

TRAVEL

It’s Island Time – Beat the Heat in Family Friendly Galveston

Located on an island near Houston, Galveston is the beach playground right in the backyard. Really, much of Texas runs here to catch a break from the heat and enjoy all the



Mira Temkin

fabulous isle has to offer. One thing you’ll notice about the people is their can-do attitude. When you look at their history, you’ll understand why. Galveston has been subject to the whims of Mother Nature for years. In 2006, they experienced another storm that took its toll. Instead of tearing down the damaged trees, they created lively tree sculptures all over town. You won’t have to ask if they’re natives. They’ll tell you right so they’re B.O.I. (born on the island).

Cruising...

It’s an ideal place to depart for a cruise – a little over an hour from Houston Intercontinental Airport (closer from Hobby) and there’s plenty to do before or after your cruise. Check out Royal Caribbean or Carnival and their cruise/tour packages.

Historic Downtown Galveston

The jewel of Galveston is the Strand area. Close to the Cruise Ship Terminal, the historic downtown features shops, restaurants, galleries, and museums, all within a few blocks. History buffs will enjoy the Galveston Island Railroad Museum. Ocean Star Offshore Energy Center and Museum lets you explore an offshore rig and learn how oil and gas are produced.

Be sure to see The Great Storm at Pier 21

Theater to learn more about the 1900 storm that devastated the island. Next door, you’ll find the Texas Seaport Museum, where you can look up your ancestors who entered the U.S. through Galveston. Adjacent to the museum is the 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA, one of America’s treasures.

The Grand 1894 Opera House is grand indeed, with a year-round schedule of live performances. More fun on the pier is the Bay Watch Dolphin Tour, where I spotted tons of jumping dolphins, much faster than my camera. Don’t miss La King’s Confectionery, an old-fashioned candy store.

Pirate Jean Lafitte made Galveston his home, and you’ll see references to him throughout the town. He also introduced coffee to Galveston, so I pirated my own package of Galveston Island Coffee – bold and flavorful.

Hotel Galvez – “Queen of the Gulf”

Named after the Spanish Colonial Governor Bernardo de Galvez, the hotel blends historic splendor with world-class luxury, overlooking the water. Built in 1911, the Galvez is now a Four Diamond Wyndham Hotel. I dined at the Galvez Bar & Grill by first relaxing with a cocktail, then indulging in their exquisite seafood.

Getting to Know Galveston

Reminiscent of the 1940s pleasure pier built here, today’s Pleasure Pier amusement park includes 16 rides, games and live music. Craving water fun? Head to the Schlitterbahn Waterpark with more than 35 refreshing water adventures.

At the east end of the island is Beachtown, filled with contemporary condo rentals, ideal for walking on the beach or nature preserve or kayaking. For dining, Porch Café serves



GALVESTON CONVENTION AND VISITOR’S BUREAU

The annual Harvest Moon Regatta sets sail Oct. 9 from Galveston’s Pleasure Pier.

Coastal American cuisine with al fresco dining.

I hopped aboard an open-air shuttle with Galveston Island Historic Tours. This narrated tour goes through different neighborhoods and gave me a real feel for the island.

In the distance, the Moody Gardens pyramids beckon with their exciting aquarium, tropical rainforest, waterpark, Ridefilm theaters and more. Kids will have an awesome time while learning about nature and science.

Fresh Seafood is King

Right on the water is Gaido’s Seafood Restaurant, celebrating its 103rd anniversary. An island tradition, I tried their divine Stuffed Flounder, leaving enough room for their

award-winning pecan pie. Number 13 at the Pelican Rest Marina offers casual dining with an island feel and outstanding Gulf seafood. Olympia Grill at Pier 21 serves up authentic Greek cuisine with exquisite views to match.

Family friendly and a great place to island vacation, it’s no wonder Galveston was named one of Trip Advisor’s “Top 10 Destinations on the Rise.” *Galveston.com.*

*Mira Temkin is a Highland Park-based freelance writer whose articles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Family Time Magazine and six-00-three-five magazine. She’s also a high-energy copywriter working with advertising and marketing services clients. Reach her at miratemkin@gmail.com.*

KIM’S KITCHEN

Rise and Shine this Summer with French Toast

Time to rise and shine! It’s officially summer, the kids are home from school and



Chef Kim Bisk

you might have family visiting, so I thought I’d do a really tasty breakfast dish for a change. This is a great way to feed your family, and doesn’t take long to prepare and make. Let’s face it, who doesn’t love French toast? We actually made this for a local radio personality as part of a birthday

surprise – he said it was the best he’s ever had!

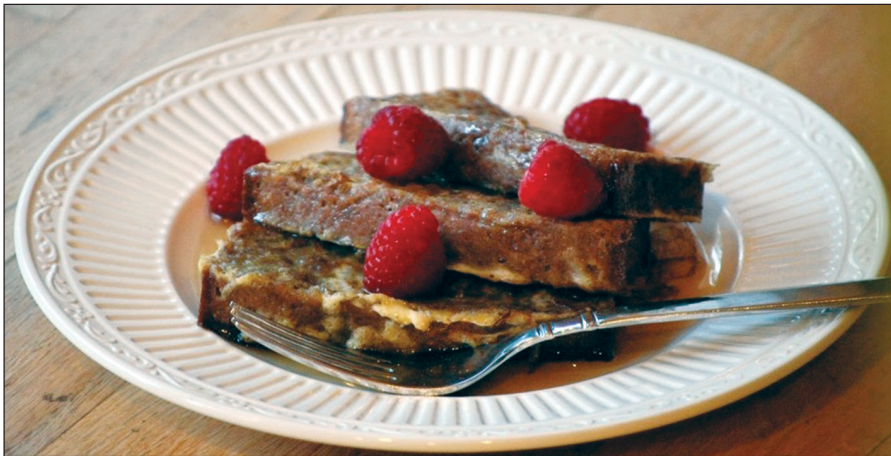
French toast

- 6 extra large whole eggs
- 1½ cups milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 8-10 slices of Hawaiian bread

- 1-2 tsp butter
- Powdered sugar
- Fresh raspberries
- Raspberry syrup

- [1] Preheat oven to 350. [2] Cut bread into one-inch slices. [3] Place bread on cookie sheet and bake for about 10 minutes, until slightly toasted. This will ensure that the bread doesn’t fall apart when you drench it in the egg mixture. [4] In a large bowl, add six eggs, milk and vanilla. Whisk together. Add sugar and cinnamon, and mix well. [5] Preheat griddle or large frying pan over a medium heat. Teflon works the best. Cover bottom of pan with butter. [6] Dip bread into egg mixture, and place in pan, flipping once until golden on both sides. [7] Top with fresh raspberries, raspberry syrup, and dust with powdered sugar.

*Chef Kim Bisk and her husband Ellory own and operate Kim & Ellory’s Kitchen, a personal chef and catering service for northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. For more, visit online at kimandellory.com.*



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