

## EXPLORING THE BEACHES AND NATURE PARKS IN THE GALVESTON AREA

### PARKS AND SANCTUARIES

**East End Lagoon Nature Preserve** – 685 acres of public land on the East End of the island will one day include miles of trails and a manned interpretive center. For now, enjoy an easy kayak paddle or watch the herons as you view the large vessels traveling the Houston Ship Channel.

**Galveston Island State Park** – Just past 13-mile Road, between Pirates Beach and Jamaica Beach on the West End of Galveston Island, this 2000-acre park extends across the island from beach to bay. The park features prairie and wetland trails, a kayak trail, and a birding tower, as well as picnic areas. 14901 FM 3005; 409.737.1222; [www.galvestonislandstatepark.org](http://www.galvestonislandstatepark.org)



*Galveston Island State Park, Bayside*

**Houston Audubon Sanctuaries** – Eight wonderful sanctuaries are located near Galveston Island, just across the ferry on the Boliver Peninsula and at High Island. Expanses of Gulf front beaches, uplands, salt marshes, and extremely productive mud flats are ideal nesting, feeding and breeding sites for hundreds of thousands of birds each year. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network designated the Bolivar Flats as a “site of hemispheric importance.” Mid-March to mid-May is the peak migration season. The rookery at High Island is a noisy nursery of adorable chicks and well-plumed adults during this time. For directions, pick up a birding map at the Galveston Visitors Center or visit [www.HoustonAudubon.org](http://www.HoustonAudubon.org).

**Kempner Park** – This lovely, little, in-town park at Avenue O and 27th Street, is only two square blocks in size, but is well worth walking or jogging around the temporary trails because of the old Live Oak trees that attract both resident and migrant birds.

**Lafitte’s Cove Nature Preserve** – A 35-acre public park located within a West End subdivision, this preserve allows you to enjoy a paved nature trail, a pond and a Live Oak canopy; great birding areas! The entrance to the preserve is on Eckert Drive, off Stewart Road near 11-mile Road.

### BIRDING AND GUIDED TOURS

**Birding 101** – Moody Gardens; 2nd Saturday of every month, from 9-11 a.m. No charge. 409.683.4101

**Birding 201** – Moody Gardens; 3rd Saturday of every month, from 9-11 a.m. By reservation only. Cost \$5. 409.683.4101

**Friends of Galveston Island State Park** – Guided walks Sunday mornings during migration seasons, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.; no charge. Meet at the park’s main office. For more information visit [fogisp.wordpress.com](http://fogisp.wordpress.com).

**Galveston FeatherFest** – An annual birding event sponsored by Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council and featuring guided tours to area sites, lectures and a birders bazaar. Mid-April. [www.GalvestonFeatherFest.com](http://www.GalvestonFeatherFest.com); 832.459.5533; [featherfest@gintc.org](mailto:featherfest@gintc.org)

**Jim Stevenson** – As the Executive Director of the Galveston Ornithological Society, Jim is a professional guide who leads visitors on area birding tours, 409.370.1515, or [galorn-soc@earthlink.net](mailto:galorn-soc@earthlink.net). Additional information can be found at [www.GalvestonBirders.org](http://www.GalvestonBirders.org).

**Dr. Richard Peak** – Richard is a professional guide who is available, on a limited basis, to lead trips to all of the Galveston birding areas, 409.744.4301; [rpeake1@hotmail.com](mailto:rpeake1@hotmail.com).

