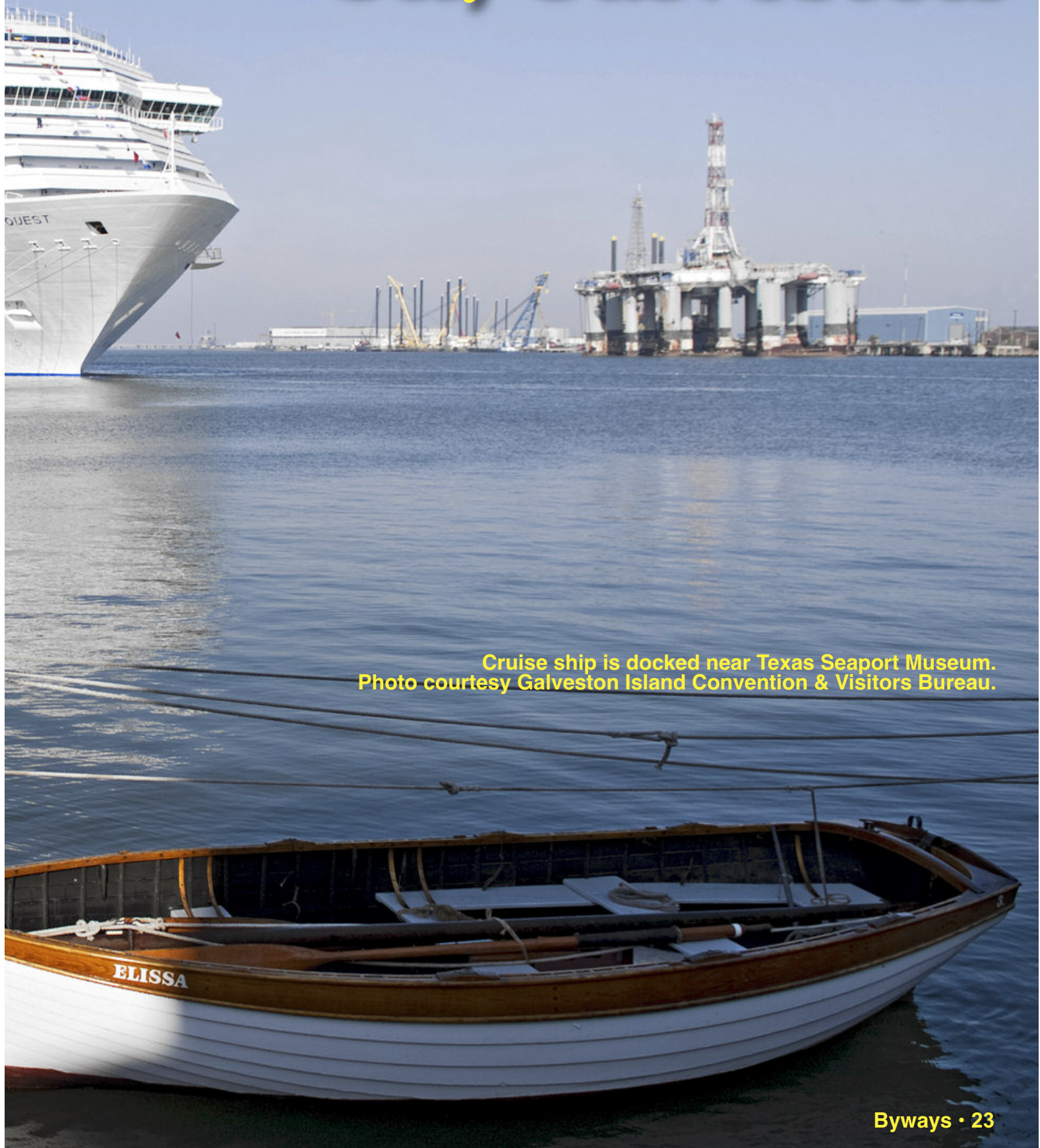






# Galveston, Oh, Galveston



Cruise ship is docked near Texas Seaport Museum.  
Photo courtesy Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau.



**Downtown Galveston Strand.**  
Photo courtesy Galveston Island CVB.



**G**alveston Island is a historic beach town located on the Gulf of Mexico just 50 miles from Houston. The island is best known as a vacation destination, offering 32 miles of beaches, a variety of family attractions, Texas' premier cruise port and one of the largest and well-preserved concentrations of Victorian architecture in the country, including several National Historic Landmarks.

The city of Galveston is situated on Galveston Island, a barrier island off the Texas Gulf coast near the mainland coast.

By the end of the 19th century, the city of Galveston had a population of 37,000. Its position on the natural harbor of Galveston Bay along the Gulf of Mexico made it the center of trade in Texas. It was one of the largest cotton ports in the nation, in competition with New Orleans. Throughout the 19th century, the port city of Galveston grew rapidly and the Strand was considered the region's primary business center.

**24 • Byways**

For a time, the Strand was known as the "Wall Street of the South".

It was devastated by the 1900 Galveston Hurricane, whose effects included flooding and a storm surge. The





natural disaster on the exposed barrier island is still ranked as the deadliest in United States history, with an estimated toll of 6,000-8,000 people.

Following the storm, a 10-mile long, 17 foot high seawall was constructed to protect the city from floods and hurricane storm surge.

Despite attempts to draw new investment to the city after the hurricane, Galveston never fully returned to its previous levels of national importance or prosperity.

Galveston's modern economy is centered in the tourism, health care, shipping, and financial industries.

Galveston is also home to six historic districts containing one of the largest and historically significant collections of 19th-century buildings with over 60 structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Strand National Historic Landmark District is mainly Victorian era buildings that have been adapted for use as restaurants, antique stores, historical exhibits, museums and art galleries. The area is a major tourist

**Mardi Gras Beachfront Parade Evening in Galveston.**  
Photo courtesy Galveston Island CVB.



attraction for the island city. It is the center for two very popular seasonal festivals. It is widely considered the island's shopping and entertainment center.

Today, "the Strand" is generally used to refer to the entire five-block business district between 20th and 25th streets in downtown Galveston, very close to the city's wharf.

**The Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum.**  
Photo courtesy Galveston Island CVB.





The Port of Galveston, also called Galveston Wharves, began as a trading post in 1825. Today, the port has grown to 850 acres of port facilities. The port 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 cargoes.

The port also serves as a passenger cruise ship terminal for cruise ships operating in the Caribbean.

In the late 1800s Galveston was known as the "Playground of the South". Today, it still retains a shared claim to the title among major cities along the Gulf Coast states.

The city's attractions include the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, Galveston Schlitterbahn waterpark, Moody Gardens botanical park, the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, the Lone Star Flight Museum, and Galveston Railroad Museum.

The Strand plays host to a yearly Mardi Gras festival, Galveston Island Jazz & Blues Festival and a Victorian-themed Christmas festival called Dickens on the Strand (honoring the works of novelist Charles Dickens, especially A Christmas Carol) in early December. Galveston is home to several historic ships: the tall ship Elissa (the official Tall Ship of Texas) at the Texas Seaport Museum and USS Cavalla and USS Stewart, both berthed at Seawolf Park on nearby Pelican Island.

Galveston is ranked the number one cruise port on the Gulf Coast and fourth in the United States.

For more on visiting Galveston, follow the link below.  
<http://www.galveston.com/socialcenter/>



**The Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier. Galveston is home to several historic ships: the tall ship Elissa. Photos courtesy Galveston Island CVB.**

