



## Galveston First-Time Cruiser & Pre-Cruise Guide

*"From Bucket lists to boarding passes!"*

### 1. Flying In & Getting to Galveston from Houston Hobby (HOU)

**Flying In:** William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) is the closest and most convenient airport for Galveston cruises (approx. 40 miles / 45-50 min drive).

**Transportation Options:** Cruise line shuttle buses, private car services/shuttles (e.g., Galveston Express), or rideshares (Uber/Lyft).

### 2. Navigating Houston Traffic from Each Direction

**From North / I-45:** Take I-45 South straight through downtown Houston. Avoid rush hours (7–9 AM & 4–7 PM) or take Beltway 8 around congestion.

**From West / I-10:** Take I-10 East to I-45 South, or take Highway 6 / Grand Parkway (Toll 99) down to I-45 South to bypass central Houston.

**From East / I-10:** Take I-10 West to Beltway 8 South, connecting seamlessly to I-45 South heading toward Galveston.

### 3. Hotels with "Park & Cruise" Packages (Island & Off-Island)

**Off-Island (Texas City / La Marque / Webster area along I-45):** Several properties just north of the causeway (such as select hotels near I-45 and FM 1764 in Texas City/La Marque) occasionally offer park-and-cruise rates or partner with off-site secure parking shuttles, though options directly on the mainland are more limited than on the island.

**On-Island (Galveston):** Tremont House, Hotel Galvez, and various flag properties (Best Western Plus, Quality Inn, Holiday Inn Express) frequently feature dedicated park-and-cruise packages including 7–14 days of parking and easy access to the piers.

### 4. Independent Parking Garages & Rates

**Port of Galveston Official Garages & Lots:** Secure, close parking ranging from \$100 to \$140+ per week depending on uncovered vs. covered options.

**Independent Lots (EZ Cruise Parking, Lighthouse Parking, Discount Cruise Parking):** Highly rated off-site fenced lots offering free shuttle service directly to the ship terminal (averaging \$85–\$110 per week).

### 5. What to Do the Night Before: Alternative Spots

**Kemah Boardwalk:** Located midway between Houston and Galveston. Features waterfront dining, rollercoasters, carnival games, and boutique hotels—ideal for a pre-cruise night out!

**Moody Gardens (Galveston):** Explore the iconic glass pyramids housing an aquarium, rainforest, 3D/4D theaters, and paddlewheel boat cruises.

**The Historic Strand District:** Stroll 19th-century brick-lined streets filled with local dining, boutique shopping, and historic architecture.

*Practical note: Parking rates, hotel packages, and shuttle availability can change—verify details with Double B Travel before booking.*