serene beauty, plan on spending at least an hour.

Artist Boat Kayak Adventure at Settegast Coastal Heritage Preserve

Get your heart pumping and your creativity flowing while admiring Galveston's natural beauty on a kayak tour offered by Artist Boat. During this tour, Artist Boat will lead you on an adventure through Galveston's Coastal Heritage Preserve — a 364-acre conservation area on the island's west end. You will also learn to paint a watercolor picture of the beauty before you. Artist Boat promotes awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts. Two- and four-hour kayak tours are offered by Artist Boat.



Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve

Also located on the island's west end, Lafitte's Cove is a 35-acre nature preserve and public park offering another great spot for birding. Wander through the paved nature trail complete with markers for identifying native trees and plants. Take a break at the raised gazebo overlooking a shimmering pond where countless waterfowl can be observed. Keep cool under shaded canopies of the stately live oak trees. To experience the preserve come alive, visit during the springtime migration when hundreds of birds flock to the area. Plan on spending about two hours at Lafitte's Cove for nature exploration.

Galveston Island State Park

While you're on the west end of the island, make a stop at Galveston Island State Park— a great place for kayaking, birding and nature exploration, with access to the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston Bay. This 1,200-acre state park hosts many examples of barrier island habitats explored easily from the beach or by walking trails. The park offers free, regularly scheduled activities, including kayak tours, beach and surf explorations, bird walks, and nature field trips and fishing clinics. Visit the Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays March through November to see nature displays and videos. Spend the day at the state park or plan a weekend camping trip around its many offerings.



Fishing

For anyone seeking fresh seafood and coastal recreation, Galveston Island is the perfect fishing destination. Cast your line at any of the Seawall's two public fishing piers complete with observation decks and concessions. Or, head to Seawolf Park where you're likely to reel in trout and red fish year-round. If you're feeling ambitious, charters for one-day to three-day deep sea fishing trips are available every season of the year to reel in bigger fish including Snapper, Tuna and Shark. Head out early to witness a breathtaking island sunrise and spend the morning reeling in your lunch. Many local restaurants on the island will prepare your catch for you!

Ferry Ride + Dolphin and Bird Watch

Galveston's Bolivar Ferry is well known across the Lone Star State. Take a free cruise between Port Bolivar and Galveston for a closer look at marine birds like pelicans, seagulls and roseate spoonbills. During this voyage, you can also get a close look at graceful dolphins as they swim by. A ferry ride is approximately 20 minutes each way, so pack a snack and some binoculars for a quick, relaxing getaway on the water.

