



Galveston Island, Texas: Where to Eat + Drink

Explore Galveston's Culturally Rich Cuisine

With its history as the second busiest immigration port in the U.S., Galveston is unsurprisingly a melting pot. And this pot has boiled over into the island's vibrant food scene.

Although tucked deep in the heart of south Texas, Galveston's culinary flair is influenced by nearly every part of the world. And, for lovers of fresh Gulf seafood, your taste buds will never get bored because no two restaurants prepare this island specialty the same way.



Central American – You can't visit Galveston without indulging at the award-winning [Rudy & Paco's Restaurant & Bar](#). Chef Paco Vargas, a native of Nicaragua, creates a delicious Central American twist on steak and seafood, including his signature plantain encrusted red snapper served with raspberry chipotle sauce and lump crab meat. Rudy & Paco was named one of the Top 100 Best Restaurants in America by OpenTable in 2013.

Mediterranean – The sons of Greek immigrants, Tiki and Larry Kriticos bring their secret family recipes to [Olympia The Grill at Pier 21](#), where the harbor view is unmatched. The restaurant serves traditional Greek cuisine and fresh Gulf seafood, including some of the best oysters on the island.

For another Mediterranean option, try [Mediterranean Chef](#), located on The Strand.



Italian – If you're looking for a souvenir to take home, stop by [Maceo Spice & Import Co.](#) for a special blend of spices. The Maceo family – children of Italian immigrants – has been creating its famous spice blends for decades, blending everything in-house. In addition to wonderful spice blends, Maceo makes a great Muffaletta and carries imported and specialty foods. For Italian cuisine, check out [Di Bella's Italian Restaurant](#) or [Sapori Ristorante](#).





German – The Germans certainly know food and that has been proven true by two award-winning German chefs on the island. For fine dining, locals flock to [Shearn's Seafood & Prime Steaks](#) to enjoy the signature dishes of Chef Urs Schmid, including his wonderful Shrimp De Jonghe.

For casual eats, don't miss the nutritious delights of [EatCetera](#). Chef Andrea Hunting, a nutritionist and immigrant from Germany, had a successful restaurant career in New York before coming to Galveston, where she offers a European chic ambiance and a fresh, unique take on sandwiches, paninis, salads and more. The sundried tomato spread is to die for!



Japanese – For the best Japanese food on the island, [Yamato](#) offers a unique family style dining experience where fresh sushi and hibachi are prepared right before your eyes by experienced sushi chefs. Yamato is popular for its artfully crafted sushi and entertaining atmosphere. Like soft shell crab? Reward your taste buds with Yamato's savory spider roll. For another option, try [Sky Bar Steak & Sushi](#) located downtown on Postoffice Street.



Melting Pot – One of the newest restaurants on the island, [Farley Girls Café](#), has been receiving honors since it opened its doors in September 2012, including being named "Best Sunday Brunch" in the Galveston Daily News 2013 Readers' Choice Awards. This charming eatery, located in the island's historic East End district, serves "a little bit of everything" with its eclectic menu of house made soups, salads, sandwiches,



pizzas, seafood and more. Another great spot for varied cuisine is [Nonno Tony's World Kitchen](#) located at Pier 21 or [Saltwater Grill](#), where the fried asparagus topped with lump crab meat is delicious!

California – For California vibes, try [Oasis Juice Bar](#). This green-friendly market brings health conscious convenience to Galveston with its menu of vegan and vegetarian offerings. Try the Chunky Monkey smoothie paired with the Green Peace Veggie Burger, which is ground fresh in the store and topped with cheese, avocado, green salsa, and fresh sprouts grown in the shop's hydroponic garden.



Louisiana – You can't have Louisiana as your neighbor without letting a little Creole rub off on you. [Shrimp N' Stuff](#), a favorite among locals and tourists alike, is known for the best fried shrimp Po-boys on the island. Don't let its unassuming exterior fool you ...the seafood dinners, gumbos and salads are bursting with flavor and served in generous portions. For more food with a Creole flair, try [Gumbo Bar](#) on Postoffice



Street or [Benno's](#) on Seawall Boulevard.

Texas Roots – Lovers of traditional Texas barbecue and steak won't be disappointed in Galveston. For barbecue, head to [Leon's BBQ](#) where Leon O'Neal's special sauce and slow-cook techniques have earned him the title "Dr. Bar-B-Q." And, you can't have barbecue without ending it with a scrumptious piece of pecan pie from [Gaido's Seafood Restaurant](#). Although widely known for the best seafood on the island, Gaido's best kept secret is its pecan pie, which has been named the "Best Pecan Pie in Texas" several times by Texas Monthly.



For high-quality beef, indulge at [The Steakhouse at the San Luis Resort](#). For casual eats, try [Café Michael Burger](#) on the West End and wash it down with an in-house brew from [Beerfoot Beach Bar](#). For a souvenir, stop by [Lt. Blender's Cocktails in a Bag](#) for a delicious margarita to go!



Island Style – Located in beautiful Pelican Rest Marina, [Number 13 Prime Steak & Seafood](#) boasts sweeping waterfront views on Offats Bayou. The restaurant features an upscale atmosphere in its main dining room as well as an outdoor, two-story terrace and adjacent patio – perfect for guests pulling in by boat. The menu features an attractive selection of dry-aged steak and fresh, local seafood. For more food with a view, try [The Waterman](#) overlooking Galveston Bay, [Galvez Bar & Grill](#) or [The Spot](#) along the Seawall or [The Porch Café](#), steps away from East Beach.



Sweet Treats – Galveston has no shortage of sweet treats. For fresh baked goods, visit [Sunflower Bakery & Café](#) in the charming East End Historical District or [Patty Cakes Bakery](#), whose petits fours are oh so yummy! Also check out [Hey Mikey's Ice Cream](#) and [SkyKatZ Deli & Bakery](#) as well as the classic favorite [LaKing's Confectionery](#) for old-fashioned taffy, fudge and other treats made daily in the shop.

