

A Romantic Getaway to Galveston Island

Couples seeking a romantic getaway need not look further than historic Galveston Island, located just an hour's drive from the fourth largest city in the U.S. Although easily accessible from Houston, the island is a world away in spirit, offering an enchanting escape amid one of the largest collections of well-preserved Victorian architecture in the country and 32 miles of sparkling Gulf beaches.

WHERE TO STAY

Galveston is home to a variety of romantic resorts, hotels and bed & breakfast estates perfect for lovebirds looking for a dreamy escape. If you prefer to stay at a beachfront property with sweeping views of the Gulf, book a stay at the historic Hotel Galvez & Spa, known for its grand presence and stunning Spanish-style architecture. For a luxurious stay, book the exclusive Villas at The San Luis Resort, offering beachfront views and fabulous amenities, such as a private pool area and personal butler service. For a stay amid the Victorian architecture of downtown Galveston, the boutique-style elegance of The Tremont House won't disappoint. And, to take in the charm of the island's historic neighborhoods, try a stay at a quaint bed & breakfast, such as the newly renovated Carr Mansion. For a luxurious extended stay, The Quarters feature 14 suites in both 1- and 2-bedroom options. Each suite includes king-sized beds, fully-furnished kitchens, and high-end furnishings for living and dining spaces. The rooms are located across the street from The Tremont House in the historic, 1858 Berlocher Building at 2311-2313 Ship's Mechanic Row.

WHAT TO DO

Embrace the Day with a Sunrise Picnic on the Beach

Let your hair down, kick your shoes off and share a little quiet time with your sweetheart on a sunrise picnic at the beach. Galveston Island boasts some of the most spectacular sunrises in Texas. And, with 32 miles of beaches, finding the perfect patch of sand to sink your toes in is easy to do. For a quiet oasis away from the busy Seawall, head to the island's West End. For an earthy flair, fill your picnic basket with wholesome goods from Galveston's Own Farmers Market, held year-round 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sundays at The Bryan Museum's lush gardens.

Unwind with a Couples Massage

After watching the sunrise, continue unwinding by indulging in a couples massage at one of the island's many resort spas. Let your worries drift away and experience ultimate relaxation and rejuvenation while escaping with a unique array of Asian and European massages, body scrubs, wraps, hydrotherapy baths and more. If you are staying at Hotel Galvez & Spa, The San Luis Resort or Moody Gardens Hotel, be sure to see if a spa treatment is included in your romance package.

Stroll the Streets of Historic Downtown Galveston

After a morning of relaxation, stroll hand-in-hand with your darling while exploring Galveston's charming historic downtown district. Here, majestic iron-front buildings house unique boutiques, coastal-inspired art galleries and plenty of entertainment. Couples can take a horse-drawn carriage ride throughout the district then stroll Postoffice Street for art viewing and antique shopping or catch a live show at The Grand 1894 Opera House.

Discover Galveston by Sky, Water and Land!

Sightseeing is always fun to share with your honey, but in Galveston you can get around in some unique, exciting ways. For a relaxing tour of the island by boat, couples can see Galveston Harbor up close aboard *Seagull II* on the Texas Seaport Museum's Historic Harbor Tour + Dolphin Watch. For a trip down memory lane, visit the Galveston Railroad Museum, which offers daily train rides aboard The Harborside Express. To spice things up, couples can take an exciting flight on a helicopter tour for a magnificent view of Galveston from the sky or a peaceful horseback ride on the beach. For the avid skipper, couples can learn to sail during Schooner Sundays, offered by Sea Star Base Galveston. But, if walking is more your speed, take your sweetheart on a relaxing tour of some of Galveston's iconic historic sites, such as Bishop's Palace or Moody Mansion.

Golf Date at Moody Gardens Golf Course

If you enjoy the outdoors, take your date to the green at Moody Gardens Golf Course located on the west end of the island. The course highlights its unique seaside tropical feel with 18 holes meandering through upland and lowland native areas, the natural wetland habitats of beautiful Sydnor Bayou and more than 500 palm trees. If you're not a golf pro, you can add some playful fun to your outing with a round of miniature golf at Magic Carpet Golf. The waterfront putt-putt venue offers a chance to challenge your date to an entertaining game of golf without having to keep score!

Couples Bicycle Ride through East End Historical District

Take a romantic bicycle ride through the island's picturesque East End Historical District while discovering The Galveston Tree Sculptures and Turtles About Town Art Installation. The magnificently carved sculptures were transformed from trees destroyed during Hurricane Ike and can be found nestled in the gardens and backyard areas of many restored historic mansions on the east end of the island. Also waiting to be discovered are a variety of colorful Kemp's ridley sea turtle statues nestled about the island. Turtles About Town is a public art project that showcases the conservation efforts of the Turtle Island Restoration Network. Stop by the Galveston Visitors Center located at Ashton Villa for a complimentary Tree Sculptures brochure and Turtles About Town map of all of the sculptures.

WHERE TO DRINK & DINE

Afternoon Coffee or Tea at MOD Coffeehouse

While away the afternoon with your honey over a cup of tea or coffee on the beautiful, shaded outdoor patio of MOD Coffeehouse located on Postoffice Street. MOD offers delicious fair trade coffee, espresso, lattes, freezes, chai teas, baked goods and more. Enjoy the landscaped patio or sit inside the coffeehouse in the upstairs nook for a cozy place to snuggle up and chat. Cooler evenings at MOD pair nicely with a glass of wine, a cold brew or that one last cappuccino of the day.

Take a Couples Cooking Class at Kitchen Chick

Gourmands can take matters into their own hands by partaking in a couples cooking class offered by Kitchen Chick—Downtown Galveston's only kitchen boutique! The classes are themed, taught by professional chefs and range in variety from "Sushi 101" to "Mardi Gras Cuisine." Bring your favorite wine to sip on while you learn to cook a delicious meal with your sweetheart. For details, visit www.thekitchenchick.com.

The Rooftop Bar + Tremont House Jazz

After exploring the island, share a toast with your honey while taking in the views of downtown Galveston from The Rooftop Bar. The aptly named drinkery – located atop The Tremont House hotel – offers a sophisticated, modern lounge atmosphere located four stories above street level. The Rooftop Bar offers a breathtaking view of Galveston's historic downtown and harbor. After watching the sun set on the rooftop, meander downstairs and snuggle up with your love to the sound of live jazz every Friday and Saturday, from 6 to 10 p.m. in the hotel's 1888 Toujouse Bar.

Romantic Dinner on the Water

A posh aperitif and soothing jazz set the mood perfectly for a romantic dinner with a waterfront view, and in Galveston, waterfront dining options abound from casual to upscale. A popular choice, Number 13 Prime Steak and Seafood serves up savory dishes like dry-aged steaks and fresh seafood paired nicely with a panoramic of Offats Bayou at Pelican Rest Marina. To dine like royalty among the "pyramids," impress your honey with a feast for the eyes and the palate at Shearn's Seafood and Prime Steaks. Located on the ninth floor of Moody Gardens Hotel, Shearn's upscale ambiance offers signature dishes complemented by views of the stunning Pyramids of Moody Gardens and Galveston Bay. For fine dining, also try The Steakhouse at The San Luis Resort or try Porch Café for coastal casual flair. For dinner in downtown Galveston, don't miss Rudy & Paco Restaurant – named one of the top 100 Best Restaurants in America by OpenTable.