



BIRDING ITINERARY

URBAN GALVESTON

Galveston Island has the best year-round birding! We encourage you to explore and enjoy discovering all that the island has to offer. This itinerary is designed to be enjoyed during any season of the year.

Need help with identification? Guided tours are available; visit www.birdingforfun.com or call 832.372.8236. Contact Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC) at 409.789.8125.

Not sure where to start? Try this **self-guided birding tour** of some of Galveston's urban hotspots – it's a great introduction to birding!

1

Visitor Center, 2328 Broadway, Galveston **MAP**

Start your tour in the parking lot, where it's possible to see up to 15 different species of birds. (Parking is free.)

Check the high lines for Eurasian Collared-Dove and White-winged Dove. The trees in the garden area are usually full of activity, especially during spring, when warblers may be present. Loggerhead Shrike and Eastern Phoebe are common in the trees near Rosenberg Library. Scan the steeple of First Baptist Church during winter for the occasional Red-tailed Hawk.



Loggerhead Shrike (photo by Kristine Rivers)



Red-shouldered Hawk (photo by Kristine Rivers)

Kempner Park, 2704 Ave. O, Galveston (UTC 063) **MAP**

After heading west on Broadway, turn left on 27th Street and then right on Avenue O. This beautiful park features large historic oak trees, reminiscent of those that once covered Galveston before Hurricane Ike. The habitat is attractive to migrants in the spring, and a walk through the park can produce Black and White Warbler, Northern Parula, Indigo Bunting, and other songbirds. Both American Robin and Red-shouldered Hawk nest here. *(Interested in exploring more of the urban area? Inquire at the Galveston Visitor Center for the self-guided tree sculpture tour of lovely carvings created from hurricane-damaged trees.)*

2

Turn right on Avenue O, then right again on 29th Street to Avenue K. Turn right, following Avenue K to 18th Street. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons commonly nest in the oak trees here in spring and summer. Please keep a respectful distance and stay quiet so as not to disturb nesting parents (and residents.)

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3

Piers 19–21, 2200 Harborside Drive, Galveston **MAP**

Head north one block and turn left on Broadway Street, then right on 21st Street/Moody Avenue until you reach the wharves. After parking, walk over to Pier 19, where Brown Pelican and Neotropic Cormorant are seen quite close-up year-round. Check carefully under the wharves and on moored boats for Black-crowned Night-Heron, which is always present.

At Pier 21 where the tall ship Elissa is usually docked, check for Osprey perched on the mast and in the riggings, and Green Heron fishing from the ropes low over the water. Scan the skies for Magnificent Frigatebird soaring high overhead in summer, as well as various gulls and terns year-round.

Note: Paid parking is available in the Texas Seaport Museum parking lot, and nearby restaurants will validate up to 3 hours for patrons. Paid street parking is also available, and free street parking may be found if you're willing to walk a bit further.



Neotropic Cormorant (photo by Kristine Rivers)



Common Loon (photo by Bobby Rivers)

Offatts Bayou, Lee and Joe Jamail Bay Park **MAP** 1600 61st Street, Galveston (UTC 065)

Head west on Harborside Drive, then turn left on 51st Street, and right on Broadway Street. Take exit 1A, staying in the second lane from the left before turning left on 61st Street. The park entrance is on the immediate right. (If you miss that entrance, there is another one further down; enter there and walk over bridge.)

4

Walk toward the boat ramp and look over the side of the wall into the water directly below it. During winter and early spring, this is one of the best places to get close-up views of Common Loon, commonly seen diving and foraging here. Scan the surface of the water further out for loons, checking carefully for the rare Pacific Loon, which has been reported at this location. Eared Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, and other diving ducks may also be seen.

Scan the pilings and power poles on all sides for Osprey, Ring-billed and Herring Gull, and Royal and Forster's Tern. Ruddy Turnstone and Willet are common on the pier, and Brown Pelican and Neotropic Cormorant are present year-round.

With its scenic westward view, this location is also a wonderful place right in the middle of the city to view and photograph sunsets.



Sunset over Offatts Bayou
(photo by Kristine Rivers)