

Pink Traveler: Queen Of The Gulf

11 hours ago



Sometimes the only thing that makes us feel truly relaxed is an afternoon on the beach. In a spa. Napping in an air-conditioned room. Or having cocktails at a swim-up bar.

Fortunately, all of these things can be found in one spectacular place: [The Grand Galvez](#) on [Galveston Island](#).

So get ready for relaxation on steroids.

We love having **Galveston as a quick weekend road trip option** when we're craving the sound of the surf, the sun on our skin and sand between our toes. (OK, we never really enjoy sand between our toes, but some people think that sounds like paradise.)

Only a five-hour drive from Dallas (give or take depending on traffic down Interstate 45), the Grand Galvez (formerly the Galvez Hotel & Spa) is about halfway through the process of being restored to its original 1911 grandeur, once again deserving of its nickname, the **Queen of the Gulf**.

Since March 2021, **the Grand Galvez has a new owner**—hotelier Mark Wyant. His passion for history, **attention to detail** and willingness to spend whatever it takes to elevate the 220-room property into a true luxury resort makes this one of the most exciting projects we've ever witnessed as it's happening.

Artisans have been flown in from Italy, for crying out loud!

Plus, visiting The Grand Galvez means you can cross off four of the [**100 Things To Do In Galveston Before You Die**](#), so after your visit you'll be well on your way to accomplishing the other 96.



The new lobby bar features spectacular design details.



The "Queen of the Gulf" in all her majesty.



Grab a seat and watch the waves (and the people).



One of the newly renovated rooms delivers pure tropical vibes.



Relax in the calm waters of the pool and swim-up bar.

Last month, we were among the first to stay in one of the **newly renovated rooms** (pictured in the gallery above) and it perfectly blends a retro-tropical style with modern amenities, spectacular ocean views (on request) and much to our delight, plenty of monkeys. They're renovating all the hotel rooms and suites in stages, so when you visit this summer we recommend calling the hotel to make your reservation the old-fashioned way so you can specifically request one of the updated rooms.

The **Grand Galvez property lies steps from the beach**, so once you've unpacked you can stroll down Seawall Boulevard and find a spot to eat, grab a drink, or [ride a rollercoaster](#). Chairs and umbrellas can be rented right on the beach, too, so feel free to pack a picnic and spend the day watching the waves roll in.

Make sure to set aside time for one day for a massage or other service at [The Grand Galvez Spa](#), the most spectacular spa on the island. Oh, and **at least a couple of hours in the pool at the swim-up bar**. And if it's not too hot outside, under the bubbly waters of the outdoor jacuzzi.

The new lobby bar is also a fantastic place to pull up a high-back chair and grab a drink in an opulent setting. **Try the Ghost Bride**, a refreshing vodka cocktail that gets its name from the hotel's resident spirit. Then grab dinner at [Galvez Bar & Grill](#) (a light-and-airy dining room that gives us major *Golden Girls* vibes in the best possible way). Though the interiors don't scream, "STEAKHOUSE!", the crab cakes and grilled ribeye we had for dinner were some of the best we've had in recent months.

End your Grand Galvez weekend with a moonlit walk on the beach and you've got yourself a perfect island getaway that doesn't require a time-zone change or an expensive flight to Hawaii.

The Grand Galvez

Renovations underway

grandgalvez.com