

SEAWEED FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

- **Why is there seaweed on the beach?**

Galveston and **ALL DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE GULF COAST** are receiving a higher than normal influx of seaweed this year. Seaweed is a natural occurrence that usually washes up onshore starting in May and throughout the summer. This happens **across the entire Gulf Coast** and is a natural part of being by the sea.

- **Where are the best locations to go on the beach?**

We suggest visiting the East Beach and Stewart Beach parks located on the eastern end of the island. These parks are regularly maintained and offer a plethora of amenities. To check current beach conditions, check out our many live webcams at www.galveston.com/webcams or www.galvestonbeachinfo.com.

- **Who is responsible for dealing with the seaweed?**

The Galveston Park Board manages seaweed at the island's public beach parks, including Stewart Beach, East Beach, and parts of the Seawall beaches. Along many stretches of beach, especially on the West End, private contractors are responsible for seaweed maintenance.

- **Why is seaweed left on the beach?**

Seaweed has many environmental benefits, serving as a floating ecosystem for marine life. It also serves as a protective barrier from beach erosion. Seaweed is actually a good thing, so it is a constant balance to be environmentally responsible and still accommodate beach-goers. Rather than removing seaweed from the beach, the Galveston Park Board pushes seaweed away from the shoreline to create a path for beach-goers and to allow this important organism to decompose naturally.

- **How often do crews manage seaweed on the beach?**

The Galveston Park Board has crews working approximately 20 hours a day to maintain seaweed at public beach parks and beaches along the Seawall. Beach maintenance crews are out maintaining seaweed every night during seaweed season, usually starting around midnight and finishing up in the early morning.

- **Does seaweed impact endangered sea turtles?**

This year beach maintenance crews have seen an unprecedented number of sea turtles washing up on the beach with the seaweed. However, Galveston Park Board officials proactively hired several professional sea turtle monitors to patrol the beaches for potential sea turtle sightings in partnership with local organizations.

- **Do you have any tips for navigating our beach stay while in Galveston?**

July 4th weekend, the Galveston Park Board is sponsoring weekend beach "Bucket Brigades" where kids can join a tour led by marine biologists to learn about the environmental benefits of seaweed and how it is a habitat for marine life. Look for our beach volunteers wearing bright orange t-shirts while out on the beach or visit www.galvestonbeachinfo.com. In addition, Galveston has many world-class attractions outside the beach. [Click here](#) for a list of things to do!