

Discover Galveston Island Patch

What's Your Island Time? Discover a variety of activities for your trip to Galveston, TX, from iconic beaches to historic sights. Have fun earning this patch while you enjoy some of what this laid-back island has to offer!

Daisies & Brownies - Complete an activity from at least three sections to earn this patch. **Juniors and Cadettes** - Complete an activity from at least four sections to earn this patch. **Seniors and Ambassadors** - Complete an activity from at least five sections to earn this patch.



SECTION 1: HISTORY OF GALVESTON

Uncover Galveston's rich history, from its early beginnings to modern, family-oriented efforts to keep Galveston, TX's history alive.

Activity 1 - The Great Storm

Learn about the history and aftermath of The Great Storm, which struck Galveston on Sept. 8, 1900, claiming the lives of more than 10,000 and taking its place in infamy. Discover how Galveston responded to make itself one of the world's most resilient cities, and ways you can explore and honor its victims and survivors today. Some options to explore include the exhibit about the storm at the Rosenberg Library, the *Great Storm of 1900* movie at the Pier 21 Theater, the 1900 Storm Memorial on the Seawall at 47th Street, the Seawall & Grade Raising Markers between Murdochs and Pleasure Pier, The Bryan Museum (formerly the Galveston Orphans Home), and the mosaic benches of the Seawall Interpretive Trail from 6th to 61st street. Alternatively, take a guided Hurricane tour.

Activity 2 - Seawolf Park

Check out the Galveston Naval Museum at Seawolf Park. Here, you can explore the USS Cavalla Submarine & USS Stewart Destroyer Escort. The USS Cavalla Gato-class fleet submarine was commissioned in February 1944 by the Electric Boat Company and is known for sinking Shokaku, a 30,000-ton aircraft carrier and Pearl Harbor veteran. The USS Stewart is one of only two surviving destroyer escorts in the country. You'll have a chance to examine Stewart's artillery and even peer through grates with views into the engine room.

Activity 3 - Historic Sites

Explore the beautiful nineteenth-century mansions and homes that have preserved Galveston's architectural legacy. Visit the Bishop's Palace, Moody Mansion, Ashton Villa, the Grand Opera House, the Grand Galvez, the Star Drug Store, or the East End Historic District.

Activity 4 - ELISSA

Visit the Tall Ship ELISSA.

The Tall Ship ELISSA was built in the year 1877 towards the end of the 'Age of Sail' to transport cargo. She is classified as a baroque sailing ship because she has three masts. Throughout the ELISSA's proud history, she has flown under six different flags and been renamed just as many times. This fully functioning sailing vessel is in an elite group of ships; she is not a replica. She lives on due to the generosity of the Galveston Historical Foundation donors and can be seen today at the Texas Seaport Museum.

Activity 5 – Immigration Experiences

The Port of Galveston is the second biggest immigrant ports of the 19th and 20th centuries. An estimated 300,000 immigrants entered the U.S. through the Port of Galveston between 1846-1948. Visit the Texas Seaport Museum at Pier 21 and see the exhibition about the immigrants who entered through the port. Use the database located in the museum to look up people who may have come through the port. (You can ask the museum staff for a demonstration of the database.) Before leaving, visit the Pier 21 Theater and watch Galveston - Gateway on the Gulf movie.

Activity 6 – Visit a Museum

Visit the Bryan Museum. Their mission is to bring the history of Texas and the American West to life. Through its world-class collections, exhibitions, and educational history and literacy programs, Girl Scouts can experience the stories of yesterday and write the stories of tomorrow.

OR
Visit the - Galveston County Historical Museum inside the Court House at 722 21st Street

Activity 7 – Texas Heroes

Visit the Texas Heros Monument at 25th and Broadway. This monument was dedicated to the people who fought in the Texas Revolution of 1836. Take a look at the different sides of the monument – can you identify any symbolism?

Activity 8 – Other History Tours

Galveston has a variety of local tour options. Find one that sounds interesting and learn about some of the island's rich history. (Try www.visitgalveston.com to find local guides.)
NOTE: Segway tours are prohibited by Safety Activity Checkpoints because they are on roadways.

SECTION 2: GALVESTON'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The richness of this island's history goes well beyond celebrating Emancipation. From being home to the first African American high school and public library in Texas to being the hometown of World Heavyweight Champ Jack Johnson, Galveston has long fought to preserve the knowledge of African American accomplishments and heritage on the island, holding dear the many historic sites and monuments that live on to tell the story.

Activity 1 – Learn about Emancipation

Visit the statue of Al Edwards and/or visit the Old Central Cultural Center
Perhaps the island's most profound connection to African American history is as the birthplace of the Juneteenth holiday. The history behind this holiday is that even though President Abraham Lincoln had already officially outlawed slavery, the last American slaves were not freed from remote areas of the south (including parts of Texas) until June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston to announce and enforce the emancipation.

It is believed that the General read aloud the proclamation, *General Order No. 3. Ashton Villa*, now the site of a historic 9-foot bronze statue of state lawmaker Al Edwards holding the state law that made Juneteenth *a state holiday*.

Following emancipation, in 1885, Galvestonians established the Central School (later renamed Central High School), the first Texas school for African Americans. This school

operated out of a small wooden building until a new building was designed and erected in 1893. A library—the first African American public library in Texas—was added in 1904. The school and library operated until 1968, when schools were desegregated. The old school's annex is now part of the museum at the Old Central Cultural Center, at 2627 Avenue M.

Activity 2 – Take the Freedom Walk

Take this self-guided Freedom Walk to learn about 5 historic sites and their importance to Juneteenth.

<https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/visit-galveston/images/Freedom-Walk-Tour.pdf?mtime=20220614100245&focal=none>

Activity 3 – Juneteenth Celebration

Attend a Juneteenth event in Galveston. The Birthplace of Juneteenth, Galveston Island holds a special place in United States and African American history. Attend one of the many annual events celebrating this holiday.

Activity 4 – Absolute Equality

Visit the Juneteenth Mural "Absolute Equality" at 22nd and Strand. Download the Uncover Everything app to scan this and other murals and monuments, and experience the art in augmented reality to learn about the intertwined pasts of Mustafa Zemmouri, the Indigenous relationships, the slave trade, the incredible journey of Harriet Tubman and how the Underground Railroad went south through Mexico, the Emancipation Proclamation, the role of Abraham Lincoln, General Granger's role in General Order No 3 declaring the freedom of slaves, and much more.

Activity 4 – Do Your Own Research

The activities above are just a few examples of opportunities to explore Galveston's African American history. You can also make up your own activity! Research an area of the island's African American history that interests you, and plan a visit to that location, attend an event or lecture about the topic, or create a presentation to teach other Girl Scouts about it. Some options include the Middle Passage Marker at the Texas Seaport Museum, Reedy Chapel AME Church, Jack Johnson Park, Old Central High School, Cotton Jammers' Park, or the African American Museum – and there are many more options!

SECTION 3: ENJOY THE BEACH

Activity 1 – Find Your Favorite Beach

There are lots of beaches to explore on Galveston Island – choose one listed below or find your own favorite spot!

Stewart Beach, located near where Broadway meets the Seawall, is Galveston's premier family-friendly beach park, named as one of the "10 Best Beaches for Families" by the Family Vacation Critic. *Galveston Beach Patrol Lifeguards man 34 towers between East Beach and 61st Street. Contact the Galveston Beach Patrol at 409-763-4769 to verify the lifeguard schedule.*

The Seawall beaches are another a popular spot for beachgoers, photographers, foodies and shoppers. Fun Fact: the sidewalk along the Seawall stretches 10.3 miles long, making it the longest continuous sidewalk in the United States. *Galveston Beach Patrol Lifeguards man 34 towers between East Beach and 61st Street. Contact the Galveston Beach Patrol at 409-763-4769 to verify the lifeguard schedule.*

Pocket Park 2 is located at 3005 9 Mile Road. Here, cars must park in the paved parking area, but entry is free. Go for a swim, build sandcastles, and throw around a frisbee, and conveniently use the on-site showers at the end of the day. Beach umbrellas and chairs can be rented, and restrooms are available too, making it a preferred beach for families. Lifeguards are NOT provided.

“Babe’s Beach” is the 15-block stretch of beach west of 61st Street on Seawall and is named for A.R. “Babe” Schwartz. During his tenure in the Texas House and Senate from 1955 to 1980, Schwartz helped create the Texas Open Beaches Act, which guarantees free public access to beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. Lifeguards are NOT provided.

Activity 2 – Learn about the Flag Warning System

Different colored flags are flown at the beach to signify different things. Find out what a Green Flag, Yellow Flag, Red Flag, Purple Flag, and Orange Flag mean. Is there any way to find out the weather conditions before heading to the beach?

Activity 3 – Take an Interpretive Beach Tour

Explore the creatures and features that make Galveston beaches unique! There is more to the Sargassum and turbid water than many people think, and there is much more to be found on the beach than just sand. Tours are educational and fun for ocean lovers of all ages. Sign up for a free tour with the Artist Boat Bucket Brigade during summer months to learn to dig for clams, find seashells and explore tiny creatures - www.artistboat.org/bucket-brigade. *Guided nature tours may also be scheduled at the Galveston State Park.* Or, find your own guide and create your own unique tour.

Activity 4 – Get Hooked

Go fishing or crabbing at the beach! Youth under 17 years old do not require a fishing license in Texas; and no one requires a license to fish or crab at the Galveston Island State Park. Look online to learn about required gear, minimum size requirements and protected species, then head out to catch a seafood dinner (or catch and release)!

Activity 5 – Participate in a Beach Event

Attend a special event that takes place along Galveston’s beaches. Every summer at the AIA Sandcastle Competition, you can browse extravagant sand sculptures along East Beach and see who wins the coveted Golden Bucket Award. Other beach events include the Galveston Family Beach Challenge at Stewart Beach, Ohana Surf Dog Competition at the Seawall beach, and many others. Check online to find one to attend www.visitgalveston.com/things-to-do/beaches/

SECTION 4: CONSERVATION AND ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

Activity 1 – Take a Dolphin Tour

Narrated dolphin tours offer a fun boat ride with historical facts of the harbor and interesting facts about our Common & local Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins. Try Bay Watch Dolphin Tours - www.baywatchdolhintours.com, or research your own qualified tour company – just make sure the provider is licensed through the US Coastguard and follow all Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Activity 2 – Learn About Stranded Marine Mammals

Visit the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network to learn about the threats facing marine mammals on our coast and how to respond to marine mammal strandings.

<https://www.dolphinrescue.org/>

Activity 3 –Nurdles and Turtles

Learn about about beach and ocean pollution, Nurdle Patrols, and the impact of plastic waste on wildlife. Participate in a beach clean-up with the Turtle Island Restoration Network (<https://seaturtles.org/>), Texas General Land Office Beach Cleanups in September and April, or another organization of your choice. *If participating with the Turtle Island Restoration Network, coordinate with the organization to ensure the wrap up meeting is held at their office and not at the Galveston Island Brewing Company.*

Activity 4 – Participate in a Conservation Event

There are a variety of conservation events and activities offered on Galveston Island throughout the year. Either participate in a event of your choice, or create your own conservation activity to help make the world a better place.

Activity 5 – Visit a Nature Preserve

Walk the Laffite's Cove Nature Preserve. 3503 Eckert Drive. There is a gazebo to have lunch and it is ADA accessible.

OR

Walk the East End Lagoon Nature Preserve trails on Boddeker Road. (ADA Accessible.) There are signs with pictures of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers.

OR

Visit the Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Bird Observatory at 13102 Stewart Road. *ADA accessible.*

SECTION 5: ART & CULTURE

Activity 1 – See a Show

Watch a live performance on the island. Check out the Island ETC (East End Theater Company), the Grand 1894 Opera House, the Galveston Ballet, the Galveston Symphony Orchestra, or the Galveston Theater & Arts Partnership. Or research and visit a live performance at another local venue.

Activity 2 – Attend an Event

Galveston Island is home to several annual events. Learn about why some of them were founded and attend an event. You may choose the Shrimp Festival, FeatherFest, BooFest, ARToberFEST, the Greek Festival, the Festival of Lights, Dickens on the Strand, Mardi Gras, or any other annual event on the island.

Activity 3 – Visit a Museum or Attraction

Visit one of the many museums in Galveston, and experience the rich history of Texas artifacts, documents, memorabilia, artwork, and more through a wide variety of breathtaking exhibits, including art, history, science & culture. Or visit one of Galveston's many attractions such as Moody Gardens, Schlitterbahn Water Park, the Pleasure Pier, or any other of the island's many attractions. Or, take the self-guided Tree Sculpture tour in the East End (pick up an online map from www.galveston.com)

Activity 4 – Make Art

Create your own island-inspired artwork! Whether you choose to create a song or story, paint a picture, recreate a historic scene, develop an interpretive dance, or craft something – make a unique work of art that celebrates your time spent in Galveston.

SECTION 6: SIGHTSEEING

Activity 1 – Go Kayaking

Book a kayaking trip with Artist Boat or a similar group. Artist Boat is an organization dedicated to the preservation of marine environments. They aim to promote awareness of coastal margins and the marine environment through the arts and science. Artist Boat also includes connecting people to the Gulf Coast environments through mind-opening experiences and expanding engagement and interest in preservation in their mission. *(Be sure to check Safety Activity Checkpoints and remember that all girls must have the GSSJC Proficient Swimmer card to use a sit on top kayak and GSSJC Advanced Swimmer Proficiency to kayak in a closed cockpit kayak.)*

Activity 2 – Escape!

Galveston is home to a number of escape rooms! Check out the one at the Pirate Museum – or research & find your own adventure! Can you make it out in time?

Activity 3 – Tasty Treats

Stop in for a sweet treat at La King’s, featuring a working 1920’s soda fountain serving malts, shakes, ice cream sodas, sundaes, splits, floats, and your favorite fountain treats. They proudly make and serve “Purity” ice cream, which is Texas’ first ice cream manufacturer, founded in 1889 on Galveston Island. If you’re lucky, you’ll see a master candy maker delighting the crowds by making their famous Saltwater Taffy, right before your eyes, on antique equipment!

Activity 4 – Support Local Farmers

Galveston's Own Farmers Market brings locally grown produce, prepared foods and edible farm products to residents of Galveston and the surrounding areas to provide a direct connection to vendors creating and growing fresh whole foods. They strive to foster a greater sense of community through supporting local Texas farmers and producers and connect individuals with their local food economy.

Activity 5 – Ferry Ride

Walk onto the ferry to ride both ways and look for the USS Selma (concrete ship), dolphins and seabirds. Drive down the right lane on Ferry Road and park in the lot at the end of the road. Walk to the staging area for walk-ons to board the vessel.

Activity 6 – Check Out the Fishing Fleet

Walk Pier 19 and observe the Mosquito Fleet fishing vessels - one of the few non-corporate fishing fleets left in the USA. If you are early enough in the morning you may be able to watch them sort their catch and see some interesting creatures.

Activity 7 – Visitor Center

Not sure where to go or what to do? Stop by the Galveston Visitor Center! Pick up a map of the island’s Tree Sculptures, check out the current attractions, and take a snapshot in the photo booth! It’s a perfect way to start off your island adventure!